

Brussels, 10 May 2007

Commission launches translation contest for schools

Today the Commission launched a contest designed to give 17-year-olds in schools throughout Europe a chance to experience at first hand what it is like to be a translator. As many as 2 760 pupils, from up to 345 schools, will be given this opportunity in a contest called "Juvenes Translatores" (young translators), organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation (DGT). The contest is one of the events to mark the 50th anniversary of the European Union this year. Students nominated by their schools will be challenged to translate a short text and the event will take place on the same day - 14 November 2007 - in all 27 Member States of the EU.

"This is an excellent opportunity for young people to discover for themselves what it really feels like to be a translator and to try out their language skills," said the European Commissioner for Multilingualism, Leonard Orban. "It is also a perfect way to stress that multilingualism has been a fundamental principle of the European Union from the very beginning - 50 years ago."

The pupils themselves can decide from which language and into which language they want to translate, choosing from among the European Union's 23 official languages. Their translations will be evaluated by professional translators from DGT. The authors of the 27 best translations - one from each Member State - will win a two-day trip to Brussels for themselves and an accompanying adult. Their programme includes a closing ceremony at which the winners will represent their school and the Commissioner responsible for multilingualism will award them a certificate of linguistic excellence.

A specific **website** - *Juvenes Translatores* - is now online for **registration** and provides detailed **information** on this contest: <http://ec.europa.eu/translatores>. **Schools have until 15 June 2007 to register.** Any school that wishes to take part has to fill in an electronic registration form on the website. When registering, the school must nominate **up to eight pupils** to represent it. On the registration form, the school must also specify which **language pair** each pupil has chosen (i.e. the language from which and the language into which they will translate).

A number of schools will be **drawn at random** from among those that have registered. The **number of schools selected** from each Member State will be equal to the number of votes the Member State has in the Council of the European Union, as follows:

France, Germany, Italy, United Kingdom	29
Poland, Spain	27
Romania	14
Netherlands	13
Belgium, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Portugal	12
Austria, Bulgaria, Sweden	10
Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Lithuania, Slovakia	7
Cyprus, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Slovenia	4
Malta	3

The selected schools will then be invited to participate.

On **14 November 2007**, the supervised **translation test** will be carried out simultaneously in all selected schools. Each translation will be evaluated by a panel consisting of professional translators from DGT. Following the evaluation, the jury - chaired by the Director-General of DGT - will choose the best translation from each Member State. The **winners** will be invited to a **ceremony in Brussels**, where Mr Leonard Orban, the Commissioner responsible for multilingualism, will award the prizes.

For more information:

Translation contest: <http://ec.europa.eu/translatores>

DG Translation: <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/translation/>

Languages in the EU: <http://europa.eu/languages/>

EU 50 years Anniversary: http://europa.eu/50/index_en.htm