

## **Profile (March 2014)**

The Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ)), with over 7,500 members, is Germany's largest professional association for translators and interpreters. BDÜ represents about 80 percent of all interpreters and translators who are members of a professional association in Germany. The association has represented their interests since 1955 - in Germany and internationally. Headquartered in Berlin, BDÜ serves as an umbrella organization for 13 chapters operating at the state level or geared towards a professional group, such as the Association of Conference Interpreters within BDÜ (VKD).

The professional designations “translator” and “interpreter” are not legally protected. These are two different professions that are often confused: Translators work with texts, i.e. in writing. Interpreters, however, work orally - they transfer the spoken word from one language to another. Both the daily work and the training for the two professions differ.

To join BDÜ, candidates must meet strict criteria, including proof of expertise and pertinent professional qualifications gained through either higher education or successful completion of an officially accredited examination. Candidates with other professional backgrounds must have an academic degree and at least seven years of professional experience. Clients can confidently regard membership in BDÜ as a reliable seal of quality. BDÜ's member database on its website offers a free search for qualified interpreters and translators working in over 80 languages ([www.bdue.de](http://www.bdue.de)).

Each year, BDÜ offers more than 200 seminars for interpreters and translators to help them enhance their professional qualifications. It also supports the next generation of professional linguists by offering student memberships at reduced rates as well as consultancy for business startups. BDÜ publishes “MDÜ”, the most widely circulated professional journal for interpreters and translators in German-speaking countries. BDÜ Weiterbildungs- und Fachverlagsgesellschaft mbH, a company established by the BDÜ, publishes books on specialized topics in the field and organizes seminars and professional conferences for interpreters and translators.

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