



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Photo source: <http://ec.europa.eu>

„Lifelong Learning Programme”

In the dynamics of a society whose main motor is knowledge, a series of key competences have been identified at the European level, the presence of which promotes the wish for a high degree of employment, but also of personal fulfilment.

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_culture/publ/pdf/ll-learning/keycomp_en.pdf

Although the formal education system tries to respond to these needs, they are specifically answered by the adult education and training policies. The “Lifelong Learning Programme” of the EC, which brings together various Community initiatives in the field of education and training gives the possibility to capitalise upon the various European learning opportunities.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc78_en.htm

Continuing training for adults

Many of the concepts talked about in a post-crisis social European context, such as inclusion or employability refer to the necessity of lifelong learning. This is the reason why adults’ training represents one of the most important dimensions of the European policies in this area and, for instance, the reason why, within the framework of the “Lifelong Learning Programme” there is the Grundtvig Sectorial Programme for the adults’ education.

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc86_en.htm

In Romania

The National Agency for Community Programmes in the Field of Education and Professional Training, which functions under the authority of the Ministry of Education and Research, is the institution which enables easier access to the European alternatives of continuing and active learning.

<http://www.anpcdefp.ro/>

Iulia Serafimescu

Grundtvig grant beneficiary, February 2010

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EIR Agenda: april 2010

EIR course: Specialised Training Programme

12 - 23 April

EIR course: Project Manager

15 - 21 April

EIR course: The Legal system of the European Union

26 - 27 April

MARIANA CIOLACU

Expert in the management of projects with European funding

Drawing up a project means not only knowledge, but also a lot of experience

Accessing non-reimbursable EU funds is one of the solutions identified both at the Romanian governmental level and in the private sector for overcoming this economically difficult moment. It is said that the inability of the organisations to write and implement sound projects is one of the factors leading to a low rate of absorption of EU funds. How do you think this "expertise shortage" could be overcome?

It is true that the support of the EU funds might be one of the elements helping to overcome the difficult economic moment Romania is passing. Unfortunately, the low absorption rate is generated, in my opinion, by several causes:

- o "the expertise shortage" – the organisations do not have specialised personnel for drawing up projects and it is difficult to presume that after participating in a training programme (of 1 or 2 weeks), the participants reach the necessary competence level for drawing up a successful project. Drawing up a project means not only knowledge, but also a lot of experience.

- A solution might be to hire consultants specialised in drawing up projects.

- Another solution might be provided by the consulting and training organisations which should organise training programmes which include consultancy up to the completion (and even submission) of a project.

- o fear and even impossibility of the potential applicants to support co-financing (especially in projects for which this reaches 50%).

- o the long period between the submission of the projects and the funding approval leads to non-funding of the project, either because the investment is no longer necessary (was already made), or, in the meantime, the financial situation of the applicant has changed.

For each factor mentioned above solutions can be found, which can at least improve the effects, but this takes time, effort and skill.

Your involvement in several EU projects recommends you as a specialist in project management. Could you offer some good practice examples in the coordination of EU projects?

Certainly there are many successful projects, both as regards the quality of the project writing and that of the implementation. The professional ethics does not allow me to give you specific names of organisations without their consent, but, from my experience, I can say that the successful organisations are the ones that really wanted the financial support, had the tenacity to work hard for this purpose, had competent and very hard-working people involved in this process and a management which directly supported it.

Which do you think is the most important element in writing and implementing a project – identifying the needs, finding the partners and establishing the activities or the resource management?

THE PEOPLE – the specialist who writes and/or implements the project; his/her professionalism, level of involvement and self-motivation ability (to believe in the project). Obviously, the project must start from the need of the applicant organisation, but from there to the final project it will undergo adaptations so that the objective of the project meets the objectives of the funding line, complies with the strategic guidelines of the development programmes and clearly and very specifically establishes the target group. Of the same importance is the way the project convinces that the activities it sets forth ensure meeting the objective as regards both the execution "per se" and the support actions for implementation. The budget is another key element of the financed project. Remember: the projects financed through the structural funds are disbursement projects.

