Introducing EULITA –
(European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association) – founded in November 2009

- 30 full members (professional associations in EU member states)
- 32 + 18 associate members throughout the world
Introducing EULITA –

…. EULITA aims to represent the interests and concerns of the profession of legal interpreters and translators vis-à-vis European and international organisations and to support associations of legal translators and spoken and sign language interpreters vis-à-vis national authorities and institutions, ….. (www.eulita.eu)
Directive 2010/64 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings

- transposition by 27 October 2013
Transposition problems:

- costs
- no involvement of police authorities
- little cooperation of ministries of justice with professional associations
- little use of technology
Benefits of Directive:

-  first document on legal interpreting and translation after HRC
-  more awareness for LIT issues
-  more efforts by LIT associations to support implementation (TRAFUT, QUALETRA, LIT Search, ImPLI, etc.)
QUALETRA – Quality in Legal Translation

Workstream 1: Essential documents (fraud, theft, robbery)
Workstream 2: European arrest warrant

- multilingual database (E, F, It, Ni, Sp)
Workstream 3: Training (legal translators, legal practitioners) – QUALETRA Vademecum for users of legal translations

Workstream 4: Testing, Evaluation and Assessment (ECQA)

Workstream 5: Conferences –

Final Conference: Antwerp, 16/17 October 2014
VADEMECUM
for users of legal translations

→ VADEMECUM – Guidelines for a more effective communication with legal interpreters – for magistrates, prosecutors, and attorneys
**Definition:** Legal translators are – translators of legal texts (also called court interpreters, certified/authorized court interpreters, sworn interpreters/translators, etc.) such as civil status documents, essential (court) documents, evidentiary material, other texts relevant to investigative and judicial proceedings.
1) Legal translators are usually required to work not only into their **mother tongue** but also into their **foreign language(s)**. **Special attention must therefore be paid to their translator qualifications.**
2) Some EU member states require translators to become authorized/certified before entrusting legal translation assignments to them. Their linguistic and legal expertise is checked in the admission test/examination to establish their qualifications.
3) Especially in case of translations into a foreign language, the **four-eyes-principle** should be applied, i.e. requiring legal translators to have their translation checked by another qualified translator. Users of legal translations need not have any reservations concerning confidentiality, as legal translators must/should abide by a strict code of ethics.
4) Legal translators should be able to have access to the relevant material of a translation assignment in order to be aware of the content of, and terminology used in a specific context. (Agencies, in particular, should not prevent legal translators from having direct access to the relevant material.)
5) When assigning translations, users of legal translations should fix reasonable delivery times that enable legal translators to engage in all necessary research and produce translations of high quality at reasonable working hours.
6) Legal translators usually abide by a code of ethics on account of their admission/authorization/certification or their membership in professional associations which requires them to observe strict ethical rules in the exercise of their profession (e.g. confidentiality, professionalism, etc.)
7) Legal translators appreciate feedback from their clients on their delivered translations. This interaction between users and legal translators contributes towards further improving translation quality and establishes a constructive working relationship between them.
8) The legal systems of EU member states are very different. There is therefore never full concordance of legal concepts. Legal translators are aware of these differences and should therefore be free to take account of this fact and provide readers with terminological comments, if necessary.
9) The authors of legal texts that are eventually translated should be aware of the fact that the legal systems of other countries are different from their own system and therefore use straightforward language that will enable translators and readers to more readily understand the translated text. (EU and/or national efforts to standardize legal text modules should be supported.)
10) The work of legal translators should be adequately remunerated. Whenever countries enact rate/fee schedules they should make allowances for surcharges for difficult texts, express delivery and special working hours (night-time, weekends and holidays).
Pilot project to explore the modalities and practical features of a European database of legal interpreters and translators, eventually linking up the countries participating in the pilot project.
Why a European database of legal interpreters and translators?

- Directive 2010/64 EU
- Stockholm Roadmap

→ access to legal interpreters and translators across borders of EU member states
Who are the partners of the LIT Search consortium?

Project coordinator: KU Leuven, Antwerp, Belgium
Co-beneficiaries: EULITA, InterConnect A/S, Denmark

liaison with EU Council‘s e-Justice Working Group
- Bundesministerium für Justiz / Federal Ministry of Justice (BMJ), Austria
- Österreichischer Verband der allgemein beeideten und gerichtlich zertifizierten Dolmetscher / Austrian Association of Court Interpreters (ÖVGD), Austria
- Ministry of Justice of Bulgaria, Bulgaria
- Association of Interpreters and Translators (AIT), Bulgaria
- Ministry of Justice of the Czech Republic, Czech Republic
- Komora soudních tlumocníku České republiky / Chamber of Court-Appointed Interpreters of the Czech Republic (KST CR), Czech Republic
- Raad voor Rechtsbijstand, bureau WBTV / Bureau Legal Aid Board, Sworn Interpreters and Translators (WBTV), Netherlands
- Nederlandse Beroepsvereniging Tolken Gebarentaal / Dutch Association of Sign Language Interpreters (NBTG), Netherlands
- National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI), United Kingdom
- Association of Police and Court Interpreters (APCI), United Kingdom
- POLSKIE TOWARZYSTWO TŁUMACZY PRZYSIĘGŁYCH I SPECJALISTYCZNYCH / Polish Society of Sworn and Specialized Translators (TEPIS), Poland
- Asociación Profesional de Traductores e Intérpretes Judiciales y Jurados (APTIJ), Spain
Associate partners:

- Union Nationale des Experts Traducteurs Interprètes près les Cours d'Appel (UNETICA), France
- Dirección General de Relaciones con la Administración de Justicia, Spain
- Kammarkollegiet, Sweden
Objectives:

- Pilot database of legal interpreters and translators
- Model template for registers of legal interpreters and translators (admission to register, management of registers)
Modelled on FAL (Find a Lawyer [CCBE])

Issues:
- Differences in national legal regimes
- Differences in national LIT regimes
- Acceptance of cross-border LIT
- LITs always admitted for language pairs
- Search criteria
- etc.
Any questions?

Thank you for your attention!

www.eulita.eu