



# Translation at Cochrane & the role of volunteers

**Juliane Ried**  
Translations Co-ordinator, Cochrane

**Knowledge Translation webinar: Motivating,  
Managing and Training Volunteers**

**29 August 2019**

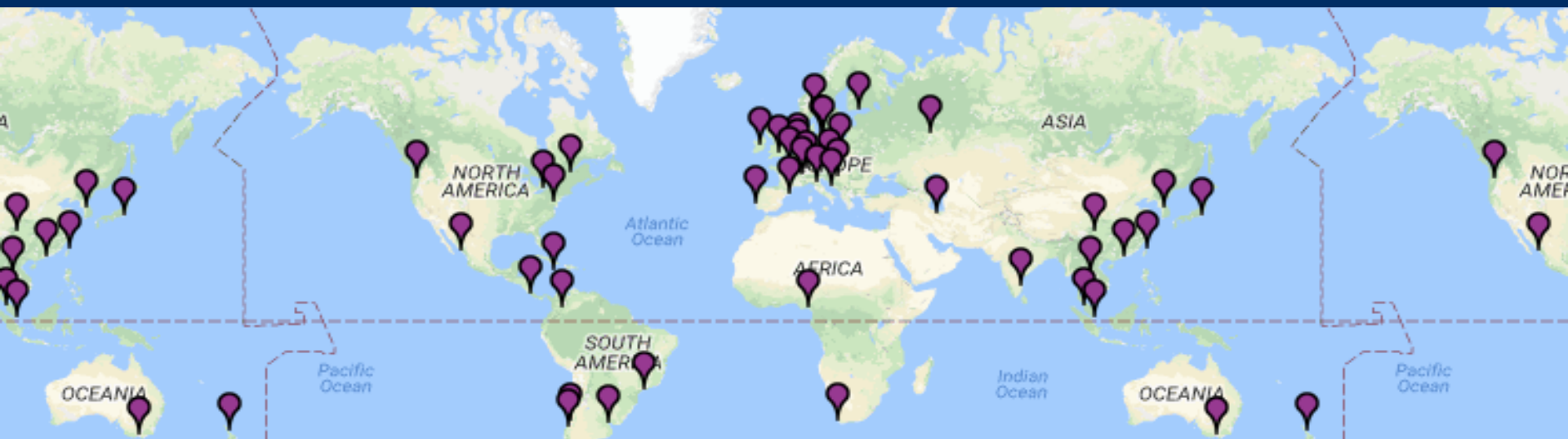
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Better health.**



# Why translate Cochrane evidence?

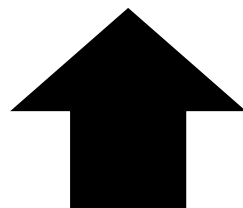
- The vast majority of people do not speak English as first language, or at all, and even second language speakers prefer to read in their own language.
- If Cochrane Reviews & derived products are only available in English, it limits their potential to inform global health decision-making.

**Our vision is a world of improved health where decisions about health and health care are informed by high-quality and up-to-date synthesised research evidence.**



## Our translation strategy

**Sustainable approaches to translation led  
by local Cochrane offices**  
(e.g. volunteer translators, machine translation)



**Central support & infrastructure to  
facilitate high quality translation and  
accessible publication**

## How and what do we translate?

- 16 local Cochrane groups manage translations in their language, including 1,000+ volunteer translators
- Teams translate Plain Language Summaries of our Reviews, sometimes Abstracts, and other materials
- Work is managed and done on Memsorce, a translation management software
- Translations are published on [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org) and the Cochrane Library
- More than 28,000 PLS / Abstract translations published
- 80% of [cochrane.org](http://cochrane.org) users access translations



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日本語



## 砂糖入り飲料の摂取量を減らす:効果的な方法

公表日:

12月 2019

著者:

von Philipsborn P, Stratil JM,  
Burns J, Busert LK, Pfadenhauer  
LM, Polus S, Holzapfel C, Hauner  
H, Rehfues E

主なレビュー・グループ:

Public Health Group

砂糖入り飲料はどのような飲み物か

砂糖入り飲料とは、冷たいか温かいかに関係なく砂糖を添加した飲み物のことである。典型的な砂糖入り飲料には、ダイエット飲料ではない清涼飲料、普通のソーダ水、スポーツドリンク、栄養ドリンク（エナジードリンク）、果汁飲料、砂糖入り飲料水、砂糖入り紅茶・コーヒー飲料などがある。

