



Brussels, 21.2.2025
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COMMISSION DECISION

of 21.2.2025

**on the financing of actions related to training in conference interpreting and the
adoption of the work programme for 2025**

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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 ('the Financial Regulation'), 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 2025 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 measures 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 the Financial Regulation.
- (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 the Financial Regulation.

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 2025, as set out in the Annex, is hereby adopted.

Article 2

Union contribution

The maximum Union contribution for the implementation of the programme for 2025 is set at EUR 500 000 and shall be financed from the appropriations entered in the following line of 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 2025.20.031102 (Professional support)

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

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 the Financial Regulation, 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, 21.2.2025

For the Commission
Piotr SERAFIN
Member of the Commission

ANNEX

Work programme for 2025 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 of 23 September 2024, this work programme contains the actions to be financed and the budget breakdown for 2025 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 of 23 September 2024.

Budget line

2025 – 20.03.11.02 Professional support_Grants and Bursaries

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.
- 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 increasing linguistic diversification depending on the needs of the EU Institutions.
- Establishing and supporting interpretation courses at post-graduate and master's level providing training at post-graduate level, in line with the requirements of the EU Institutions, to train language profiles that otherwise would not be trained, as well as to cater for current and future language needs.
- Fostering cooperation among post-graduate and master's level courses from different Member States, candidate countries and EFTA countries to improve training standards.
- Developing innovative projects in interpreter training and pedagogical research to advance interpreter pedagogy, and promoting the development of training resources and future-proof training pedagogy.

Since trained interpreters have to pass an inter-institutional accreditation test organised by the European Commission and the European Parliament (as well as the Court of Justice of the EU), the institutions run similar programmes and consult each other to optimise the use of available resources and to avoid double-funding.

2. BURSARIES FOR CONFERENCE INTERPRETING STUDENTS

The bursaries scheme aim to cover partially or fully the administrative and/or tuition fees paid by students enrolled in a post-graduate and master's level courses 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, on 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 470 000** and shall cover the actions described below in point 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 linguistic diversity in interpreter training in the official languages of the EU and of the candidate countries at post-graduate and master's level.
- Establishing and supporting interpretation courses 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 interpreter training and pedagogical 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 high-level conference interpreters.

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 30 000**.

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 purposes of these actions are to learn to assist and advise on: teaching of interpretation techniques, designing and running a course, deciding on the candidate profiles and the aptitude testing and final 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 2025. The actions will be typically implemented via framework contracts and low value procurement procedures where applicable.

Other details

The schemes for university trainers are provided to external university trainers by DG Interpretation staff and trainers. Participants 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).

BUDGETARY IMPACT STATEMENT

To be used where

The work programme constitutes a financing decision or for revision purposes

or

In exceptional cases where the Commission needs to adopt an ad-hoc financing decision

POLICY AREA(S): ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITY (-IES): CONFERENCE INTERPRETING

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME: 2025

1. BUDGET LINE(S) CONCERNED + HEADING(S)

BGUE-B2025-20.031102 Professional Support

2. LEGAL BASIS

Article 58(2)(e) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 (the Financial Regulation).

3. OVERALL FIGURES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR (IN EUROS)

From the total amount of EUR 500 000 foreseen for these actions, 70% will be financed through the revenue coming from institutions and agencies to which DG Interpretation provides interpreting services*.

3.a. Current year

	Budget line		Commitments	Payments
1	Initial appropriations for the financial year (voted budget)		150 000	150 000
	<i>Of which</i>			
1a	Initial appropriations for the financial year			
5	Transfers			
7	Additional appropriations	*Revenue	350 000	350 000
	Total appropriations		500 000	500 000
	Balance available		500 000	500 000
	Total for the measure proposed		500 000	500 000

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

4.1. Objectives:

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 official languages and for candidate country languages.

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.
- b. Preparing for future enlargements by reinforcing the necessary training programmes and linguistic diversification.
- c. Ensuring the succession of an ageing population of interpreters.

4.2. Foreseen actions (the modalities are those specified in the Financial Regulation):

- a. *Grants to universities or university consortia in conference interpreter training at post-graduate or master's level* to improve, promote, advance and cooperate within the high quality interpreter training courses and increase its linguistic diversification, in line with the priorities and needs of the EU institutions (see also Annex to the Commission Decision on the financing of actions related to training in conference interpreting and the adoption of the work programme for 2025).
- b. *Bursaries for students*: to enable the most promising students to enrol on a training programme in conference interpreting and to acquire the necessary skills to successfully complete the training, and take part in the accreditation tests or recruitment competitions (see also Annex to the Commission Decision on the financing of actions related to training in conference interpreting and the adoption of the work programme for 2025).
- c. *Other training actions* aimed at improving interpreter training techniques and courses to expand the pool of interpreters (see also Annex to the Commission Decision on the financing of actions related to training in conference interpreting and the adoption of the work programme for 2025).

5. METHOD OF CALCULATION ADOPTED

The final expenses will depend on the number of eligible applications received for the first two actions, as well as on the number and type of other specific actions organised.

Therefore, the figures indicated below and the way they have been distributed are an estimation:

- Grants – Estimated amount: EUR 390 000
- Bursaries – Estimated amount: EUR 80 000
- Other specific actions – Estimated maximum amount: EUR 30 000

6. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS (IN EURO)

- Grants: the payments are usually divided into a prefinancing of 50% and a balance payment.
- Bursaries: the bursaries will amount to the equivalent of the enrolment fee (tuition and/or administrative fee) for the academic year 2025-2026. It will consist of one single payment.
- Other specific actions: the schedule of payment depends on the specificities of each action.

Line(s)	Commitments		Payments				
			Year n	Year n+1	Year n+2	Year n+3	Subsequent years
BGUE-B2025-20 03 11 02			Year n	Year n+1	Year n+2	Year n+3	Subsequent years
Grants	Year n	390 000	195 000	195 000			
Bursaries	Year n	80 000	80 000				
Other actions	Year n	30 000	30 000				