

Certified translators in Europe

A rough guide to whether and how they are accredited

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In alphabetical order

Albania	<p>The Ministry of Justice in Albania is responsible for the certification of sworn translators. Candidates need a degree in translation, linguistics, or a related field and must pass an exam. The ministry keeps a register, but it's not accessible on their web site. Check with the ministry or a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Albanian, spoken by almost all of the population. Albanian has two dialects, Tosk, spoken in the south, and Gheg in the north. Small minorities speak Greek, Macedonian, Romani, Aromanian and Serbo-Croatian.</p>
Andorra	<p>In tiny Andorra, there is no specific designation for sworn translators, but those who provide official translations typically need to be recognized by local authorities. Enquire with the Andorran government or local administrative offices, or ask a good translation Agency that knows the terrain.</p> <p>The official and most widely spoken language is Catalan. Spanish, French, and Portuguese can also be heard.</p>
Austria	<p>Certified translators (beeidigte Übersetzer) must pass an exam and be appointed by a regional court (Landesgericht). The Ministry of Justice keep this register.</p> <p>The official language is German, a variety known as Austrian German, influenced by local dialects like Austro-Bavarian. Several minority languages are recognized, including Croatian, Hungarian, Slovene, Czech, Slovak, and Romani.</p>
Belarus	<p>In Belarus the Ministry of Justice is responsible for certification and registration of sworn translators and maintains a registry. Translators need a degree in</p>

	<p>translation, linguistics, or a related field and must pass a certification exam. At the last attempt, the ministry's web site was not responding.</p> <p>The official languages are Belarusian and Russian, many people speak a mixture of the two. Minority languages Polish, Ukrainian, Yiddish and Trasianka are also spoken.</p>
Belgium	<p>In Belgium the legal basis is the law of 10 April 2014. This established two national registers: of court experts; and of Translators and Interpreters. These are publicly accessible on the federal Ministry of Justice's web site, with an easy search function.</p> <p>Belgium has three official languages: Dutch, French, and German. Dutch is primarily spoken in the north (Flanders), French in the south (Wallonia) and in Brussels, and German in the east.</p>
Bosnia and Herzegovina	<p>In Bih, each entity has its own system and registers, which are not kept at state level. Certified translators (ovjereni prevodioci) . In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Republika Srpska certified translators are appointed by the courts, with the entity's Ministry of Justice overseeing the certification process. In Brčko District the process is similar but managed locally. Enquire with the local courts (sudovi) who keep their own registries, with the entity ministries of justice, or with a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official languages are Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian. These languages are highly similar, but are officially recognized as separate for cultural and political reasons.</p>
Bulgaria	<p>The Bulgarian legal basis is the Code of Criminal Procedure and Regulation No N-1 of 16 May 2014 on court translators. Each provincial or administrative court, and the Specialised Criminal Court, has a register listing certified court translators. There is currently no online access to these registers. Check with the Ministry of Justice (Министерство на правосъдието) or with courts (съдилища), or ask a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Bulgarian, spoken by about 85% of the population. Other languages include Turkish and Romani.</p>

Croatia	<p>The status of court interpreters (Stalni sudski tumači) is regulated by the Courts Act (Zakon o sudovima) and by the Rules on Permanent Court Interpreters (Pravilnik o stalnim sudskim tumačima). The Ministry of Justice keeps a register, which is not currently accessible online. There are six different associations of permanent court interpreters, a couple of which have web sites with their members' contacts: USST, and USTP in Split.</p> <p>The official and majority language of Croatia is Croatian (Hrvatski). Other languages include Serbian, Italian, German, Czech and Slovak.</p>
Cyprus	<p>In Cyprus the Ministry of Justice and Public Order is responsible for the certification and registration of sworn translators and maintains a registry that you can access here. Translators need a degree in translation, linguistics, or a related field. They must pass a certification exam and are encouraged to engage in continuing education.</p> <p>The official languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish. Cypriot Arabic, Armenian, and Kurbetcha are spoken by minority communities and English is widely used.</p>
Czech Republic	<p>Certified translators (soudní tlumočníci a překladatelé) must pass an exam set by the Ministry of Justice (Ministerstvo spravedlnosti) and be appointed by a regional court (krajský soud). A register is kept by the Ministry of Justice, though regional courts are responsible for its correctness. You can access it online, though it's only in Czech.</p> <p>The official language of the Czech Republic is Czech, spoken by about 10 million people. Minority languages include German, Polish, Hungarian, Ukrainian and Slovak.</p>
Denmark	<p>There is no publicly accessible registry kept by a Danish authority. There are associations of sworn translators where you can access lists online, at e.g. The Danish Association of Certified Translators and Interpreters.</p> <p>Denmark is part of a 'commonwealth' (rigsfællesskab), together with Greenland and the Faroe Islands. Danish is spoken by the majority of the population, but Faroese and Greenlandic are recognized as official languages.</p>
Estonia	<p>In Estonia the Language Act emphasizes the importance of using Estonian in</p>

