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*Workstream 1*

# Workshops and meetings with university internal and external stakeholders

## D. 1.3 Workshops Report – compiled English version

Project title: TransLaw – Exploring Legal Interpreting Service Paths and Transcultural Law Clinics for persons suspected or accused of crime

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## 1 Introduction

One of the main aims of the project TransLaw is to establish transcultural law clinics at the universities in each partner country (Austria, Italy, Belgium, and Slovenia) in which law and translation students provide free legal assistance for persons accused or suspected of crime. To lay the basis for cooperation that is needed to implement these transcultural law clinics, it was necessary to establish contact with different university-internal and external stakeholders, gain their interest and their support.

Therefore, workshops and meetings were held in each partner country. Various stakeholders were invited to join, among them legal interpreting lecturers, department heads of law faculties and law clinic founders, as well as practitioners like lawyers, judges, legal interpreters, and NGO members.

The objectives of the workshops and meetings were to introduce the project TransLaw and its activities, to attract the stakeholders' interest, and to find possible partners for cooperation. Furthermore, it was the aim to frame and concretise the law clinic concept. It was important to obtain different perspectives and ideas on the transcultural law clinic: A broad range of suggestions and objections is the soil that is needed to develop an adequate and applicable law clinic concept.

The following chapters provide an overview of all meetings and workshops that were held in each partner country.

### Overview of working groups

Country	Target group	Number of people reached
Austria	Legal professionals, legal interpreters, interpreting teachers, university management	29
Italy	Legal professionals, university colleagues/management	6
Belgium	Legal professionals, legal interpreters, university colleagues of "Master in Interpreting", Social and Societal Ethics Committee (SMEC)	42
Slovenia	Legal interpreters, university management, NGO management	20

## 2 Workshops and meetings in Austria

Meetings with stakeholders at the University of Vienna were held to discuss the concept of a transcultural law clinic for criminal law and explore opportunities for cooperation.

### 2.1 Meetings with individual stakeholders

The groundwork for cooperation with the Faculty of Law and the Vienna Law Clinic as well as the Association of Austrian Criminal Defence Lawyers and the Austrian Judges' Association was laid in eleven separate conversations and meetings between the project lead and six individual stakeholders between January and July 2018. Results included:

- The Faculty of Law supports the project and will cooperate with TransLaw via the Vienna Law Clinic, which has established law clinics for asylum law, consumer protection and start ups
- In meetings at the Department of Criminal Law and Criminology, a joint course for students of law and translation studies was agreed for the winter term 2018/19
- An agreement was made to cooperate with the Association of Austrian Criminal Defence Lawyers with regard to cases and mentoring
- An agreement was made to cooperate with the Austrian Judges' Association

### 2.2 Workshop with interpreters

Potential trainers/mentors (certified court interpreters, most of whom are also interpreting lecturers) were invited to contribute to the planning of the transcultural law clinic and discuss potential cooperation. Eight participants joined the workshop on 16 May 2018 and produced the following outcomes:

- All participants believe the project will be useful in particular in terms of raising awareness for interpreting among future legal professionals
- The Austrian Association of Certified Court Interpreters is interested in the project and willing to contribute through communication, dissemination and joint training (workstream 3). As a first step, an article about legal clinics by a TransLaw researcher will be published in the association's newsletter
- A participating Hungarian court interpreter will establish contacts to a Hungarian law clinic and publish an article
- Possible synergies with an annual training for candidate judges on interpreting held by one of the participants

### 2.3 Workshop with interpreters and legal professionals

Another workshop was held on 12 June 2018. Thirteen experts from the legal domain (criminal law, judges) and the interpreting domain (certified court interpreters, interpreting lecturers) participated. They were invited to discuss possible concepts and cooperation for the law clinic. The findings contained:

