RIGA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF LAW

Course Outline

Course number	RLE117
Course title	Translation of Legal Texts into Latvian Language
Credit points	2,5 (LV) 3,75 (ECTS)
Total hours	30
Course level	Masters

COURSE TEACHERS

No.	***Name***	***Academic degree***	***Academic position***
1	Māris Baltiņs	Dr.habil.med.	Professor
2	Inese Treimane	MA	
3	Gundega Vētra	MA	

COURSE ABSTRACT

Translation and editing (i.e., revision) of legal documents is a very complex and peculiar field of activity, which requires waste range of knowledge in different areas. The course covers various aspects to be taken into account in legal translation & revision work, such as grammar conventions of Latvian language, peculiarities of legal language, structure of legal documents, interaction of legal and linguistic aspects of the text; revision strategies depending on the type and subject of the document and the deadline, as well as most typical translation mistakes and how to deal with them, etc. Also, this study course provides practical knowledge for critical and rational use of existing Latvian and international sources of terms (incl. specific dictionaries, data-bases, multilingual documents etc.).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the course is to give insight into complexity and interdisciplinary character of legal translation & revision work and to develop and/or improve student's skills to translate and revise legal documents. The course will provide some practical tools to be used in the course of dealing with terminological problems, including critical understanding of existing terminological resources. Students will acquire editor’s view on written or translated text and feeling of stability as to the Latvian language. Actual transgressions of Latvian language principles today and possibilities of avoiding them will be also reviewed. Student will perform practical assignments on analysis of Latvian translations of EU texts, legal documents and texts, typical mistakes and how to get rid of them in order to make each text correctly and clearly understandable.

GRADING CRITERIA

Criteria	Weighting
Exam	100%

COURSE PLAN – MAIN SUBJECTS

No.	*Subject*	*Planned hours*
1	The origin of Latvian legal language	1
2	Legal translation quality requirements	3
3	Most common translation mistakes	3
4	Revision as part of the translation process: different revision strategies	2
5	Sources of terminology and their critical appraisal	1
6	Historical development of terminology of Latvian language and typical problems of choice and elaboration of terms	1
7	Terminology of Latvian language in the frame of international terminological systems	1
8	Typical problems of choice and elaboration of terms	1
9	False friends of translator and false terms	2
10	Influence of contact language on the choice of terms	2
11	Terminological resources (dictionaries, data-bases, bulletin) and major problems in their use	1
12	Latvian language grammar	3
13	Stylistics of words, phrases, text, word order	3
14	Selection of words, phrases, morphological forms	3
15	Understanding of construction of phrase and text, correct use of punctuation	3

COURSE LITERATURE

No.	*Author, title, publisher*
1	Latviešu valodas pareizrakstības vārdnīca. – any edition.
2	Svešvārdu vārdnīca. – any edition.
3	A. Blinkena. Latviešu interpunkcija. – Zvaigzne ABC
4	V. Skujiņa, V. Krūmiņa. Normatīvo aktu izstrādes rokasgrāmata. –Rīga, 2002.
5	G. Vētra. Latviešu valoda 33 tabulās. – Zvaigzne ABC (or original).
6	Sarsevic Suzan. New Approach to Legal Translation.– Kluwer Law International, 2000
7	Tulkošanas un terminoloģijas centrs. Tiesību aktu tulkošanas rokasgrāmata. Rīga: 2006
8	Skujiņa, V., Latviešu terminoloģijas izstrādes principi, Rīga: LVI, 2002. 224 lpp.
9	Drezens, E., Zinātniskās un tehniskās terminoloģijas internacionalizācija. Rīga: LU Latviešu valodas institūts, 2002. 71 lpp.