	<p>official documents and communications. The Ministry of Justice has a register of sworn translators available online in Estonian and English. It covers major languages (currently 16). Interestingly, the ministry says: "If documents in a foreign language need to be submitted to Estonian administrative agencies with translations but no sworn translators specialise in the respective language in Estonia, the translation must be certified by a competent official in a foreign country. If that is not possible, the document must first be translated into a commonly used language (e.g., English, German, Russian) and then into Estonian."</p> <p>The official language is Estonian, minority languages are Võro, Seto, Russian, Swedish, German, Ukrainian and Polish.</p>
Finland	<p>Certified translators (valtuutetut kääntäjät) must pass an exam and be registered with the National Board of Education (Opetushallitus). You can access the registry online, in both Finnish and English.</p> <p>Official languages are Finnish and Swedish, officially recognized minority languages are Sami, Romani, Finnish Sign Language, Finland-Swedish Sign Language and Karelian.</p>
France	<p>Certified translators are accredited by a 'Cour d'Appel' (Court of Appeal) or the 'Cour de Cassation'. A certified translator (traducteur assermenté) must pass an exam and be appointed by a court. You can access lists here (French only).</p> <p>The official language is French. Regional languages are used on the mainland and in overseas territories: Alsatian, Catalan, Basque, Corsican, Breton, Gallo, Occitan, Walloon, West Flemish, Franco-Provençal, Savoyard, Lorraine Franconian, French Guyana Creole, Guadeloupean Creole, Martiniquan Creole, Oil languages, Réunion Creole, some twenty languages of New Caledonia, Yenish, the Maroon creoles and Amerindian languages of French Guyana.</p>
Georgia	<p>In Georgia the Ministry of Justice is said to be responsible for the certification and registration of sworn translators with a registry. However, the ministry web site does not mention this. Ask a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>Georgian is the official language spoken as a first language by over 86% of the</p>

	<p>population, but Russian and Azerbaijani are also spoken.</p>
Germany	<p>Germany is a federal country, and certified translators are accredited by state courts (Landgerichte). Translators must pass an exam to obtain certification. The Ministry of Justice has an online search facility here in German and English.</p> <p>The official language is German, spoken by 95 percent of the population as Standard German or a dialect. Regional languages are Northern Low Saxon, Limburgish, Danish, Sorbian, Frisian, Romani and Low German.</p>
Greece	<p>Certified translators (πιστοποιημένοι μεταφραστές or δικαστικοί μεταφραστές) must pass an exam and be registered with the Ministry of Justice. The government has an online register here in both Greek and English.</p> <p>The official language is modern Greek. Regional languages are Cretan, Cappadocian, Pontic, Maniot, Thracian, Tsakonian and Yevanic.</p>
Hungary	<p>Certified translators (hiteles fordítók) must pass an exam and be registered with the Ministry of Justice (Igazságügyi Minisztérium). Decree 24/1986. (VI. 26.) MT stipulates that only the Hungarian Office for Translation and Attestation (OFFI), a limited liability company owned by the Ministry of Justice may provide certified translations.</p> <p>The official language is Hungarian, spoken by over 99% of the population. Several minority languages are recognized, including German, Romanian, Slovak, Serbian, Croatian, and Romani.</p>
Iceland	<p>In Iceland, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the certification and registration of sworn translators and keeps a register. Translators need a degree in translation, linguistics, or a related field and must pass a certification exam. You can access an online list here in Icelandic and English.</p> <p>The official language is Icelandic, the Scandinavian language that has remained unchanged for longest due to the island's remote location. Many Icelanders also speak English and Danish.</p>
Ireland	<p>In Ireland, there is no official government certification for translators. The Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA) keeps a list that you can access</p>

