



***Association of Interpreters  
and Translators in Bulgaria  
(AIT)***

# AIT – Bulgaria

## Background

- The Association of Interpreters and Translators in Bulgaria (AIT) was founded in 1996 as an independent ‘not-for-profit’ association of professional conference interpreters and translators.
- Our members are qualified professionals in the field of interpretation and translation, with educational backgrounds in different fields and extensive experience.
- AIT does not serve as an intermediary between clients and interpreters/translators. Clients may contact our interpreters and translators directly through their profiles published on our webpage.
- AIT offers advice and guidance to people who want to enter the profession and who need to be educated of the importance of communication and language services in general.

# AIT-Bulgaria

## Mission

- AIT unites interpreters and translators who strive to achieve perfection in an area of such importance.
- Our efforts are underpinned by a focus on quality, professionalism, expedience and flexibility.
- Our objective is to promote the highest standards and best practices in the profession.
- We are proud to have as members some of the most distinguished professionals in the field, operating in Bulgaria and abroad. A number of our members are also court interpreters.

# AIT-Bulgaria

## Conferences and Events

- In 1988 AIT organized the first visit to Brussels of 40 Bulgarian conference interpreters to acquaint themselves with the EU institutions and the standards of SCIC.
- AIT has organized conferences at a regional level about the role of translation and interpretation in the transitional period from totalitarianism to democracy, and exchanges and seminars with colleagues from Germany and the UK about, for example, the translation standards.
- Every year AIT organizes conferences and seminars on linguistic, technical and tax issues.

# Legal interpretation and translation

## AIT – EULITA cooperation

- In November 2012, Ms Liese Katschinka, President of EULITA, was the keynote speaker at the conference: “The status of legal interpretation and translation in Bulgaria and the transposition of the EU Directive on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings”; held in Sofia and organized by AIT, the Ministry of Justice and the New Bulgarian University.
- The conference stimulated interest in people from the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, judges from the whole country and colleagues from the Union of Translators in Bulgaria.
- As a result of this conference AIT received an invitation to become a member of EULITA.

# EULITA membership

- In January 2013, the General Assembly of AIT-Bulgaria took a unanimous decision to apply for membership of EULITA
- At the end of January 2013, EULITA Management Board accepted our application for a full membership
- April 2013, EULITA General Assembly, approval of full membership

# Participation on the LitSearch Project

- The LitSearch Project for developing a pilot European register of court interpreters started in 2014;
- LitSearch came out of Directive 2010/64EC on the right of interpretation and translation in court proceedings and its transposition in member states
- Initiated by EULITA and KU Leuven with the participation of 6 countries, among which - Bulgaria ;
- The aim was to set up a Register of legal interpreters and translators on a European level
- AIT took an active part in the project and in 2015 hosted the international conference on the project
- AIT participated in the working group at the Bulgarian Ministry of Justice for the transposition of the Directive into the local Ordinance on Court Interpreters in Bulgaria
- We have members of AIT who are now registered court interpreters for the courts in Bulgaria, following the criteria and procedure described in the Ordinance.