My answer to your question is EVERYTHING!

The project management training activities give you the opportunity to meet people with various experiences and levels of training. How do you assess the participants' interest and involvement during these programmes?

During the project management training programmes I have met three categories of participants:

- o Participants coming on their own initiative for the purpose of acquiring specific competences (25%)

- o Participants who are sent to this training programme by their employer, and who are also interested in the topic (65%)

- o Participants who are simply sent to this training programme by their employer (10%)

If at the end of a training programme, even the participants from the third category acknowledge that they gained something in their professional experience, we can deem the programme was a success.



Interview by **Alina Arhire**

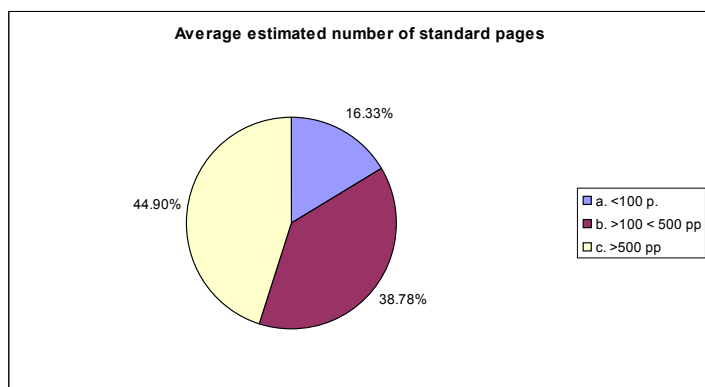
Analysis of the translation needs in the Romanian public institutions

The translation of the working documents of the Romanian public institutions (ministries, agencies etc.) in Romanian and other languages is a particularly important process for ensuring the efficiency of the relations with their partner institutions from the European Union and beyond. An important category of this documentation consists of Romanian legislation documents. On one hand, a good translation facilitates a correct understanding and thus a viable dialogue or a successful negotiation at the level of the Community institutions or of the international business environment. On the other hand, the flawed translation especially of the Romanian legislation in other official languages of the European Union may lead to misunderstandings which may entail the responsibility of those institutions.

The EIR's database, which is available online, includes, besides the translation of the historical case-law judgements of the Court of Justice of the European Union (part of the Community *acquis*) and of the recent case-law judgements of the European Court of Human Rights, a series of regulations from the Romanian legislation translated in English and/or French. The EIR aims to develop this database with the legislative acts translated or planned to be translated at national level in view of eliminating or significantly reducing the number of parallel translations of the same document hence leading to an improved use of the financial and human resources involved.

To this purpose, in August 2009, the EIR sent ministries, agencies and public authorities a letter stating its intention to intensify the relations of collaboration.

The letter was accompanied by a questionnaire for the assessment of the translation needs of the public institutions with a view to obtaining a general picture of the volume and type of documents which need to be translated and of the way this activity is carried out. Moreover, it aimed to identify to what extent the public institutions were interested in developing the abovementioned database, and in developing a unitary terminological database.



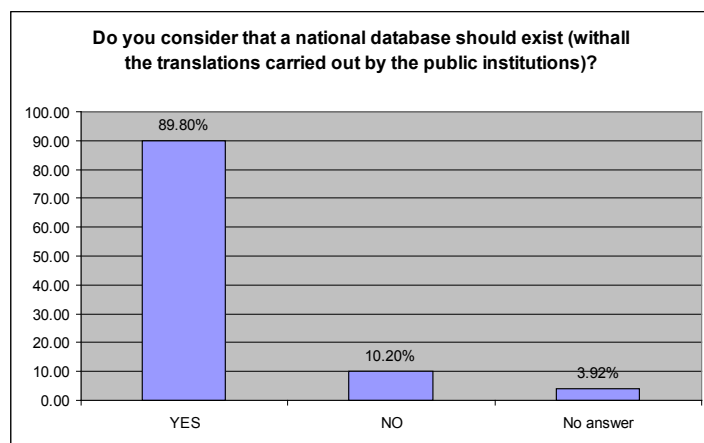
The conclusions of the research are based on the analysis of the answers from the 51 questionnaires received. The questionnaire consisted of closed questions (YES/NO type, frequency scales, multiple-choice questions). Some questions also included open answers (e.g. "Other methods. Please specify...").