砂糖入り飲料が健康に関する重要なテーマである理由

砂糖入り飲料を大量に飲む人にはしばしば体重増加がみられることを研究が示している。砂糖入り飲料を大量に摂取すると、糖尿病、心疾患、虫歯になる危険も高くなる。このため、医師らは子どもから十代の青年さらに大人も含め、砂糖入り飲料の摂取を控えることを推奨している。健康的な飲み物選びを支援するために、政府、企業、学校、各種職場がさまざまな対策を講じてきた。

本レビューの目的

人々の砂糖入り飲料の摂取量を低下させて健康改善を促すにあたって、こ



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どう役立つか？

レビュー全文の閲覧は  
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プリント



引用





# Intervenciones ambientales para reducir el consumo de bebidas azucaradas y sus efectos en la salud

Revisión sistemática Cochrane - Intervención | Versión publicada: 12 junio 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD012292.pub2>


298

[Ver información sobre el artículo](#)

 Peter von Philipsborn | Jan M Stratil | Jacob Burns | Laura K Busert | Lisa M Pfadenhauer | Stephanie Polus  
 | Christina Holzapfel | Hans Hauner | Eva Rehfues

[Ver las declaraciones de intereses de los autores](#)

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## Resumen

 Disponible en English | Deutsch | **Español** | Français

## Antecedentes

El consumo frecuente de cantidades excesivas de bebidas azucaradas (SSB) es un factor de riesgo de obesidad, diabetes tipo 2, enfermedades cardiovasculares y caries dental. Se sugirieron las intervenciones ambientales, es decir, las intervenciones que afectan el ambiente físico o social en que se eligen las bebidas, como una manera de reducir el consumo de SSB.

## Objetivos

Evaluar los efectos de las intervenciones ambientales (excepto los impuestos) sobre el consumo de bebidas azucaradas y leche azucarada, las mediciones antropométricas relacionadas con la dieta y los resultados sanitarios, y sobre cualquier tipo de consecuencia o resultado adverso no previstos.

## Métodos de búsqueda

Se realizaron búsquedas en 11 bases de datos regionales, especializadas y generales desde el comienzo hasta el 24 de enero de

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**Resumen** ES

**Resumen en términos sencillos** ES

**Conclusiones de los autores** ES

**Resumen de los hallazgos**

Antecedentes ES

Objetivos ES

Métodos ES

Resultados

Discusión ES

Apéndices

Información

Autores

Historial

**Notas de traducción**

Referencias

Características de los estudios

Datos y análisis

## What are the main challenges of our translation teams?

- Lack of funding and resources for translation
- There are many Cochrane Reviews, and they are continuously updated as well
- Topics and content are very specialised
- Language used in Plain Language Summaries is often not really plain





# Volunteers at Cochrane

- Translation is one of many tasks volunteers do in Cochrane
- People sign-up via <http://join.cochrane.org>
- Rewards and expectations are defined as part of Cochrane's membership scheme



# Volunteer translators: induction and incentives

- Interested people complete a test translation and agree to translator terms
- There are no specific requirements and volunteers can mostly choose which Reviews they want to translate
- Each team has its own induction process and materials
- Incentives include:
  - The translator's name is acknowledged with the published translations
  - Certificates or references
  - Full, free access to Cochrane Interactive Learning
  - Volunteers become Cochrane members by completing a certain number of translations within 12 months



## Become a translator

---

All items marked with \* are required.

Thanks for your interest in becoming a Cochrane translator. Please select your language from the drop down list below and answer the following questions.

**Language \***

- Select - 

**Do you have any experience in translation or communications? \***

- Yes  
 No

**Do you have any experience in health or science? \***

- Yes  
 No

**Please translate the text below into the language you selected above:**

The review authors searched the medical literature to determine how effective and safe corticosteroids are for treating brain injury. They focused their search on randomised controlled trials in which one group of people received a medical treatment (corticosteroids) and was compared with a similar group who received a different treatment or no treatment other than standard care. The review authors found 20 of these studies with 12,303 participants. When the review was first done the results of the research were inconclusive. A new large study with about 80% of the total participants was completed by the time of the 2006 update of this review. This study, called CRASH, showed a significant increase in number of deaths in patients given steroids compared with patients who received no treatment. The significant increase in deaths with steroids suggests that steroids should no longer be routinely used in people with traumatic head injury.


