

Professional Organisations for Translators

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SSPUL – SSPOL

THE SLOVAK LITERARY TRANSLATORS' SOCIETY

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Established in 1990, the Slovak Literary Translators' Society (SSPUL) is an independent professional organization of literary translators whose source or target language is Slovak or any of the languages of national minorities living in Slovakia.

The Society's membership currently comprises 329 literary translators who translate from 43 languages.

It is a CEATL, FIT and Slovak Coalition for Cultural Diversity member.

Publisher of a quarterly *Revue svetovej literatúry* (World Literary Review).

Translating is the main profession for a lot of its members, most of them are university graduates in linguistics, and many of them have academic or scientific titles. For the most part they work as freelance translators, they are freelance poets and writers, some of them work as teachers at universities, freelance editors or editors in publishing houses, and as linguists in scientific institutions.

The aims of the Society:

- to implement the professional and social interests of its members contributing to improved quality of translation;
- to inform its members about any proposed legislation or regulations involving the activities of translators;
- to establish contacts with various institutions influencing the working conditions of translators and to negotiate with the publishing houses and other institutions on behalf of translators in order to improve their social status;
- to promote the work of translators in the media;

- to promote increasing standards of quality in translation;
- to support its members by providing educational programs and information relating to translation and the translation profession;
- to develop international cooperation with partner translation organizations.

THE SLOVAK SOCIETY OF TRANSLATORS OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL LITERATURE

Address:

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The Slovak Society of Translators of Scientific and Technical Literature (SSPOL) is a voluntary professional organisation for translators of scientific, technical and specialised literature whose source or target language is Slovak, or any of the languages of the ethnic minorities living within the Slovak Republic. It was established in 1990 and at present it has a membership of about 350 translators and interpreters, who translate from 30 languages.

For many of our members, translating is their main profession and they specialise in a variety of scientific and technical fields. The majority of our members have university degrees in linguistics, law, economics, natural sciences, and technical or other subjects. Many of them have academic or scientific titles. For the most part they work as freelance translators or interpreters, as teachers at elementary and secondary schools or universities, as translators or editors in publishing houses, as journalists or moderators in mass media, as linguists, lexicographers and terminologists in scientific institutions.

The aims of the organization are as follows:

- to champion the interests of translators and contribute to improving the quality of translation of specialized literature,
- to keep its members up to date on changes in the law affecting them,
- to establish contacts with customers (publishing houses, different institutions, the media and translation agencies) and negotiate agreements with various institutions on behalf of translators,
- to promote increased quality in translation,
- to develop international cooperation with professional organizations all over the world.

The membership benefits consist in the following areas:

- SSPOL organizes throughout the year a series of seminars on translation of specialized texts and on terminology, and provides specialized education and training in modern translation technologies,

- SSPOL fosters publications concerning scientific and technical translation as well as terminology,
- SSPOL takes part in awarding an annual prize for the best translation of scientific and technical literature (Matej Bel Award), and every two years the Best Dictionary Award.

The main activity of SSPOL is focused on organizing specialized seminars and workshops (usually twice a year) for their members as well as for other translators who are not organized within SSPOL. The seminars help translators in solving problems with specialized terminology especially in the area of law, economics, European institutions, architecture, engineering, transport, as well as humanities. All the lectures and contributions of translators are regularly published in a series of SSPOL publications entitled *Odborný preklad* (Translation of Specialist Texts).

The Society has for many years been a co-organizer of summer schools of translation taking place in Budmerice Castle near Bratislava in late September.

SSPOL protects the interests of translators and uses its influence during the preparation and implementation of all legal regulations and measures concerning translating activities. It works persistently towards its goal of improving the professional standard and status of Slovak translators and interpreters.

In the course of the past four years our organisation (and its individual members) have become valued and acknowledged partners for a number of governmental and international organisations. At many specialised seminars and conferences organised entirely or in part by SSPOL, we have turned our attention to and attempted to deal with problems in the sphere of the making and use of terminological monolingual and translation dictionaries. We work systematically on the creation, establishing and unification of specialised terminology, especially in such fields as law and public administration, economics, social security, agriculture, medicine, linguistics, as well as many other areas. We also devote attention to the use of computers in translating.

