



Working for the EU as a staff translator

HOW?

The procedure for recruiting staff to most European Union institutions is through an **open competition** organised by the European Personnel Selection Office (**EPSO**).

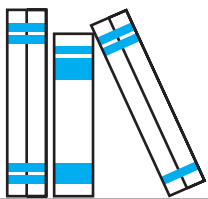
The only way to take part in one of these competitions is to **apply electronically** via the **EPSO website**: eu-careers.eu

The European Central Bank and the Translation Centre have their own separate recruitment procedures; check their websites for careers opportunities in these places.

Open competitions for translators are published each year, usually in June or July. For translators at the Court of Justice (known as lawyer-linguists), competitions are held when needed and can be announced at any time of the year. The target languages required vary according to need. The aim of all competitions is to create a 'reserve list' of candidates eligible to be recruited as permanent officials.

HOW ARE RECRUITMENT COMPETITIONS ORGANISED?

The open competitions generally consist of a series of pre-selection tests with multiple choice questions to test your verbal, abstract and numerical reasoning skills and your linguistic abilities. This is followed by a comprehensive assessment which relates largely to your translation skills and general competencies. The procedure usually takes around nine or ten months to complete. As the selection procedure may vary according to the competition, you must always check the EPSO website and relevant competition notice for the precise details.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN LANGUAGES NEEDED?

The target languages needed are all the official EU languages – i.e. Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Irish, Italian, Latvian,



Lithuanian, Maltese, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish – mainly in combination with English, French or German.

CAN I TAKE PART IN THESE COMPETITIONS?

Yes, provided:

- you are a **citizen of a Member State** of the EU;
- you have **perfect knowledge of the target language** (usually your mother tongue) and a **thorough knowledge of at least two other official EU languages**, of which at least one must be English, French or German;
- you have a **university degree**, a degree in languages is not necessary. (For lawyer-linguist competitions, you must hold a suitable legal education qualification from a Member State).

No professional experience is generally required.

HOW AM I RECRUITED FROM THE RESERVE LIST?

Successful candidates may be invited to an interview for possible recruitment based on the requirements of the individual EU institutions and the budgetary resources available. The reserve list is valid for a specific period which can be extended if necessary.



WHERE CAN I FIND FURTHER DETAILS?

- EPSO: epso.europa.eu/
- European Parliament (Luxembourg): europarl.europa.eu/aboutparliament/en/20150201PVL00013/Multilingualism
- Council of the European Union/European Council (Brussels): consilium.europa.eu/en/general-secretariat/jobs/
- European Commission (Brussels and Luxembourg): epso.europa.eu/career-profiles/languages
- Court of Justice of the European Union (Luxembourg): curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/Jo2_10742/en/
- European Court of Auditors (Luxembourg): eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/JobOpportunities.aspx
- European Economic and Social Committee (Brussels): eesc.europa.eu/en/work-with-us/jobs
- Committee of the Regions (Brussels): cor.europa.eu/en/about/jobs/Pages/default.aspx
- European Central Bank (Frankfurt am Main): ecb.europa.eu/careers/html/index.en.html
- Translation Centre for the bodies of the European Union (Luxembourg): cdt.europa.eu/en/jobs/