

LEGAL EDUCATION OF COURT INTERPRETERS AND SWORN TRANSLATORS UPON THE DIRECTIVE 2010/64/EU

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the paper is to expose current difficulties connected with education of legal translators and interpreters and to put forward a proposal for establishing an educational program to ensure the respective quality of service. It is pointed out that the translation is not only a linguistic activity and requires broad expertise in legal knowledge and legal language as well as awareness of ways in which legal knowledge is expressed in linguistic communication. The paper outlines the main assumptions of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council 2010/64/EU of 20 October 2010 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, including the requirement to ensure the respective quality of translation. The protection of rights of accused persons in criminal proceedings has been identified as a fundamental right within the European Union: everyone charged with a criminal offence has the right to the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court. The education policy directly affects many other policies and fundamental freedoms, hence the concept of leaving the responsibility for its formation with the Member States and to reduce the Union's competences only to encouraging, supporting and complementing them. The interdisciplinary character of the research allows to shed a new light on the issue of education of translators and interpreters acting for authorities and law enforcement bodies.

Key Words: law, translators, interpreters, European Union, legal education.