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4.11.2 Organisations responsible for interpreters

A number of countries launched new procurement procedures following the end of contracts for interpretation. For example, the State Agency for Refugees in Bulgaria issued a call for tender for the provision of interpretation services,[895] and a new agreement was signed with an external interpretation company in Slovakia.

As of 1 January 2021, the newly-established BBU is also responsible for interpretation services during the asylum procedure in Austria.[896]

Due to an increase in translation and interpretation costs in Luxembourg, the budget was increased by 67% for “Expert, study and translation costs”.

In the Netherlands, a new programme called “Interpreting in the Future” is currently under discussion. It aims to establish a roster of interpreters to widen the pool available for the Ministry of Justice and Security. There would be periodic quality assessments to ensure quality.[897] In the meanwhile, the Immigration and Naturalisation Service issued new working instructions for officials who work with interpreters.[898]

The SEM in Switzerland faced difficulties in obtaining a sufficient number of interpreters in all its regional structures within the tight deadlines of the new asylum law.[899]

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