



Brussels, 10.2.2026
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 10.2.2026

**on the financing of actions related to training in conference interpreting and the
adoption of the work programme for 2026**

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THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union¹, and in particular Article 110(1) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) In order to ensure the implementation of the programme, it is necessary to adopt an annual financing decision, which is to constitute the annual work programme for 2026 in accordance with Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
- (2) The envisaged assistance is to comply with the conditions and procedures set out by the restrictive measures² adopted pursuant to Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.
- (3) It is necessary to allow for the payment of interest due for late payment on the basis of Article 116(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.
- (4) In order to allow for flexibility in the implementation of the work programme, it is appropriate to determine the changes, which should not be considered substantial for the purposes of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The work programme

The annual financing decision, constituting the annual work programme for the implementation of the financial support for training in conference interpreting for year 2026, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2026 is set at EUR 517 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following lines of

¹ (OJ L, 2024/2509, 26.09.2024, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2024/2509/oj>).

² See www.sanctionsmap.eu – Note that the sanctions map is an IT tool for identifying the sanctions regimes. The source of the sanctions stems from legal acts published in the Official Journal (OJ). In the case of discrepancy, the OJ prevails.

the general budget of the Union and from assigned revenue received for the provision of interpretation services to the other Union institutions and bodies of the Union:

Budget line 2026.20.031102 (Professional support): EUR 510 000

Budget line 2026.16010600.02 (UAF)21_27), 2026.15010101.02 IPAIII_21_27: EUR 7 000 (co-delegation agreement signed between DG ENEST and DG Interpretation)

The appropriations provided for in the first paragraph shall also cover interest due for late payment, where required.

Article 3

Flexibility clause

Cumulated changes to the allocations to specific actions not exceeding 20% of the maximum Union contribution set in Article 2, first paragraph, of this Decision shall not be considered to be substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, where those changes do not significantly affect the nature of the actions and the objective of the work programme.

The authorising officer responsible may apply the changes referred to in the first paragraph. Those changes shall be applied in accordance with the principles of sound financial management and proportionality.

Done at Brussels, 10.2.2026

For the Commission

Piotr SERAFIN

Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Work programme for 2026 for the financing of actions related to training in conference interpreting

1. Introduction

On the basis of the objectives laid down in Article 58(2)(e) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2026 as follows:

- a) for grants (implemented under direct management) (point 2),
- b) for other actions or expenditure (implemented under direct management) (point 3).

Legal basis

The support activities covered by this work programme derive from the operational needs of the Commission, in the context of its administrative autonomy, as provided for in Article 58(2)(e) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509.

Budget line

2026 – 20.03.11.02 Professional support
2026 – 16010600.02 (UAF)_21_27 (co-delegation agreement signed between DG ENEST and DG Interpretation)
2026 – 15010101.02 IPAIII_21_27 (co-delegation agreement signed between DG ENEST and DG Interpretation)

Objectives pursued

DG Interpretation's succession planning actions aim to support and strengthen training programmes to ensure the availability of a sufficient number of qualified conference interpreters responding to the quality standards and the needs of the EU Institutions. This assistance may be granted for EU official languages and the official languages of the candidate countries.

Such trained interpreters may subsequently be recruited by the Union institutions as officials or accredited conference interpreter agents (freelancers) to ensure the proper functioning of the Union Institutions.

Specific objectives include:

- a. Maintaining the capacity to train conference interpreters for all EU official languages, especially for the less widely-spoken ones, who may subsequently participate in a selection process to be recruited by the EU Institutions.
- b. Preparing for future enlargements by reinforcing the necessary training programmes and linguistic diversification.
- c. Ensuring the succession of an ageing population of interpreters.

Expected results

1. GRANTS TO UNIVERSITIES

Grants to universities or university consortia specialised in conference interpreter training at post-graduate or master's level should result in:

- Improving the quality of training or promote multilingual interpreter training depending on the needs of the EU Institutions.
- Establishing and supporting academic courses in conference interpretation at post-graduate and master's level, in line with the requirements and needs of the EU Institutions.
- Fostering cooperation among post-graduate and master's courses from different Member States, candidate countries and EFTA countries to improve curricula and training standards.
- Developing innovative projects in interpreter training and research to advance interpreting pedagogy, and promoting the development of training resources, and actions.

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Court of Justice of the European Union each have an interpretation service, but the selection of freelance interpreters is carried out jointly via an inter-institutional accreditation test. For this reason, support actions to the training of future interpreters are carried out in consultation with the other EU Institutions, with the objective of optimising the use of available resources and avoiding double-funding.