	<p>online here in English.</p> <p>Ireland has two official languages, English and Irish (Gaeilge). While English is the predominant language, Irish is still spoken in certain regions, and some 40% of people say they understand it to a certain degree. Ulster Scots is recognised as a minority language.</p>
Latvia	<p>The Latvian Law on the State Language emphasizes the importance of using Latvian in official documents, but there is no specific law that mandates a formal certification process. The State Language Centre does have a role in overseeing language use in official documents, but there is no data base of translators in Latvia. Ask the State Language Centre, the Latvian Association of Translators and Interpreters (LATI) or a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Latvian (Lettish), but Russian, Ukrainian and Latgalian are also spoken.</p>
Lithuania	<p>In Lithuania, there is no specific law that mandates a formal certification process for translators, and there is no official government-maintained register of certified translators. Professional Associations such as the Lithuanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (LATI) may provide resources and networking opportunities for translators, but does not have the authority to issue official certifications recognized by the government. Ask a lawyer or a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Lithuanian, spoken by over 85% of the population, other languages include Russian and Polish.</p>
Luxembourg	<p>Certified, or sworn translators (traducteurs assermentés) are appointed by the Ministry of Justice and must meet specific qualifications, including passing an exam. The Ministry of Justice keeps a register, you can access it here (French only).</p> <p>Luxembourg has three official languages: Luxembourgish, French, and German.</p>
Malta	<p>In Malta the Ministry for Justice and Reform of the Construction Sector is responsible for the certification of sworn translators . Translators need a degree in translation, linguistics, or a related field and must pass a certification exam.</p>

	<p>You can access a list of sworn translators here.</p> <p>The official languages are Maltese and English, while many people speak Italian.</p>
Moldova	<p>The Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Moldova is responsible for the certification and registration of sworn translators. Translators need a degree in translation, linguistics, or a related field and must pass a certification exam. The ministry has no online list, ask a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Romanian, though Russian is also spoken along with smaller communities speaking Gagauz, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Romani.</p>
Montenegro	<p>Certified translators (ovjereni prevodioci) must pass an exam and be appointed by the Ministry of Justice. The ministry keeps a list, you can download it here.</p> <p>The official language is Montenegrin, though a minority speak Albanian.</p>
Netherlands	<p>In the Netherlands, the Sworn Court Interpreters and Translators Act (Wbtv) governs the rules and regulations for sworn translators. Under the aegis of the Ministry for Justice and Security, a register is managed by the Office of Sworn Interpreters and Translators (Wbtv Office). You can access it here in English.</p> <p>The official language is Dutch, spoken by almost everyone. Frisian is co-official in Friesland, English (Caribbean Netherlands), Papiamentu (Bonaire), Dutch Low Saxon, Limburgish and minority languages Yiddish and Romani.</p>
North Macedonia	<p>Certified translators (заклети преведувачи) must pass an exam and be appointed by the Ministry of Justice. Enquire with the Ministry of Justice (Министерство за правда), or possibly with local courts (судови). The professional translators association MATA has a list you can access here in English.</p> <p>The official language is Macedonian, while Albanian has co-official status. Other minority languages include Turkish, Romani, Serbian, Bosnian, and Aromanian, which are co-official in areas where they are spoken by at least 20% of the population.</p>
Norway	<p>Certified translators (autoriserete oversettere) must pass an exam and be authorized by the Ministry of Justice and Public Security (Justis- og</p>

	<p>beredskapsdepartementet). Ask the Ministry or local court (Tingretten), or look up the register of the association of state-authorized translators.</p> <p>Norway has two official languages: Norwegian, which has two written forms (Bokmål and Nynorsk), and Sámi, spoken by the indigenous Sámi people. Minority languages: Kven Finnish, Romani, Romanes.</p>
Poland	<p>The regulation of sworn translators in Poland is governed by the Act on the Profession of Sworn Translator (Ustawa o zawodzie tłumacza przysięgłego), which outlines the requirements including qualifications, examinations, and ethical standards. Certified translators (tłumacze przysięgli) must pass an exam set by the Ministry of Justice and be registered in the official register. You can look it up online here (in Polish only).</p> <p>The official language is Polish, spoken by about 97% of the population. Other languages include Silesian, Kashubian, German and Ukrainian.</p>
Portugal	<p>Certified translators (tradutores juramentados) are appointed by a court and must meet specific qualifications, including passing an exam. Each court maintains a registry so ask the Local Court (Tribunal), the Ministry of Justice (Ministério da Justiça) oversees the appointment procedure, but keeps no national register. There are professional associations, try APT's register though it does not specify sworn translators or APTRAD's register which does (in Portuguese).</p> <p>The official language is Portuguese, spoken by about 96% of the population. Other languages include Mirandese, recognized as a regional language.</p>
Romania	<p>Certified translators (traducători autorizați) must pass an exam conducted by the Ministry of Justice and be registered in their official registry. It has online access here, but it may not work (the address suggests a beta app). This site has a list, though it's unclear who runs it (the 'Contact' link did not work). Otherwise you could ask a local court (tribunale), the Romanian Association of Translators (Asociația Traducătorilor din România) or a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Romanian, spoken by about 91% of the population. Minority languages include Hungarian, Romani, Ukrainian, German, Greek,</p>