- Support for the project and willingness to participate in various ways
- Agreement that the law clinic should not take on any cases for which there are court-appointed lawyers or interpreters or any other situations for which professional interpreters are paid – necessity of identifying gaps in service paths
- Suggestions for various organisations and bodies in which the law clinic participants might be able to participate: chamber of lawyers, district court, prison service centre, information for family members of PAC
- Suggestions for online modes (chat, mail, remote interpreting)
- A number of situations/groups that would benefit from the help of a transcultural law clinic or student interpreters are mentioned, though not all fall into the scope of the project (rehabilitation of former inmates, health care, social affairs)
- Discussion on how to find cases if the LC has its own service centre: recommendations, cooperation with law enforcement and lawyers
- Suggestion for cooperation with candidate judges
- Offer by criminal lawyer to coordinate with the chamber of lawyers

## 2.4 Meeting with VLC coordinators

On 19 June 2018, a meeting with the VLC (Vienna Law Clinic) coordinators was held to share current information on the planning process and gain insight into the development and operation of the three current VLC clinics. The results included:

- Information on design of law clinics and different operation models (office hours, workshops, participation in existing counselling/research activities)
- 120 applications each semester, approx. 35 accepted each term. Participation in preparatory course held by practitioners who also mentor them in the law clinic. After passing exam, students can work in LC, no fixed workload. 3 ECTS for course, up to 3 ECTS for LC work. Many students continue on afterwards, some do not even need the ECTS
- Team meeting for all three teams every 6 weeks
- Clients for office hour mainly through advertising on social media, by appointment; students listen to case, write a memo, receive feedback from lawyer, give answers/advice to clients at a second appointment
- Workshops and office hour held by teams of students without direct supervision (mix of experienced and newer LC participants)
- Expect interest in law clinic for criminal law, could use their network/social media to advertise. Issues of liability and sufficient knowledge raised
- Suggestions for cases: NGOs, assisting a lawyer, official institutions
- VLC has office space for office hours and coordination but hardly any other resources; however, few resources are needed

### 3 Workshops and meetings in Italy

At the University of Trieste, several meetings were held with colleagues and stakeholders during spring. Workshops with students and interpreters, with a view to involving them in the Law Clinic, are planned for autumn.

#### 3.1 Meeting with colleagues

The IUSLIT Department consists of two sections: the Language, Translation and Interpreting Section and the Law Section. During spring, two meetings (one on 10 April 2018 and the second on 17 April 2018) were held with two colleagues from the law section to inform them about the TransLaw project and to acquire information about the Refugee Law Clinic which was set up at IUSLIT in 2017. The two colleagues from the Law section agreed to participate in the TransLaw project and were officially added to the staff working for the project. The experience gained in the context of the Refugee Law Clinic will be used in planning and implementing the transcultural law clinic.

#### 3.2 Meeting with the president of the local criminal bar association

On 6 June 2018, a meeting was held with the president of the local criminal bar association to inform him about the TransLaw project, its goals and its activities. He expressed their interest in the project and his availability to play an active role in the workshops that will be held later in 2018 and in the transcultural law clinic that will be set up in 2019 (as confirmed by a registered letter dated 26 June 2018).

#### 3.3 Meeting with representatives of the Trieste Court

A meeting was held with the president of the court and the head of the court staff on 20 June 2018. They were informed about the TransLaw project, its goals and its activities. They both declared their interest in the project and their readiness and willingness to foster cooperation between the court judges and staff and the project partner in the planning and implementation of the transcultural law clinic (as confirmed by a registered letter dated 25 June 2018).

#### 3.4 Meeting with the local prison ombudsperson

A meeting was held with the local prison ombudsperson on 12 April 2018 to inform her about the TransLaw project, its goals and its activities. The ombudsperson expressed her interest in the project and her readiness and willingness to facilitate contacts with the prison staff and any activity involving persons in custody.

## 4 Workshops and meetings in Belgium

### 4.1 Meeting with colleagues

On 28 June, a meeting was held with 12 colleagues (trainers of Master in Interpreting). For one item on the agenda, namely internships, the TransLaw project was presented and the possibilities for students and colleagues to take advantage of this opportunity to work together with students and colleagues of the Faculty of Law were explained.