The executive committee of SSPOL co-operates with The International Federation of Translators (FIT), Committee of Languages of Limited Diffusion. In 1996, Vladimíra Hudáková was co-opted to the FIT Council. In 2002 she was replaced by Milan Richter. Milan Richter was elected as chair of the FIT Committee for Translation into Languages with Limited Diffusion (LLD) in 2000. During his chairing (2000–2005) he was very active in organizing international conferences on translation from/into LLD. From 3rd – 7th November 2001, SSPOL, SSPUL, and JTP organized in Smolenice (Slovakia) under the heading of Milan Richter (representing FIT Committee for Translation into Languages with Limited Diffusion and SSPUL), Anna Šebestová (representing SSPOL), and Andrej Rády (representing JTP) an international conference entitled Translation from/into European Languages with Limited Diffusion. The Proceedings of the conference were published in the Publishing House Letra, Bratislava, in 2002.

On 3rd–5th November 2006, The Slovak Society of Translators of Scientific and Technical Literature together with The Slovak Literary Translators' Society organized the 2nd International Conference entitled Translation from/into Languages with Limited Diffusion with the participation of the Honorary Adviser and one of

the founders of FIT Dr. René Haeseryn. Mr. Haeseryn presented his paper on the topic FIT – International Federation of Translators, Past and Future. He described the early years of FIT, the role of and contribution from Czechoslovak translators organization, introduced FIT and its principal objectives and benefits. The Proceedings of the conference were published in the Publishing House AnaPress, Bratislava, in 2007.

The activities of the Society are also aimed at fostering publications concerning translation as well as terminology. The Society's financial support helped publish valuable books of Slovak scholars, such as Jana Rakšányiová (*Preklad ako interkultúrna komunikácia*, 2004), Marketa Škrlantová (*Preklad právnych textov na národnej a nadnárodnej úrovni*, 2005), Alojz Keníž (*Preklad ako hra na invariant a ekvivalenciu*, 2008).

PROFESNÉ PREKLADATELSKÉ ORGANIZÁCIE

Slovenská spoločnosť prekladateľov umeleckej literatúry (SSPUL). Preklady do slovenčiny. Preklady do jazykov národnostných minorít. Jazyky a literatúra celého sveta. Legislatívne zmeny. Podpora prekladateľov. Vzdelávanie. Kvalita prekladu. Spolupráca so zahraničím. CEATL. FIT. Revue svetovej literatúry.

Slovenská spoločnosť prekladateľov umeleckej literatúry je združením prekladateľov, ktorých cieľovým jazykom je slovenčina alebo jazyk minorít, žijúcich na Slovensku. Má viac ako tristo členov, ktorí prekladajú zo štyridsiaticich troch jazykov. Sú to vysokoškolsky vzdelaní odborníci, samostatní prekladatelia, ale aj lingvisti, vysokoškolskí pracovníci, výskumníci vydavatelia a mnohí spisovatelia. Cieľom SSPUL je zvyšovať kvalitu literárneho prekladu, sledovať legislatívne zmeny profesie, pomáhať prekladateľom presadiť sa v médiách, podporovať ich vzdelávanie a pomáhať udržiavať ich sociálny status, vyjednávať pracovne podmienky s objednávateľmi prekladu a nadväzovať kontakty so zahraničím. SSPUL je členom CEATL, kde má svojho zástupcu, FIT a združenie pre kultúrne odlišnosti. SSPUL vydáva časopis Revue svetovej literatúry a usporiada semináre a stretnutia s prekladateľmi.

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Slovenská spoločnosť prekladateľov vedeckej a odbornej literatúry. Kvalita prekladov. Vytváranie vedeckej a odbornej terminológie. Kontakty s objednávateľmi prekladov. Právne opatrenia profesie. Moderné prekladové technológie. Európske inštitúcie. Členstvo vo FIT a spolupráca. Výbor pre jazyky s omezeným šírením. Semináre a konferencie.

Slovenská spoločnosť prekladateľov vedeckej a odbornej literatúry je dobrovoľné profesijné združenie, ktorého cieľom je podporovať odborný preklad na Slovensku, sledovať kvalitu

prekladov, vytvárať kontakty so zákazníkmi (vydavateľstvá, mediálne a prekladateľské agentúry) a rozvíjať medzinárodnú spoluprácu. SSPOL organizuje každoročné semináre prekladu špecializovaných textov, vzdeláva a učí používať moderné prekladové technológie. Spolupracuje na tvorbe odbornej terminológie z oblasti práva, ekonómie, Európskych inštitúcií, technický a humanitných disciplín. Jej členmi sú odborne vysokoškolsky vzdelaní prekladatelia. SSPOL ochraňuje ich záujmy a zúčastňuje sa na prípravách právnych opatrení. Spolupracuje s FIT (International Federation of Translators) vo Výbore pre jazyky s obmedzeným šírením, kde má svojho zástupcu, a spolu s ním organizuje medzinárodné konferencie (2001, 2006).

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