The answers highlight both the *importance* of the translation activity and the *deficiencies* in planning and organising this activity in the responding institutions.

The *translation needs* of the public institutions are significant as to frequency, volume and diversity of the types of documents. The needs regard especially the English and Romanian languages, but also a series of less spoken languages, in close connection with the specificity of the institution's activity. As regards the type of documents, the translation needs focus on the Romanian and EU legislative documents and on internal documents or those issued by the institution.

However, this activity is not clearly regulated and/or planned in the institutions questioned. Mainly, *the translation needs are covered in-house*, as more than 75% of the respondents state that they do not have separate budget to pay for outsourced translation services. The translations are carried out by persons with good foreign language knowledge, but who, *in almost 50% of the cases, do not have these translation responsibilities included in the job description*. Moreover, *in over 50% of the cases, they do not have a specialized educational background in the area of foreign languages*. The revision of the translations focuses mostly on the specialised terminology (area-specific) and less on the linguistic issues.

Following the positive feedback received (*90% of the respondents support these actions*), in 2010, the EIR aims to conduct concrete actions for the development of the database with the legal documents translated or planned to be translated at national level and for the development of the terminological database. The support showed through the questionnaire answers will take form at the beginning of March in the organisation of the first session of the programme "Development of competences for the translation and revision of legal texts" which attracted a particular interest from the first days of its announcement.



We would like to thank all the institutions which replied to the EIR's call and which expressed both their appreciation for the activity carried out by EIR in the translation and terminology areas and their support for the national coordination of the legislation translations.

Florina-Diana Popa
Translation Coordination Unit

EIR Working Paper

„Impact Studies – instruments for a better regulation of public policies in the European Union”

The role of the impact assessments in drawing up public policies

The working paper “Impact Studies – instruments for a better regulation of public policies in the European Union” analyses the major role of the impact assessments in the process of drawing up and substantiating public policies in the European Union and beyond. The essential principle which supports any democratic government action is that of the rationality of the decision-making process, which renders it legitimate. The legitimacy results from stating the reasons of adopting certain public policies options, as a guarantee of the fact that those measures are not an arbitrary product, but the result of a decision-making process based on rationally analysing several alternatives, according to established and duly justified criteria. The “regulation impact culture” is promoted more and more strongly and systematically both in the European Union and beyond, the type of approach varying according to the features of the public institutions from the Member States as well as to their political and administrative organisation.

This working paper aims to analyse the arguments and stages behind the process of drawing up the impact studies in order to show the extent to which the impact assessments are useful and necessary for substantiating the public policies or the policy measures, as well as the main obstacles encountered in conducting the impact assessments. In order to highlight the various quality criteria used, but also the objective difficulties encountered in conducting the impact assessments, the paper includes various approaches of the topic coming both from the European area and from the US where, in fact, the first institutionalised interests in this matter appeared.

Thus, the impact analysis serves to underline the strong and weak points of the various policy options or types of approaches of an action, contributing to a rational, substantiated choice of a policy option against others which are less substantiated. While at the level of EU and OECD the topics approached by the impact studies have significantly diversified lately, covering the economic, financial and social field as well, in Romania, these essential regulation areas still remain insufficiently explored and used.

Conducting the impact studies – perspectives and challenges

The good regulation is a very useful instrument in the legislative process which must lead to coherent public policies, on one hand and, on the other hand, to their improvement and correction, when necessary, thus aiming to permanently maximise the advantages and minimise the negative effects of the legal provisions. This paper aims to underline the concepts and working instruments that are specific to the various models of impact assessment, among which there are: the model of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the European model and the American one.

