

Lithuania is one of 27 EU Member States.
Lithuanian is one of 23 EU official languages.
All are equal. Or are they?

The art and craft of pre-translation editing

**How European Commission editors
make source texts sound as good
as the (22) translations!**

David Crowther, an EU official with 35 years' experience of translation, revision, management and editing at the European Commission, will be discussing how the EU handles multilingualism in theory and practice, and how the EU Institutions cope with the most demanding language regime in the world, and will show how editors set about improving the quality of texts drafted, in many cases, by non-native speakers.

The art and craft of pre-translation editing

How European Commission editors make source texts sound as good as the (22) translations!

- *How translation has changed over the years: computerisation, terminology, language diversity*
 - Cultural diversity vs monoculture, as in biodiversity vs monoculture
 - Cultural enrichment or damned nuisance? Example of Luxembourg, positive and negative
 - Look at situation in EU institutions: officials free to choose their working language? In theory yes, but in practice not really, because of practical considerations
 - *Lowest common denominator nowadays is English: this has advantages, but also drawbacks.*
 - *Advantages: need to learn a single working language, but is English really the best lingua franca?*
 - *Big Bang year: generally thought to be 2004, but 1995 may prove to have much more lasting effect*
 - Drawbacks: accusations of cultural imperialism
 - Unfair to English translators to use EN as sole filter language for incoming texts.
 - Unfair to non-EN translators to bore them stiff translating only into their mother tongue from bad EN
 - *Cost of multilingualism*
 - *Importance of identity*
 - What the Commission does to make multilingualism possible
 - Are there limits to multilingualism?
 - No realistic challenge to the steady expansion of official languages under Council Regulation No 1
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- ✓ DGT's answer to the problem of ubiquitous English: an editing service.
- ✓ How editing works, and what it can and can't do