



FIT - EUROPE

CENTRE REGIONAL EUROPE DE LA
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Mission of FIT-Europe

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Aims of FIT-Europe

The mission of FIT-Europe is to

Further the interests of professionally active translators in Europe.

To that end:

- a) FIT-Europe shall seek to **promote the image of translation** as a professional occupation, forming part of the social and economic reality of the countries of Europe and contributing to the well-being of the continent's populations.
- b) FIT-Europe shall endeavour to ensure that the people of Europe **recognise the benefits brought by the translation profession** and the activities associated with it.
- c) FIT-Europe shall make every effort to **obtain** from European authorities **formal protection of the status of professional translator**, together with explicit recognition of the specific nature of that vocation.

Resources of FIT-Europe

In order to achieve protection for the status of professional translator, together with explicit recognition of the specific nature of that vocation at European level, it is important that FIT-Europe should identify the characteristics which are common to the exercise of professional translation throughout the countries of Europe, in order to establish the profile of the European translator.

FIT-Europe should also encourage the convergence of conditions for training, access to the profession, and the practice and recognition of the profession in the various countries of Europe, and to that end should facilitate and promote contacts between European associations in order to achieve that convergence, as well as to foster exchanges of experience and best professional practice amongst the countries of Europe.

Strategy

To achieve these aims, FIT Europe must act in several fields, but must constantly and consistently respect the principle of subsidiarity vis-à-vis national associations of translators:

1. Coordinate the work done by European associations of translators

The aim of such coordination is to avoid the duplication of efforts and to enable different players to benefit from each others' activities. FIT-Europe should be open to all the requests it receives, but must act above all at the demand of European associations.

Specific action:

Collate and classify data, launch specific projects at the demand of several associations, participate in European coordination meetings. Arrange for the representation of European associations in fora where their individual presence is not possible.

2. Serve as the clearing house for centralising and disseminating information regarding European associations of translators

FIT-Europe should facilitate information-sharing among those involved in translation in Europe, thus also allowing experience to be shared.

Specific action:

Establish and keep up-to-date a European internet site; circulate information regularly.

3. Provide collective representation for European associations of translators

FIT-Europe must provide collective representation for its member associations with bodies wishing to deal with a single interlocutor for the entire continent. Such activities must aim to promote the profile of the European translator, by ensuring that the various associations speak with a single voice; they should also constantly advance the professionalism of European translators and the need for recognition of their status. Such collective representation is only possible after having hearing attentively the wishes of national associations, and on condition that activities in this area are reported regularly. FIT-Europe policies must faithfully reflect the vision of national associations.

Specific action:

Take part in meetings with the authorities of the European Union and other pan-European bodies. Co-operate with other pan-European organisations, in all domains involving translation to any extent whatever. Disseminate European joint activity and its results (EN15038, etc.) within and outside Europe.

4. Take initiatives on specific issues and publish recommendations

FIT-Europe must promote joint reflection on issues of a transnational character, and publish the results in the form of advice, recommendations and policy statements. This activity must serve to provide a more solid basis for the action of individual national associations in Europe.

Specific action:

Recommendation on certification procedures; seminar on intellectual property in translation memories; suggest common features to be included in the European translator profile

5.- Foster translators' awareness that they belong to a specific profession

FIT-Europe must encourage national associations to raise their members' awareness of the professional, specialist and international nature of their activity. It must publicise the benefits for translators of belonging to professional organisations, and promote their establishment where none exist, notably within supranational bodies.

Specific action:

Ensure the circulation of information on the initiatives of European member associations (conferences, training, other initiatives); contact groups of translators within the continent's various organisations to set before them the possibilities of collective expression; encourage the establishment of professional associations where none exist.

6. Achieve convergence in the standards and practices applied by translators in European countries

FIT-Europe must identify and promote the characteristics shared by European countries as regards access to the profession, continuous professional development, accreditation, entitlement to the name "translator" and others. It must offer examples to member associations and encourage them to adopt best practice and approaches which have succeeded beyond their own national frontiers.

Specific action:

Encourage European associations' participation in coordination meetings, and propose the presentation of national experiences at European level.

7. Promote the image of translators in Europe

FIT-Europe must provide all necessary assistance to national associations in presenting to the authorities and the general public of their own countries the various characteristics of the profession, giving a positive image of translators and thus fostering a favourable opinion. FIT-Europe should not act in place of its member associations except in the case of international campaigns and/or pan-European bodies.

Specific action:

Collate and disseminate up-to-date data on the various facets of the translators' vocation. Maintain a register of individuals willing to travel abroad in order to help the associations of other countries in their promotion activities.

Structural questions

The activities of FIT-Europe are governed by numerous binding texts:

- The by-laws of FIT, the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, an International association authorised by Ministerial Decree of 18 March 1954, and registered at the Prefecture of Police of Paris on 15 June 1954 under Number 26721
- The by-laws of the Regional Centre Europe of the FIT, adopted by the General Meeting held in Strasbourg on 24 June 1995 and amended by the General Assembly held in Kolding on 5 October 1996
- Guidelines for the establishment of FIT Regional Centres and for FIT Regional Centre activities, adopted by the FIT Council in Geneva (April 1998)

If the draft mission of FIT-Europe is approved by the European associations of translators, then FIT-Europe must compare the binding texts with its current practices and with its aims and the consequent missions, in order to establish whether its present structure is consonant with achieving the wishes of the Associations. The outcome of such a review must be submitted to the associations of Europe, with recommendations and a clear statement of the consequences of each option (maintain, adapt, amend) proposed.

The human resources of FIT-Europe are limited: there is thus a need to examine how far certain missions can or should be delegated to specific national associations or working parties outside the Steering Committee, though always under the formal responsibility of FIT-Europe.

FIT-Europe currently works without a budget. It has the possibility of requesting voluntary contributions from its member associations of translators. This question should also be examined during the evaluation of the various structural options, and proposals should be submitted regarding the financing of actions decided by European associations of translators.