

THE PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE INTERPRETER

Professional Profile

A professional conference interpreter works during meetings or conferences in political, legal, economic, financial, scientific, cultural, religious, and other fields, for international, European, and national institutions or in the private sector. A conference interpreter uses simultaneous, consecutive, and whispered interpreting, as well as sight translating techniques.

Simultaneous interpreting: in this mode of interpreting, there is an extremely short time lag (called *décalage*) between the voice of the speaker and the voice of the interpreter. The interpreter sits in a soundproof booth from which he/she can see the meeting room, and uses special equipment to listen to and analyse what is being said in the original source culture/language, and to render it into the target culture/language. In some communicative events, an interpreter may rely on other simultaneous interpreting support systems, provided that they do not compromise the quality of interpreting.

Consecutive interpreting: in this mode of interpreting, the voice of the interpreter follows the voice of the speaker. When the speaker speaks, the interpreter, sitting among participants, analyses and memorises what is being said, possibly using an appropriate note-taking system, and then renders it into the target culture/language.

Whispered interpreting: in this mode of interpreting, the interpreter sits beside his/her listeners and whispers his/her translation into the target culture/language with an extremely short time lag between the voice of speaker and his/her own voice.

Skills

- providing an interpreting service suitable for the communicative event (meeting, conference, etc.) in accordance with the specifications of his/her professional profile;
- applying the principles of usability, accuracy, adequacy, and equivalence to the interpreting process, with a view to making the communication effective;
- enabling participants to communicate with one another in different situations related to his/her professional profile, with particular regard to intercultural aspects which, if ignored, may compromise the communication;

- using the various modes of interpreting in an effective way in different situations related to his/her professional profile;
- making the necessary decisions in full autonomy and with full responsibility, in order to play his/her role in an effective way during the event;
- selecting reliable and pertinent documentary and terminological sources, in an autonomous and responsible way;
- autonomously applying the results of his/her research to his/her professional services;
- autonomously checking work processes and outcomes;
- continuously improving his/her performance, knowledge, and skills.