



Working for the EU as a freelance translator

DO THE EU INSTITUTIONS WORK WITH FREELANCE TRANSLATORS?

Yes, apart from the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union and of the European Council – these two institutions rely (with a few exceptions) on their in-house translating staff.

Currently, more than one quarter of all translations are outsourced. Any EU document, except for certain particularly sensitive, confidential or urgent texts, can be translated by freelancers, who are expected to produce impeccable quality.

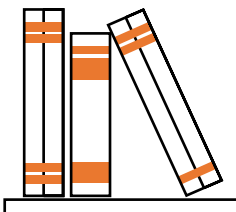
HOW CAN I BECOME A FREELANCE TRANSLATOR FOR THE EU?

Freelance translators and agencies can offer their services by responding to **calls for tender**, under eligibility rules set out in each call. These calls for tender can be found on the following websites: ted.europa.eu or eur-lex.europa.eu/oj/direct-access.html?locale=en.

WHAT ARE THE MAIN LANGUAGES NEEDED?

The target languages needed are all the official EU languages – i.e. Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish and Swedish – mainly in combination with English, French or German.

Other languages, such as Arabic, Chinese or Russian, account for less than 1% of the pages translated by freelancers.





WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER DETAILS?

- European Parliament (for translation agencies only):
europarl.europa.eu/tenders/invitations.htm
- European Commission:
ec.europa.eu/info/translation/tendering-contracts
- Court of Justice of the European Union:
curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_10741/en/
- European Court of Auditors (for translation agencies only):
Call for tenders launched in cooperation with the European Parliament, see the link above.
- European Economic and Social Committee (for translation agencies only):
eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.public-procurement
- Committee of the Regions (for translation agencies only):
cor.europa.eu/en/about/tenders/Pages/calls-for-tender.aspx
- European Central Bank:
ecb.europa.eu/ecb/jobsproc/tenders/html/index.en.html
- Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union:
cdf.europa.eu/en/procurement/