

Wolfram Baur, Brigitte Eichner, Sylvia Kalina,  
Norma Keller, Felix Mayer, Jeannette Orsted  
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## **Man vs. Machine?**

# **Homme ou machine : le dilemme de la traduction Im Spannungsfeld zwischen Mensch und Maschine**

**The Future of Translators, Interpreters  
and Terminologists**

**L'avenir des traducteurs, interpretes  
et terminologues**

**Die Zukunft von Übersetzern, Dolmetschern  
und Terminologen**

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## **Crafting Responses to the New Challenges: Community Interpreting in Russia**

*Natalia Sigareva (Ass. Professor)*

*The Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia*

*Sig\_nat\_2004@mail.ru*

### **1 Introduction**

Translation and interpreting for public services do not seem to attract much attention in Russian society. Russia as an immigrationown country is not yet fully aware of the needs caused by flows of people arriving from former Soviet Republics, thus speaking other languages and presenting different cultures. Though translation and interpreting for migrants have always existed, there are no institutions in Saint-Petersburg and Russia at large, that offer PSI as part of their curriculum. The job of a PS interpreter was regarded as a low-status one and was done by unqualified people. Russia, as opposed to some other countries, does not have a court interpreter certification. Under current law a court interpreter may be any person aged 18, who can confirm the language competence in a foreign language. PSI training is crucially important but is still a goal to be achieved.

### **2 Analysis of the market**

The paper presents the results of the research project undertaken by a team of trainers and students of the Translation and Interpreting Department at the Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia. We reviewed the existing practice in relation to the provision of interpreting, translating and communication support within the public services in St. Petersburg.

The project is the first attempt to gather actual evidence to support hitherto local impressions and to make account of the full range of possible Interpreting needs in public sector across all languages in St. Petersburg, being highly representative for Russia at large.

In large cities the need in public service translation and interpreting has always existed. St. Petersburg is not an exception where the related services are regarded as a **low**-status job and have been performed by unqualified people mostly on a voluntary basis. It is common for family or friends to offer language assistance in <sup>differet</sup> settings when someone faces the need in government service provision in their own