

Using new Information and Communication Technologies to Prepare Legal Professionals for Multilingual Proceedings

University of Surrey, Guildford

Friday, 10 May 2013, 10:00-16:30 (registration starts 9:30)

This one-day workshop addresses those who are involved in, and/or have an interest in, the education and training of legal professionals.

In a multilingual society, future generations of legal professionals are increasingly likely to work in proceedings that involve speakers of other languages and to use the services of interpreters. However, there is hardly any systematic education and training for legal professionals on how to communicate with other-language speakers and how to work effectively with an interpreter. Individual initiatives have been launched to offer ad-hoc training, but it may be difficult for busy legal professionals to allocate time to attend traditional training events that refer to such a specialised topic. The use of new and highly interactive information and communication technologies (ICTs) such as videoconferences and 3D virtual environments offer ways to bridge that gap by making training and access to information about how to work with other-language speakers and interpreters more flexible. ICTs will enable legal professionals to access training and relevant information directly from their (future) habitual work environment.

A further advantage of using ICTs in training contexts is that they will increase the technological literacy of those who undertake the training. Given that ICTs are increasingly applied in legal proceedings (e.g. to gain access to remotely located defendants, witnesses and also interpreters) and that their use has been promoted at European level, e.g. in the Multi-annual European e-Justice Action Plan (2009/C 75/01), the acquisition of technological literacy is crucial for legal professionals.

Against this backdrop, the aim of this workshop is to review, discuss and evaluate the role that two different types of information and communication technologies—videoconferencing and 3D virtual environments—can play in training legal professionals effectively in how to communicate with other-language speakers and through interpreters. The workshop will

- Provide demonstrations of different approaches to using videoconferences and a 3D environment to give information about working in multilingual settings, to conduct role play simulations and to cover other aspects of training delivery;
- Encourage critical review and discussion of the approaches;
- Elicit evaluation feedback on the different approaches from the workshop participants.

Trainers participating in the workshop will be able to use the facilities shown during the workshop with their own students/trainees in the future (by arrangement with the workshop organisers).

To book your place for this event, please reply to training@videoconference-interpreting.net by 6 May 2013 at the latest. As the number of places is strictly limited, early booking is highly recommended.

Organisers:

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This workshop has been jointly organised by the European projects AVIDICUS 2 (Assessment of Video-Mediated Interpreting in the Criminal Justice System), IVY (Interpreting in Virtual Reality) and EVIVA (Evaluating the education of Interpreters and their clients through Virtual learning Activities) and is held with financial support from the European Commission. The workshop and its related materials reflect the views only of the organisers, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of their content.