



THE POLISH SOCIETY OF SWORN  
AND SPECIALIZED TRANSLATORS "TEPIS"

# The Role of the TEPIS Society in Continuing Professional Development of Sworn and Specialized Translators

*Zofia Rybińska*

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# THE TEPIS SOCIETY

## – its history and objectives

**Founded in May 1990** as the Polish Society of Legal Economic and Court Translators

Its aims are:

- To **represent the interests** of legal translators and court interpreters and to **enhance their status** by its actions as a public benefit organization, entitled to cooperate with the government to perform public tasks;
- To **develop, compile, edit and publish specialised material** with the purpose of enriching legal translator's and court interpreters' professional knowledge and to propagate among them other information of interest;
- To **offer opportunities for continuing professional development of legal translators' and court interpreters' qualifications** by holding training courses, meetings, seminars, etc.

# THE TEPIS SOCIETY

- ❑ the association with the greatest number of members affiliating the greatest number of sworn translators (app. 10% ) and specialized translators and interpreters

**Seven TEPIS Chapters** in other Polish cities (Szczecin, Wrocław, Kraków, Żary, Sosnowiec, Białystok, Żary Lublin)

Language Sections: English, French, German, Italian, Russian, South Slavic, Spanish

**TEPIS members** sit on:

- **State Examining Board**
  - **Professional Accountability Commission**
- appointed by the Minister of Justice

# THE TEPIS SOCIETY

## - members

### TEPIS members

- ❑ **meet specific membership criteria**
  - holders of **second cycle degree (*magister*)**
  - **registered sworn translators**
  - **or translators/interpreters with at least three years of experience in translation and interpreting**
- ❑ **abide by the Sworn Translator's Code (Code of Ethics and Best Practice)**

# TEPIS Internationally



Member of the International Federation of Translators since 1993

- Committee for Legal Translation and Court Interpreting
    - \* initiative to organize International Forum of Legal Translation and Court Interpreting every 2 years > First Forum in Warsaw in 1992
  - International Database of Complaints and Disciplinary Decisions Task Force
  - Research Task Force ;
  - Educational and Professional Development Task Force
- active participation in FIT World Congresses

# TEPIS Internationally

## Participation in the EU projects:

- ❑ Grotius (1998-2003) i AGIS (2004-2010)
- ❑ Reflection Forum on Multilingualism and Interpreter Training (2008)
- ❑ AVIDICUS I i II (2008-2011) - remote and videomediated interpreting
- ❑ EULITA (2008 -2009)
- ❑ TRAFUT- Training for the Future (2010-2013)
- ❑ QUALETRA - Quality of Legal Translation - (2013)
- ❑ LIT Search (2014-2015)

# TEPIS Internationally



- **Member of the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (since 2010)**
  - **TEPIS representative sits on the Executive Committee**
  - **EULITA Pre-Assembly Conference in Kraków 2014**

# TEPIS Internationally

## Cooperation agreements with:

- ❑ Union of Translators of Russia ( UTR - 1996)
- ❑ Colegio de Traductores Públicos de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires (CTPCBA - 2009)
- ❑ Associazione Italiana Traduttori e Interpreti Giuduzuari (ASSITIG - 2012)
- ❑ Austrian Association of Certified Court Interpreters (ÖVGD - 2014)

**to promote international cooperation, research, education and training**

# Publications under TEPIS auspices

## Books and periodicals published under TEPIS auspices:

- ❑ Collections of parallel texts in English, German, French, Russian Italian Spanish, and Polish
- ❑ Proceedings from biannual International Forums of Court Interpreting and Legal Translation held in Poland
- ❑ A series of books in translation/interpreting studies
- ❑ *Lingua Legis* - journal on legal translation, till 2015;  
presently - a journal of the Institute of Applied Linguistics,  
University of Warsaw
- ❑ The Code of the Sworn Translator (2005, 2011)  
- a compendium of information necessary for sworn and legal translators  
and interpreters

# Forms of TEPIS activities

The **Professional Development Board of the TEPIS Society** has organized so far:

- ❑ International Forum of Legal Translation and Court Interpreting (1992,1994, 1996, 2000, 2006)
- ❑ International Conference in collaboration with the Austrian Association of Certified Court Interpreters - EULITA Pre Assembly Conference (2014)

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# Forms of TEPIS activities

- Workshops on Legal and Specialist Translation and Interpreting ( 1991 - ongoing)
  - two-day event in Warsaw
  - held annually
  - plenary session, round table discussion
  - more than 1400 papers
  - speakers invited to publish articles in *Lingua Legis*
  - workshops in several language sections, (Asian Languages since 2014)

# Forms of TEPIS activities

## ■ Repetitorium

- knowledge refreshing workshop (2006 - ongoing)
- one-day meeting
- held quarterly
- held in Warsaw and other cities (TEPIS Chapters)
- plenary gathering for all language groups
  - Polish language issues
  - theoretical background of the topic assigned
- practical session in language sections

# Forms of TEPIS activities

- Laboratory
  - Sworn Translator's Laboratory – basic course ( 2008-2010)
- Laboratory for the Teachers of Legal Status and Professional Ethics of the Sworn Translator ( 2009)
- Laboratory for Candidates for the Sworn Translator and for Specialized Translators and Interpreters

# Forms of TEPIS activities

## Latest forms of CPD ( 2014 - ongoing)

- Laboratory PRINCIPIUM - ethical and practical aspects of the profession of sworn translator
- Laboratory VERBUM - consecutive / whispering interpreting,
- Laboratory EXPERTUS - Specialist Translation Laboratory

# Practitioners and Academia

- **Interdisciplinary Postgraduate Studies for Translation and Interpreting**, Institute of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw (1998 - ongoing)
  - **an initiative of experienced TEPIS members;**
  - **recommended by TEPIS members model curricula for the training of ST in order to assist in the raising of quality of LITs**
  - **TEPIS members invited to teach legal translation and court interpreting**

# Practitioners and Academia

- Cooperation agreements with leading Polish Universities:  
the University of Warsaw, the Jagiellonian University ( Kraków), the Adam Mickiewicz University (Poznan), the University of Gdansk, Nicolaus Copernicus University (Torun), the University of Warmia and Mazury (iOlsztyn), the Maria Curie Skłodowska University ( Lublin), the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin
- **Lectures of TEPIS members** at leading Polish HEI
- **Expertise** in devising study programmes
- **TEPIS invites academics** to assist in conducting TEPIS CPD courses

**Thank you**

**The Polish Society of Sworn  
and Specialized Translators**

**TEPIS**

**[www.tepis.org.pl](http://www.tepis.org.pl)**