**Translation \***

# Translator agreement

Version 1 ([version history](#))

All translators of Cochrane content (including, but not limited to, all types of Cochrane Reviews and protocols for Cochrane Reviews, Cochrane Podcasts, content on [Cochrane.org](#), blogshots of Cochrane Reviews and special collections of Cochrane Reviews) agree to the following:

1. **Language:** Cochrane content will be translated accurately.
2. **Originality:** Upon submitting each completed translation to Cochrane, the translator represents and warrants that the translation (or any part of it) is original.
3. **Readability:** With reference to the [Cochrane Style Manual](#) for Cochrane Reviews, the completed translation should be written in clear, simple language so that it can be understood by the broad and international readership of Cochrane. Simplicity and clarity are vital to readability. Complex or ambiguous expressions should be avoided or reformulated to promote readability.
4. **Translator status:** Cochrane translators are volunteers unless otherwise agreed. Volunteer translators are not employees of Cochrane. Therefore, Cochrane will make no payments to volunteer translators.
5. **Ownership and copyright:** Translators (volunteer or otherwise) irrevocably grant and assign to Cochrane all Rights in the completed translations free from any restrictions and limitations. The copyright for all completed translations produced under this agreement shall belong to Cochrane at all times. Cochrane shall exclusively own in perpetuity all now known or hereafter existing rights of every nature worldwide pertaining to such completed translations in, or as part of, any version of Cochrane's publications.
6. **Modifications:** The completed translations may be edited or modified after submission of the completed translations to Cochrane.
7. **Attribution:** Cochrane will use best efforts to attribute each translation to the translator(s).
8. **Updates:** These terms and conditions may be updated from time to time, and translators will be notified of any updates by email.

 **Content Language Selection**

Your language preference is set to Russian. Where translations are available, article sections will display in this language. Return to [English](#).

## Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews

# Вмешательства на уровне окружающей среды по сокращению потребления сахаросодержащих напитков и их воздействия на здоровье

Cochrane Systematic Review - Interventi

<https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD01>

Am score 298

View article information

Peter von Philipsborn | Jan M S

Christina Holzapfel | Hans Haun

View authors' declarations of interest

## Abstract

Available in [English](#) | [Deutsch](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#)

## Background

Frequent consumption of excess amounts of sugar-sweetened beverages (SSB) is a risk factor for obesity, type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and dental caries. Environmental interventions, i.e. interventions that alter the physical or social environment in which individuals make beverage choices, have been advocated as a means to reduce the consumption of SSB.

## Objectives

To assess the effects of environmental interventions (excluding taxation) on the consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and sugar-sweetened milk, diet-related anthropometric measures and health outcomes, and on any reported unintended consequences or adverse outcomes.





## Search methods

### Translation notes

Available in [Deutsch](#) | [Español](#) | [Français](#) | [日本語](#) | [Polski](#) | [Português](#) | [Русский](#)

Перевод: Зиганшина Лилия Евгеньевна. Редактирование: Юдина Екатерина Викторовна. Координация проекта по переводу на русский язык: Cochrane Russia - Кокрейн Россия на базе Казанского федерального университета. По вопросам, связанным с этим переводом, пожалуйста, обращайтесь к нам по адресу: [cochrane.russia.kpfu@gmail.com](mailto:cochrane.russia.kpfu@gmail.com); [cochranerussia@kpfu.ru](mailto:cochranerussia@kpfu.ru).

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[Conclusions](#)[Summary of findings](#)[Methods](#)[Results](#)[Discussion](#)[Appendices](#)[Information](#)[Authors](#)[History](#)[References](#)[Characteristics of studies](#)[Data and analyses](#)[Translation notes](#)

# University and professional collaborations

- Collaborations with local medical schools, foreign language or translation departments → translation becomes a task of University courses
  - Collaborations with medical journals or associations → they contribute translations and receive permission to publish these in their journals or distribute them through their channels
- Learning for the students
- Increased capacity for translation
- New audiences



## How do we control quality

- At least 2 workflow steps done by 2 people (usually translation & editing)
- Editing and sign-off is done by content experts, usually experienced Cochrane contributors
- A named person and team sign off on each translation
- Glossaries help with consistency of methodological and medical terms and phrases

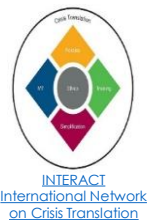


# Motivating, Managing, and Training Volunteers: A Case Study from Cochrane

Dr. Patrick Cadwell  
patrick.cadwell@dcu.ie

Dublin City University SALIS | CTTS

INTERACT  
The International Network on Crisis Translation





# Translation and Interpreting in Recent Crises



- Turkey (*Bulut and Kurultay 2001*)
- Haiti (*Lewis, Munro, and Vogel 2011*)
- New Zealand (*Wylie 2012*)
- Japan (*Cadwell and O'Brien 2016*)
- Kenya (*Moser-Mercer et al. 2014*)
- Italy (*Filmer and Federici 2018*)
- Greece (*Ghandour-Demiri 2017*)
- Bangladesh (*Hasan 2017*)



[@CrisisTrans](https://twitter.com/CrisisTrans)



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# INTERACT Research Network



# Research with Cochrane

acrolinx



Rossetti, Alessandra, Rodriguez Vazquez, Silvia, Ried, Juliane, and O'Brien, Sharon. 2017. *A Comparison of Different Approaches for Editing of Health-Related Information: An Author's Satisfaction Perspective at Cochrane Global Evidence Summit* (Cape Town, 13-16 September 2017)



@CrisisTrans

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 734211.