2. BURSARIES FOR CONFERENCE INTERPRETING STUDENTS

The bursaries scheme aims to partially or fully cover the administrative and/or tuition fees paid by students enrolled in a post-graduate and master's level course in conference interpreting. The expected results are:

- To support the most promising interpreting students to acquire the necessary skills to be recruited by the Union institutions as officials or accredited conference interpreter agents (freelancers) to ensure succession planning in line with the needs and priorities of the service.

Results will be measured in terms of the rate/number of beneficiaries who successfully completed the training course and took part in the accreditation tests or recruitment competitions, and their success rates in these tests and competitions.

3. TRAINING ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

The expected results of these actions are:

- To expand the pool of interpreter trainers, to assist and advise universities and trainers on teaching interpretation techniques, designing and running a course, on candidate profiles, curricula, aptitude tests and examinations, improving interpreter training and advancing interpreting pedagogy.

2. Grants

The global budgetary envelope reserved for grants under this work programme is **EUR 480 000** and shall cover the actions described below in points 2.1. and 2.2.

2.1. Grants to universities and other bodies

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

- Universities, university institutes, consortia and associations of universities or institutes, legally established in a Member State or in a candidate country, and which offer or coordinate post-graduate courses specialising in conference interpreting.
- Associations, consortia and bodies, legally established in a Member State or in a candidate country or in an EFTA country, whose main mission is to develop and/or support cooperation and disseminate best practices in the field of conference interpreter training.
- Where necessary, consortia may include private sector actors who have the specific expertise needed to implement the proposed actions.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

- Promoting quality and multilingualism in conference interpreter training in the official languages of the EU and of the candidate countries at post-graduate and master's level.
- Establishing and supporting courses in conference interpretation at post-graduate and master's level to fulfill the objectives described above.
- Fostering cooperation among post-graduate and master's level courses from different Member States, candidate countries and EFTA countries.
- Developing innovative projects in conference interpreter training and research to advance interpreting pedagogy.

Implementation

An annual call for proposals is published on the 'Funding and Tenders' Portal of the European Commission and on the web pages of DG Interpretation. The indicative schedule for the call for proposals is as follows:

- March: launch of the call for proposals.
- May: closing date for the submission of applications.
- July: award decision.
- August-October: conclusion of grant agreements.

2.2. Bursaries for conference interpreting students

Type of applicants targeted by the call for proposals

In order to be eligible, applicants must be nationals of a Member State or candidate country and be enrolled in a specialised post-graduate and master's level course in Conference

Interpreting, organised by universities or university institutes. Only students registered at courses which are subject to tuition and/or administrative fees will be eligible to apply.

Description of the activities to be funded under the call for proposals

The administrative and/or tuition fees paid by students of specialised post-graduate and master's level courses in conference interpreting can be funded. In this way, young people or people in professional mobility can be supported to acquire the specific skills and competences to become conference interpreters in line with the needs of the EU Institutions.

Implementation

An annual call for proposals is published on the Europa website on the 'Funding and Tenders' portal of the European Commission and on the web pages of DG Interpretation.

The planned schedule for the call for proposals is as follows:

- May-June: publication of the call for applications.
- Mid-September: deadline for submitting application files including the proof of admission to a course.
- November: award decision.
- November-December: bursary offers are sent to shortlisted applicants for confirmation of acceptance.

3. *Other actions or expenditure*

3.1. **Training actions in the interpreting field aimed at professional interpreters and/or university trainers and course directors.**

The global budgetary envelope reserved for other actions and expenditure is **EUR 37 000**.

Description

Creation and delivery of ad hoc training support actions, such as Training of Trainers seminars, in line with the linguistic priorities and needs of the EU institutions. These actions aim at supporting the level of training of EU and candidate country languages. Beneficiaries may be professional interpreters, university trainers and course leaders.

For university trainers, the main purpose of these actions is to advise on teaching of interpretation techniques, suitable curricula, candidate profiles, and examinations.

In line with the Commission's greening and digitalisation priorities, some of these actions may be organised in an online or hybrid setting.

Implementation

Ad hoc actions, such as Training of Trainers seminars, may be organised over the whole year 2026. The actions will be typically implemented via framework contracts and low value procurement procedures where applicable.

Other details

The participants of these training actions may receive reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses, and a daily allowance based on the conditions similar to the reimbursement of external experts (see decision COM(2007)5858).