Translating and interpreting in the EU institutions

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University of Surrey, 1 May 2015
Linguists in the EU

Translators: ± 4 300
Interpreters: ± 1 000

Parliament
Council
Court of Justice
Couria Rationum
Court of Auditors
European Economic & Social Committee
European Central Bank
Committee of the Regions
Translation Centre
Translators in the EU institutions

- European Commission
- European Parliament
- Council of the EU
- Court of Justice
- Committee of the Regions and European Economic and Social Committee
- Translation Centre
- Court of Auditors
We translate from and into all the EU’s 24 official languages
...and cover all subject areas
DG Translation in the European Commission
DG Translation

Some **2500** translators and support staff

50% in Brussels

50% in Luxembourg

Field Offices in Member States
2.3 million pages translated in 2014

Evolution in the number of translated pages 2010-2014
Organisation

Half of the DGT staff are posted in Brussels, another half in Luxembourg.
In addition, a few dozen translators work at DGT Field Offices in the Member States.
Number of translated pages 2014 by target language (%)
DGT's English-language department

- Translated 230,907 pages in 2014
- 141 members of staff (Jan 2015)
- 116 translators (Jan 2015)
- 2 field officers in London
- 3 dedicated terminologists
- Remainder are management and support staff
- Organised into 3 units specialising in different policy areas: 2 in Brussels, 1 in Luxembourg
- Main task is translating documents from EU member states
- Has to have knowledge of all EU languages except MT / GA
- Has to cover documents across the full range of EU policy
EN LD Production in 2014
(number of pages by source language)
English Department production per non-EU source language
Working in and with DG Translation
Job opportunities

- Permanent job (EU official)
- Contract staff
- External contractor (freelance)
- Trainee
Recruitment criteria

You must be an EU citizen

You must hold a full university degree in languages or another field (minimum bachelor's)

No professional experience is required
Language knowledge

• Perfect command of your main language or mother tongue

• Very sound knowledge of English or German or French (first source language)

• Very sound knowledge of a second source language among the EU’s official languages
What can the Commission offer you?

- €4500/month starting salary
- Good leave entitlement
- Job security
- Varied and challenging work
- Scope to shape your own career in the Commission
- Excellent language learning opportunities
- Multicultural environment
- Flexible working-time arrangements
Training and professional development

- Thematic and IT training
- Language courses (weekly, in-country, VTS)
- Other DGT jobs
- Jobs elsewhere in the Commission/other EU institutions
Traineeships

- Duration: 5 months
- Two rounds per year, starting in March and October
- For university graduates only
- For EU citizens – but a quota for other nationals
- Skills needed: ability to translate from two EU languages into your main language
- Monthly grant
- http://ec.europa.eu/stages/
More information?

- **Web:** ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation
- **Facebook:** .com/translatingforeurope
- **Twitter:** @translatores
- **YouTube:** .com/dgtranslation
Selection Procedure

General overview

1. On line eu-careers.eu
2. Computer Based Tests (CBT)
3. Assessment Centre
4. Reserve list

Number of months
1 → 9
Computer Based Tests across Europe
Computer Based Tests (CBT)

- Verbal reasoning
- Numerical reasoning
- Abstract reasoning
- Situation Judgment

In your main language
1 of 24 official EU languages

In your 2nd language

EU careers
Human genetic testing: implications and recommendations

Although genetic testing in Europe is based on high-quality scientific know-how, it can suffer from a certain level of technical errors. Moreover, the reporting on these tests is sometimes of poor quality. In the context of healthcare, a test should only be offered when it has been proven to be reliable and when there is a sound medical reason to justify it. A test validation system should therefore be established. Public concern regarding genetic testing revolves around the fear of misuse of genetic data and inappropriate access to such data by third parties. The confidentiality and privacy of all personal medical data, including information derived from genetic testing, is a basic right that must be respected. The individual has the right to know about test results, but also has the right to decide not to know.

What is the present situation as regards genetic testing?

○ A. Testing is frequently carried out without a valid medical prescription.
○ B. Scientists have the right to decide whether or not to divulge the results.
○ C. The reporting of genetic data is always of a poor standard.
○ D. Despite the expertise in the area, reporting is not always perfect.
Human genetic testing: implications and recommendations

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On average, by how much was the road density in countries A and B higher than in countries D and E in 1980?

A. 102 km/1,000 km²
B. 122.5 km/1,000 km²
C. 204 km/1,000 km²
D. 276 km/1,000 km²
### Example numerical reasoning

**Road density in EU-15 (km per 1,000 km²) (2000)**

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>340</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>360</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>216</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>390</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On average, by how much was the road density in countries A and B higher than in countries D and E in 1980?

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Example abstract reasoning
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3. Please consider the situation, and then select what you feel is the most effective **AND** the least effective response or action from the four statements.

You are working on a number of projects with tight deadlines and have a lot of basic information to gather. You have asked other colleagues for help but are unsure of their commitment to help you gather the information that you need.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most</th>
<th>Least</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spend time on your work to make sure that you have plenty of latitude/leeway in case your colleagues don't deliver the help you need in time</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Outline the help that you need from others and explain to them why this is important and the dates by which you need their individual contributions</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce the risk by getting the information that you need yourself rather than relying upon other people</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Carry on with the tasks that you need to complete and if others do not contribute their parts report them to management</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assessment Centre in Brussels (or Luxembourg)
Assessment Centre
Testing 7+1 competencies

- Analysis & Problem solving
- Communicating
- Delivering Quality & Results
- Learning & Development
- Prioritising & Organising
- Resilience
- Working with others
- +
- Potential to lead (leadership)
Assessment Centre
Overview Linguists

1.5 day
in your 2\textsuperscript{nd} language

- Practical Language tests
- Oral presentation
- Structured interview
- Group exercise
Practical language tests

• Translation:
  • Two translation tests, around 45 lines, on PC, dictionaries allowed!
  • A) Source language 1 into English
  • B) Source language 2 into English
  • If score in test A doesn't reach the pass mark, test B is not marked.
    Tests are marked twice, thrice if necessary.

• Interpreting:
  • For each language:
  • consecutive speech of 5-6 mins, live speaker, no breaks
  • simultaneous speech of 10-12 minutes, video recording
Successful Candidate?

Reserve list

Contact with EU Institutions

Job interview

Contract

Number of months

1 → Reserve list

12 → Recruitment
When to apply?

**Spring**
Graduates – Generalists profiles such as law, public administration, etc.

**Summer**
Linguists - Translators, Conference interpreters
*languages vary per year*

**Winter**
non-graduates with experience (Assistants)

**Specialists when needed**
(e.g. economists, building specialist, ICT, food safety, contractual staff when needed)
Questions?

www.eu-careers.eu
Thank you very much!

Muito obrigado!
Go raibh maith agaibh!
Kiiitoksia paljon!
Nuoširdžiai dėkojame!
Mange tak!
Köszönjük szépen!

Hartelijk dank!
Tack så mycket!
Vielen Dank!

Mulţumesc!
Mockrát děkujeme!
Grazie mille!

¡Muchas gracias!

Đakujeme vám vel’mi pekne!

Σας ευχαριστούμε πολύ!

Liels paldies!

Najlepša hvala!

Muito obrigado!
Go raibh maith agaibh!
Kiiitoksia paljon!
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Liels paldies!

Najlepša hvala!
Contact

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