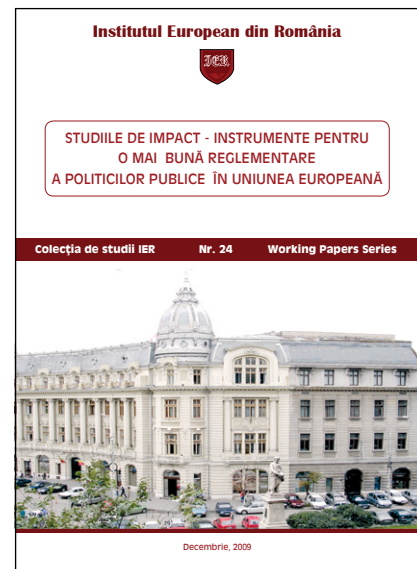
The assessment model set forth by OECD underlines the role of the participative political processes and the need to consult the stakeholders as regards the setting of the objectives, indicators and estimated results.

At EU level, whether we talk about the specific responsibilities of the Member States or we talk about the Community level (“Brussels bureaucracy”), the measures adopted for suppressing the useless

bureaucracy or those aiming to reduce the number of unjustified or insufficiently substantiated regulations, to improve the quality of the legislative proposals, to increase the coherence and substantiation, to involve a wide range of relevant actors are designed to ensure the achievement of the specific objectives set by that public authority, regardless of the level it acts on (local, national or Community level). For this purpose, the impact studies act as credible instruments of legitimising and substantiating legislative options even before they are formally adopted. The proposals considered can be adjusted so that the positive consequences are maximised and the negative ones are minimised, through an approach based on specific technical knowledge and on a comparative analysis of options. The impact analyses have thus the role of generating a significant adaptation and shaping of the legislative intentions even from the preparatory stage of drafting the proposals.

Conducting impact studies in Romania

As regards the impact studies conducted in Romania, it is necessary to strengthen and diversify the instruments for substantiating the public policy documents, in order to ensure the capacity to justify and draw up impact studies adapted to the context and requirements of the direct beneficiaries of the public policies. Similar to other new EU Member States which encountered significant difficulties in the attempt of adopting a functional regulation assessment model, in Romania there are still a series of deficiencies at the level of the institutions involved in drawing up the public policies. Efforts are still necessary for ensuring an efficient and broad communication both between the institutional structures responsible for drawing up the public policies and between authorities, social partners and civil society.



Agnes Nicolescu

European Studies and Analysis Unit

RJEA, tome 10, no 1

Equity, alliance, civil society, contemporary wars, foreign policy, European Parliament representatives are the themes tackled in the first issue of the tenth volume of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs.



Annette Freyberg-Inan, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Amsterdam writes about the values of the European Union arguing that even affluent societies cannot be democratised without the risk of instability and working to maintain a minimally equitable distribution of wealth. The analysis starts from equity as the missing link, continues on the focus of the European Union on prosperity, deepening, widening, as well as the effects on equity and democracy in acceding countries. **Ms Freyberg-Inan** also states that it is an official goal of the European Union to democratise further.

Octavian Manea, Editor at "Revista 22" weekly magazine and **Iulia Serafimescu**, Project Coordinator at the European Institute of Romania present whether the NATO Eastern flank is in danger. The article presents some of the alarm signals coming from the countries on the Eastern part of NATO and tries to explain the options available to the Euro-Atlantic community in order to engage in the process of strategic reassurance. The authors conclude by stating that NATO needs to rebalance its missions, redesigning its capabilities for both expeditionary missions and classic ones recalibrating its infrastructure and logistic in order to boost security on the Eastern border.

Daniela Irrera, Assistant Professor of International Relations at the University of Catania presents the case of NGOs in peace missions and humanitarian interventions, aiming at analysing the increasing engagement of these organisations within and in relation with the European Union, in the framework of CFSP/ESDP, and in responding to composite humanitarian emergencies. According to **Ms Irrera** the expertise provided by the humanitarian NGOs suits perfectly to the new characteristics required by the ESDP multifunctional peace missions.

