



Deadline for transposition of EU Directive 2010/64 expired.

The 28 EU member states had three – instead of the usual two – years to transpose Directive 2010/64 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings into national law. However, according to the most recent information only 8 countries have communicated their national execution measures, while 1 country reported that it did not see any need to adopt any such measures. This outcome is all the more surprising when considering that quite a large number of EU member states still need national and/or regional registers of legal interpreters and translators, for example, as well as regulations on the admission of legal interpreters and translators to these registers. It seems that the EU's ambitious goal of facilitating linguistic support for suspects, accused, witnesses and victims who are not fluent in the language of the court is still far from becoming a reality. Fair trials need interpreting and translation services of a high quality, or to quote from EU Directive 2010/64: Interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings shall be of a quality sufficient to safeguard the fairness of the proceedings.

In the course of the past two years EULITA was able to use EU funding for its TRAFUT project (TRAFUT = Training for the Future; for details see www.eulita.eu), which served the purpose of assisting judicial stakeholders in EU member states to better understand the implications of the various articles of EU Directive 2010/64. Moreover, numerous seminars and conferences on the national level were used as a platform to provide detailed information to police officers, judges, prosecutors, lawyers and representatives of ministries of justice about various aspects of legal interpreting and translation.

As DG Justice is in the process of shaping justice policies in Europe for the years to come, EULITA will insist on the need for further action on the European and national level if a true European area of justice is to be achieved that meets the expectations of citizens.

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Liese Katschinka, President
on behalf of the Executive Committee of EULITA