	Russian, Turkish, Tatar, Serbian, Slovak and Bulgarian.
Russia	<p>Certified translators (присяжные переводчики) pass a qualification exam and are registered with the Ministry of Justice or a regional court. Ask the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation, the regional courts (суды) or the Russian Union of Translators (Российский союз переводчиков).</p> <p>The Russian Federation has over 100 languages, with Russian being the only official language everywhere. There are 25 other officially recognized languages in various regions, including Ossetic, Ukrainian, Buryat, Kalmyk, Chechen, Ingush, Abaza, Adyghe, Cherkess, Kabardian, Altai, Bashkir, Chuvash, Crimean Tatar, Karachay-Balkar, Khakas, Nogai, Tatar, Tuvan, Yakut, Erzya, Komi, Hill Mari, Meadow Mari, Moksha, and Udmurt.</p>
San Marino	<p>San Marino has no formal system and there is no specific designation for certified translators. To find a qualified translator whose work is acceptable to the authorities, enquire with the government or local administrative offices.</p> <p>The language is Italian.</p>
Serbia	<p>Certified translators (overeni prevodioci) must pass an exam set by the Ministry of Justice and be appointed by a court. Each local court (sudovi), court maintains its own registry, as does the Ministry of Justice (Ministarstvo pravde).</p> <p>Unfortunately the ministry's list is only rarely updated with new appointees, and none seem to be removed even when deceased. Officially, anyone on this list may provide certifications that should be accepted by all courts countrywide, but some courts refuse those made by translators not on their own list, i.e. not resident in their geographical area. Better to ask a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Serbian. Other languages spoken in Serbia include Hungarian, plus Bosnian and Croatian which are extremely similar to Serbian. The Autonomous Province of Vojvodina has 6 official languages: Serbian, Hungarian, Slovak, Romanian, Croatian and Rusyn.</p>
Slovakia	<p>Certified, or court translators (súdni prekladatelia) must pass an exam and be appointed by a regional court (krajský súd). The Ministry of Justice (Ministerstvo spravodlivosti) oversee the certification process and keep a register, accessible</p>

	<p>online here (Slovak only).</p> <p>The official language is Slovak. Other languages include Hungarian, Czech, and minority languages such as Rusyn, Polish, and Ukrainian.</p>
Slovenia	<p>Certified, or court translators (sodni tolmači or prisežni prevajalci) must pass an exam and be appointed by the Ministry of Justice, which keeps the register of sworn interpreters and translators (who must be capable of both). You can access it here (in Slovenian).</p> <p>The official and national language of Slovenia is Slovene, which is spoken by a large majority of the population. Hungarian and Italian, are recognised as co-official minority languages while Romani, Croatian, Serbian and German are also spoken.</p>
Spain	<p>Certified translators, (traductores jurados), must pass an official exam at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación), who keep a registry. You can access the register here (in Spanish and slow to open).</p> <p>The main language is Spanish (or Castilian), the only official language throughout the country. There are several regional co-official languages, including Catalan (in Catalonia, Valencia, and the Balearic Islands), Galician, Basque, and Aranese (in the Aran Valley).</p>
Sweden	<p>Certified translators (auktoriserade translatorer) must pass an examination set by the Swedish National Language Board (Språkrådet). The Swedish Legal, Financial and Administrative Services Agency (Kammarkollegiet) keeps a registry of sworn translators. You can access it online here (in Swedish and English):</p> <p>Swedish is the official language, spoken by the vast majority of the population. There are several recognized minority languages, including Finnish, Meänkieli, Romani and Sámi.</p>
Switzerland	<p>The certification depends on the canton, as Switzerland has a decentralized system. In Geneva you can access the register here. In other cantons official translations are provided by a translation company who will make the certification at a notary's office.</p>

	Switzerland has four official languages: German, French, Italian, and Romansh, which are spoken according to the canton.
Ukraine	<p>Certified translators (присяжні перекладачі) must pass an exam and be registered with the Ministry of Justice. There appears to be no online registry. Enquire with the Ministry of Justice (Міністерство юстиції України) or possibly with local courts (суди) or a reliable translation agency.</p> <p>The official language is Ukrainian, spoken by the majority of the population. Russian is also widely spoken, along with several minority languages such as Romanian, Polish, Crimean Tatar, Krymchak, Karaim and Urum.</p>
United Kingdom	<p>In the UK there is no such thing as a sworn translator, and there is no government body that certifies translators. Certified translators can be accredited by professional organizations such as the Institute of Translation and Interpreting, ITI (here), or the Chartered Institute of Linguists, CIOL here. For many purposes, a lawyer's statement is used.</p> <p>The most widely spoken language in Britain is English, used by about 98% of the population. Other languages include Scots, Welsh, Cornish, Ulster Scots, Angloromani, Beurla Reagaird and Shelta.</p>