### 4.2 Submission ethical clearance at SMEC KU Leuven (Social and Societal Ethics Committee)

Focal points of the SMEC review include the reconciliation of the interests of participants and researchers, and the implementation of good research practices. SMEC follows legal and international ethical guidelines and standards with regard to participant recruitment, data collection and handling, and the dissemination of research findings. Insofar as they are not already part of official legislation (e.g. regarding privacy), such guidelines have been defined and endorsed by scientific organisations and professional associations, and the SMEC panel intends to take differences into account that may exist between scientific areas.

All (principal) investigators of the university can submit research protocols and procedures for ethical review by SMEC.

Applicants are obliged to use the standardised application form that can be filled out in English or Dutch and sent to the SMEC email address. The SMEC panel (16 persons) convenes roughly on a monthly basis. The deadline for submission is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, except for July, where the submission deadline is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month.

The submission was made on 9 August 2018; the outcome **favourable** was received on 29 August 2018.

After the favourable review of our application dossier, SMEC provided us the **number G- 2018 08 1299 and a certificate of ethical approval in the form of an email**. This certificate relates to the verbatim description of protocols and procedures in the application dossier, and can be included or mentioned as such in applications, publications, etc. It will remain valid up to four years of its effective date of issue.

### 4.3 Meeting with legal professionals and legal interpreters

On 10 October, a joint training and meeting with 14 legal professionals (judges, lawyers, prosecution officers) was held at The Hague (NL) at the Hoge Raad der Nederlanden. The TransLaw Project was presented and the participants were informed about the law clinic concept.

Further, the following topics were discussed:

- Possible cooperation in the framework of the TransLaw project

- Their availability to participate in the interviews
- Contacting their network to implement the law clinics
- Contacting their colleagues at the courts and law faculties to organise transcultural law clinics with law students and interpreting students

Both a representative of SIGV (Stichting Instituut van Gerechtstolken en -vertalers) as well as a participating judge expressed their interest after the meeting in organising transcultural law clinics in the Netherlands.



## 5 Workshops and meetings in Slovenia

Two workshops with stakeholders at the University of Maribor were held to discuss the concept of a transcultural law clinic for criminal law and explore opportunities for cooperation. Furthermore, a meeting with the representative of the NGO PIC was conducted; this person is one of the most important partners when reaching potential clients.

### 5.1 Workshop with the university management

A workshop at the university management level was organised on 23 February 2018 with seven participants. The project TransLaw was introduced and the implementation of **an elective/compulsory course “Legal Interpreting and Translation Clinic”** in the second cycle (MA) programme of Translation and Interpreting at the Department of Translation Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor in cooperation with the Faculty of Law was proposed. The workshop produced the following outcomes:

- The main goals and objectives of the TransLaw project, which is very innovative for Slovenia, were introduced. There are only a few law clinics in the county, neither of which focuses specifically on the project’s main target group.
- All participants believe that the project is a valuable addition to the university’s overall interdisciplinary policy and that the outcomes will mean a significant contribution to linking theory with practice, another of the university’s main objectives.
- The proposed course will be a valuable addition to the programme and will raise awareness for interpreting among future legal professionals.
- The Faculty of Law supports the project and the implementation of the new course, as well as trainings organised as a cooperation between legal interpreters, legal professionals and students.
- The law clinic could also be introduced as an extracurricular activity. The benefits of such an approach would be that prospective students could be expected to be highly motivated and it would be possible to avoid the pitfalls associated with implementing a subject in a programme.
- It was suggested that students in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle study program who, for the purpose of increasing the level of cooperation between the university and employers, have practical work experience at a company, be granted 6 ECTS points for a one-month practical work experience at the law clinic. These points are recorded in the diploma’s supplement as an additionally completed requirement that is not part of the study programme in which they are enrolled (in the section titled “Additional Information”).
- It was suggested that the further issues be discussed in more details at the faculty level.

