



FIT EUROPE

REGIONAL CENTRE EUROPE OF THE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

info@fit-europe-rc.org

CPD FACTSHEET – SCIT (Slovenia)

Name of association	SCIT (Association of Sworn Court Interpreters and Legal Translators of Slovenia)
Founded in	2012
Country	Slovenia
Number of members	92
Translators, interpreters or both	92 translators, 92 interpreters
Association has a CPD policy	YES
Is CPD a professional requirement provided for by law	YES
Brief description of CPD policy	Our CPDs try to meet the following criteria: one- or two-day event (appr. 6 teaching hours or more per day), one to two presenters (speakers) usually invited from abroad (native country), focus on contrastive aspects in both languages and/or between the specialised and common language. Every CPD is quality oriented, therefore it is often organised as a boutique workshop (up to 12 - 15 participants). A certificate of attendance is issued to each participant. Every event is accompanied by a compilation of notes, if necessary, also with a PowerPoint presentation.
Association organises CPD events	YES
Languages of CPD events	English, German, Serbian, Croatian, Bosnian
Type of events	Face to face seminar/course, Translation/Interpreting-related
Units of measurement in CPD policy	No regulations about duration of CPD – MoJ just expects certificates to be provided irrespective of the quality they represent. For SCIT CPD means an event lasting 4-6 hours.
Which units	5 hours = 1 unit of CPD
How many and envisaged timeframe	5 CPD units over 5 years
Association offers record keeping	MoJ holds the records of CPD attendance because CPD is mandated by law
Pros of CPD policy	Participants value the quality of our CPDs, even though they are a bit pricier (80 - 140 EUR). We always check the presenter's education background to ensure active knowledge in LSP and/or legal translation.
Cons of CPD policy	-
Same rates as members for FIT associations	NO
Mutual recognition of attendance	Depends
Recognition of attendance at CPD events run by non-FIT third parties in the T&I sector where CPD is relevant	Depends but SCIT has no mechanism
Recognition of attendance at CPD events run by third parties not in the T&I sector where CPD is relevant	SCIT does not accept such CPD but in the context of Slovenia / court interpreting where MoJ requires CPD by law, general CPD is often acceptable to the Ministry
Interested in collaborating with other FIT associations to deliver CPD events	YES
Interested in hearing other FIT associations' experience	YES



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<p>Interested in identifying and exchanging best practices and how</p>	<p>YES</p> <p>Prepare a list of topics that are universal to the profession, a list of topics that are always interesting. What that list might cover will probably vary from country to country. What one sees as interesting/basic may not be seen by as interesting by others/basic but it should be possible to prepare a broad list. Prepare a list of guidelines about presenters. Very important to focus on presenters and to get the very best in their fields. The idea is to get people capable of presenting and who understand language, even if they do not necessarily have a language background. CPD should aim to raise level of knowledge to a higher level and create awareness that CPD is important. Associations should put more effort into the preparation side of things – do less –but better quality- CPD. Associations should have tools to distinguish what is quality from what is merely pleasurable / enjoyable to attend.</p> <p>SCIT is opposed to people who sell rubbish or who beat about the bush in their talks – the presenter should not be an instaguru but someone who conveys real knowledge that is beneficial. Low prices for CPD are a signal of poor quality events usually.</p> <p>So a common list of the characteristics a presenter should meet is essential.</p> <p>As to how to bring together associations, some practical examples were given about members of SCIT trying to access training from other associations and then being told they could not be provided with certificates because they were not members of the association that provided the training or certificates were not available for that sort of training. So clear up-front information so you know what you are buying.</p> <p>While SCIT tries to get its members to appreciate CPD and the value of knowledge other national associations do not seem to share that. So some general guidelines about how associations should interact with each other on CPD.</p>
<p>Harmonisation of CPD across Europe</p>	<p>There is a definite need for common guidelines about CPD across Europe. Guidelines on what is an acceptable length for CPD so we can distinguish what is CPD and what is not. CPD needs to be specialised and focused.</p> <p>If you have a unit of CPD (SCIT prefers 5 hours as 1 unit) then you can talk about half units for shorter events or 4 units for a 2-day conference. Not everything should count as CPD. 1 hour introductory webinar is not CPD, but do enough of them on the same topic and it could count as CPD. A very strict definition of what CPD is, is essential to safeguard quality.</p> <p>Definitely need criteria about presenters / speakers. Vetting their background is vital to check that they have the skills to teach the CPD.</p>
<p>CPD events that are "approved/certified" by FIT Europe</p>	<p>FIT Europe has to play a distinct role for itself in Europe.</p> <p>It needs to be quality focused. FIT has a reputation for its events being professional and for good levels of quality at the events. That needs to be preserved.</p> <p>FIT Europe and its associations could reach out and partner with ILLA on issues of legal translation / interpreting.</p>



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	<p>CPD should not be inexpensive. The price operates as a signal of quality. Too low means bad. The high price is not necessarily linked into the fees commanded by good speakers. Top class speakers often will not demand a speaking fee and are happy with just travel / accommodation costs being covered at a reasonable rate.</p> <p>Academic speakers can be snobbish when dealing with translation/interpreting associations. Some examples were discussed. On the question of a FIT Europe seal of approval for CPD events, to SCIT it sounds like a good long-term plan. Major concern would be how to avoid it becoming politicised. How to avoid it becoming a source of friction when events do not get approved.</p> <p>At present it is too much to go straight for a scheme of approval but FIT Europe should be laying down the criteria that CPD has to meet to be acceptable in its eyes. Then national associations would provide CPD around those criteria, sort of self-regulation at first.</p> <p>The seal of approval could come over time. Criteria / guidelines would operate as a standard for the profession.</p> <p>Standards / criteria are also need for the attendance fee / FIT Europe should specify a range of acceptable rates for associations to charge. These are very deep topics that require a lot of discussion. There is also the general issue that younger people have become accustomed to things for free. And as they come into the profession they tend to expect things for free too – meaning associations think they have to charge low fees for CPD events. Cheap CPD means the associations end up being like pimps. And cheap CPD is not worth anything.</p>
Two issues of particular concern	-