"It is essential for decision makers to understand that Romania can no longer afford a bilateral policy and, in the context of globalization, it has to act locally, while thinking globally." This is how **Clara Darabont** concludes her paper about whether the contemporary wars are new. The author analysed the degree to which globalisation has impacted the role Romanian forces played in conflicts such as Irak and Afghanistan. **Ms Darabont** further states that Romania has to play in the new world dynamic a significant role.

Agnes Nicolescu, Project Coordinator at the European Institute of Romania, arguments about the changes in Romania's foreign policy from the perspective of NATO and EU membership. **Ms Nicolescu's** article aims at analysing the main changes and factors which have an impact on Romania's policy agenda and to identify the possible changes in the decision-making process with regard to Romania's foreign policy, and in the context of its accession to the European Union and the major topics that may imply and adaptation to the European Foreign Security Policy.

Neculai-Cristian Şurubaru, currently following an MA in European Studies at Maastricht University, wrote a comparative study regarding Romania and Bulgaria on the socialisation of European Permanent Representatives. The author claims that the adaptation of the permanent representatives can be measured differently, within a theoretical framework based on intergovernmentalism, institutionalism and "Brusselization".

The full texts of the articles and findings of the authors can be found on the webpage of the Romanian Journal of European Affairs: www.ier.ro/rjea.

Mădălina Barbu
Editor RJEA

Development of competences for the translation and revision of legal texts

The need to develop specific competences for the translation and revision of complex legal texts resulted from the contact with the Romanian translation environment, with the European institutions as well as from the contact with the university environment. Moreover, the need of training in this area was confirmed by the analysis of the translation needs of the public institutions carried out in the fall of 2009.

Aiming to meet this need, the **European Institute of Romania (EIR)** organises at its headquarters in Bucharest, 7-9 Regina Elisabeta Blvd, between **3 and 5 March 2010**, the first session of the programme "**Development of competences for the translation and revision of legal texts**".

The programme is intended for the persons interested in the translation of complex legal documents with good knowledge of English and/or French (one of them at advanced level) and with good computer skills.

With an integrated format, the programme covers the competences which are necessary in the translation and double revision process. The course covers the stages and quality standards regarding the translation, revision, terminology research, the description and application of CAT tools, the main sources of documentation and the ways they can be used in order to obtain high quality translations, basic concepts of law, especially regarding the European Union law. Moreover, the programme aims to develop a

responsible and critical attitude as well as communication and organisation competences in this area.

Developed by the Translation Coordination Unit (TCU), the programme combines the ten-year experience in the translation and revision of the pre-accession Community acquis and other types of legal documents with the principles of the European Standard SR EN 15038. The experience in translation and revision is completed with the experience in drawing up and publishing over 30 specialised works (e.g. *Romanian Style Guide for the Use of Translators of the Acquis Communautaire*, *Glossary on the Treaty of Lisbon*, *Legal Glossary*), with the experience of approximately 4 000 hours of training TCU trainees, with the experience in managing a terminology database of over 26 000 validated entries (available on the EIR's website and regularly transferred to the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission) as well as in the daily use of the computer assisted translation tools (currently over 150 000 translation units).

The trainers are selected from the TCU translators and revisers and there are adequate facilities: training room with all the equipment suitable for a modern interactive course (computers, sound system etc.).

The deadline for the registration and payment of the participation fee of 400 lei is 26 February 2010.

For details regarding this programme and the registration please access the the following [link](#). (information available only in Romanian)

INSTITUTUL EUROPEAN DIN ROMÂNIA
DIRECȚIA COORDONARE TRADUCERI

DCT EIR

**Formarea de competențe pentru
traducerea și revizia de texte juridice**
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Editors: Alina Arhire, Mariana Bara, Iulia Serafimescu
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European Institute of Romania

7-9, Regina Elisabeta Blvd., RO - 030016, Bucharest, Romania
Phone: (+4021) 314 26 96/ 133 Fax: (+4021) 314 26 66
Contact: newsletter@ier.ro
Web: www.ier.ro