### 5.2 Workshop with the faculty management

On 13 March 2018, a workshop was held with twelve persons from the faculty management. The project TransLaw was introduced and the results of the meeting with the university management were discussed. Furthermore, the implementation of **an elective/compulsory course “Legal Interpreting and Translation Clinic”** already supported by the university’s management were discussed in more

detail. The meeting focused on the main objectives of the project and the possibilities of the implementation of a new course. The results of the workshop were:

- The main goals and objectives of the TransLaw project and outlines of all four major phases of the project were introduced. The results of the first phase were presented, i.e. the analysis of the current situation with law clinics in Slovenia.
- The faculty management fully supported the project and the implementation of the new course.
- It was agreed that the course would be first implemented as an elective and then, depending on response and needs, it would be considered whether to offer it as an interdisciplinary module or a compulsory course.
- The subject will comprise 30 hours and will be held in English and German. It will be evaluated with 3 ECTS.
- Court interpreters will be invited for future cooperation.
- Legal professionals will take part in determining the final shape of the course's syllabus.
- Outlines of the article to be published on the possibilities of the implementation of the new course were discussed.
- The preliminary outlines of the syllabus for the future course entitled "**Multilingual and transcultural communication in criminal matters**" were discussed and defined.
- The objective of the course will be to familiarise students with the current situation in the field of translating and/or interpreting, legal advice and other services for non-Slovene speakers who are suspected or accused of crime. The students are made aware of the basic human rights of communication and of the special requirements of translating and/or interpreting for this socially vulnerable group.
- The lecturers will be two professors of translating/interpreting from the Faculty of Arts and one professor of criminal law from the Faculty of Law.

### 5.3 Meeting with an NGO representative

In the meeting with a representative of the NGO "PIC", the focus was on experience with translating and interpreting services provided by the organisation. Due to the representative's rich experience with legal interpreters and professionals, a broader dialogue on offering this kind of services for the project's target group in Slovenia developed. The meeting outcome was as follows:

- The NGO representative agreed that the TransLaw project is a significant, innovative and most needed contribution considering the difficulties that people suspected or accused of crime are facing when in need of translating/interpreting services. The representative has experience with many legal interpreters for various languages as well as legal professionals and unfortunately, translating/interpreting services for the very vulnerable group of people addressed in the project are not always provided as they should be (in time, professionally, at all stages of the service path) or sometimes not provided at all.
- Migrants who apply for international protection in Slovenia are provided with free-of-charge legal counselling, legal representation and translating/interpreting services for the international protection procedure. However, this applies to the international protection

procedure only and is not the case for the vulnerable group of people who do not speak Slovene and are suspected or accused of crime. The services offered vary significantly, though professional translating/interpreting services are supposed to be offered promptly to anyone who does not speak Slovene, and not only to asylum seekers, immigrants or those with refugee status.

- The representative believes the implementation of the elective/compulsory subject “**Legal Interpreting and Translation Clinic**” at the Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor, would mean an extraordinary help.
- PIC will be an important partner when reaching potential clients and establishing contacts and coordinating with legal interpreters and professionals.

## 6 Summary and conclusion

In each partner country, many meetings and workshops took place to reach relevant stakeholders inside and outside the universities, attract their interest, gain insights into existing law clinics and similar projects, acquire information on framework regulations, and get their support for the project TransLaw in one form or another, in particular in the planned transcultural law clinics.

Most meetings and workshops turned out very fruitful. The project TransLaw and its activities were appreciated and many stakeholders expressed their interest not only in the transcultural law clinic, but also other activities of the project, such as publishing articles about the project or participating in the interviews that will be conducted in the field research phase of the project. University-internal as well as external persons ensured their support and contributed to the development of an adequate and applicable law clinic concept. In many discussions, opinions and suggestions were gained from a broad spectrum of people with different professional backgrounds, such as legal interpreters, judges, and law clinic coordinators. All those different perspectives and ideas contributed to the improvement of the law clinic concept and its concretisation.

At some universities, the development of the transcultural law clinic is more advanced than at others. This is due to different framework conditions, like organisational matters or legal issues, in each country. However, cooperation has already been established at all universities, and the foundation for the development of transcultural law clinics has been built. The next steps can now focus on the concrete implementation of the transcultural law clinics.