

Special Interest Group on Language Mediation
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Europe has recently gone through profound changes that have had an impact on all fields of activity. Language Mediation (LM) is no exception. While it is true that the core of LM is always the same (source-text induced target-text production for a third party, as Albrecht Neubert would have it), it is also true that conditions, users, tools and needs have changed to such an extent that LM may be said to be no longer what it was even as recently as a few years ago.

That is why the European Language Council / Conseil Européen pour les Langues has decided to set up a Special Interest Group on Language Mediation. The Group will have 10-12 members entrusted with the task of reflecting on the current situation and on ways for the various components of the LM scene to be prepared to meet present and foreseeable needs.

It is suggested that issues pertaining (a) LM education/training, (b) LM professional practice, and (c) LM research be addressed with specific reference to areas such as:

- **individual multilingualism**
 - impact of individual multilingualism on LM needs
 - impact of individual multilingualism on LM services
 - impact of individual multilingualism on languages used in LM services
 - impact of individual multilingualism on language directionality in LM services
 - impact of individual multilingualism on languages offered in LM education/training
- **societal multilingualism**
 - impact of societal multilingualism on LM needs
 - impact of societal multilingualism on LM services
 - impact of societal multilingualism on languages used in LM services
 - impact of societal multilingualism on languages offered in LM education/training
 - impact of societal multilingualism on profile of students taking up LM education/training
 - societal multilingualism, LM and civil rights / democracy
- **new technologies**
 - in translation
 - in interpreting
- **quality**
 - quality assurance
 - quality control
- **etc.**

It is hoped that the work done by the Special Interest Group may lead to the drawing up of a European project under the auspices of the European Language Council / Conseil Européen pour les Langues.