



# UNITY IN DIVERSITY

languages for mobility,  
jobs and active citizenship

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Education and  
Training



# Workshop C

## THE FUTURE OF THE LANGUAGE PROFESSIONS

### Main issues and conclusions (1)

- ✓ Globalisation and increasing mobility within the EU (free movement of goods, services and people) entail an ever-increasing demand for multilingual communication. The language industry is therefore likely to keep growing.
- ✓ There is a need to quantify more precisely the employment, output and growth of the language industry, as a follow-up of the 2009 study on the Size of the Language Industry.



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## THE FUTURE OF THE LANGUAGE PROFESSIONS

### Main issues and conclusions (2)

✓ Such a study could look into the question whether the growth of the language industry might be coming mainly from the new language professions (e.g.: pre- and post-editing for machine translation) and "auxiliary" language components of other services sectors (e.g. legal consultancies, marketing, intermediation services, software development and localisation).



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## THE FUTURE OF THE LANGUAGE PROFESSIONS

### Main issues and conclusions (3)

✓ The expanding technological boundaries of communications have induced new phenomena, such as voice recognition and on-the-spot machine translation, crowdsourcing and amateur translations. These developments are not only creating challenges for the professional translation services, but also providing with opportunities regarding the demand for high quality translations and awareness rising about the translation profession itself.



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## THE FUTURE OF THE LANGUAGE PROFESSIONS

### Main issues and conclusions (4)

- ✓ The profession is changing, and translators must keep up-to-date with the latest technological developments: the employment share of "traditional" language professions in the language industry is likely to decrease, not least because of the advancements in the ICT. It would be good if this were taken into account in educational policies and in relevant training programmes.
- ✓ Surveys suggest about the inadequacy of the occupational status of translators. There is a work to be done to improve the external recognition of translator profession, and other occupations in the language industry, so that the best talent could be attracted and retained by the profession.

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### Main issues and conclusions (5)

- ✓ To create better market opportunities for future translators, the university curricula should embrace new elements, including marketing, pricing and project management. Further synergies with business communities should lead to a revamping of the graduate internship programmes.
- ✓ Europe should turn its linguistic diversity into a true economic asset, using language professionals to localise products and marketing, etc., because Europe is the continent par excellence to provide high-quality language services. Here multilingualism can help keeping jobs in Europe.

