

Profile – a brief description of the BDÜ

The **Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer e.V. (BDÜ)** (Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators) with its more than 7,500 members, is the largest German association of our profession, representing a good 80 percent of all the interpreters and translators in Germany who belong to a professional association; it has been representing their interests since 1955 – in Germany and abroad. The Federal Association has its headquarters in Berlin, and acts as an umbrella organization for its 12 member associations working at the State level, or for particular groups in the profession, such as the Verband der Konferenzdolmetscher (VKD) im BDÜ e.V. for conference interpreters.

There are no legal restrictions on the use of the vocational titles „translator“ or „interpreter“ in Germany. These are two different professions that are often confused with one another: **translators** work on written texts, while **interpreters** work orally – transferring the spoken word from one language to another. Both their everyday activities and their training differ from one another.

There are strict selection criteria for membership in our association. Only people who have demonstrated their **professional qualification** for this work can become members: either by **relevant professional education** (translation-related higher education), by passing a **government-run examination**, or, depending on previous education (language-related or other university degree), by five or seven years of **experience in the profession**. So membership in the BDÜ is considered a mark of quality. People can search free of charge for qualified interpreters and translators for more than 80 languages in the Association's **member database** in the Web (<http://search.bdue.de/>).

The BDÜ promotes the **continuing professional education** of its members with numerous seminars for interpreters and translators. It supports the **upcoming generation of the profession** by reduced membership fees for students, and various offerings for people starting out as free-lances.

And the BDÜ is also the publisher of the „**MDÜ**“, the **professional journal with the largest press run** for interpreters and translators in the German-speaking region. **BDÜ Weiterbildungs- und Fachverlagsgesellschaft mbH** is a commercial subsidiary of the BDÜ e.V. It publishes works specifically for the field, and organizes seminars, webinars, and conferences specifically for interpreters and translators.

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