# Research with Cochrane

*Observations about crisis translation and interpreting:*

- Ad hoc
- Uncoordinated
- Voluntary
- Local groups, no formal training



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# Case Study

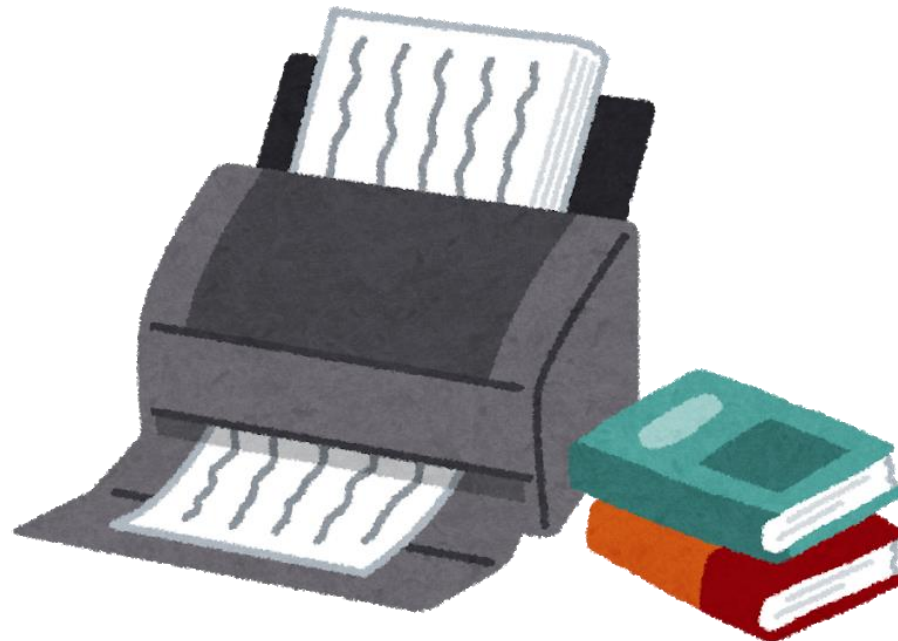


- Why use a model of translation largely based on volunteer contributions?
- Who volunteers to translate and what skills do they require?
- How are volunteer translators supported?



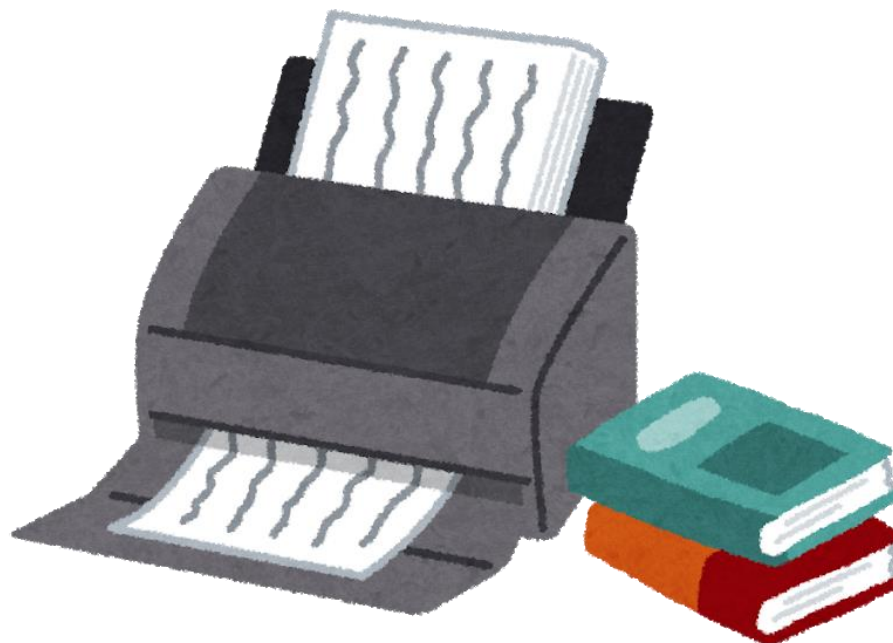
# First Lesson Learned

- Advocacy is an important motivating factor for volunteer translators



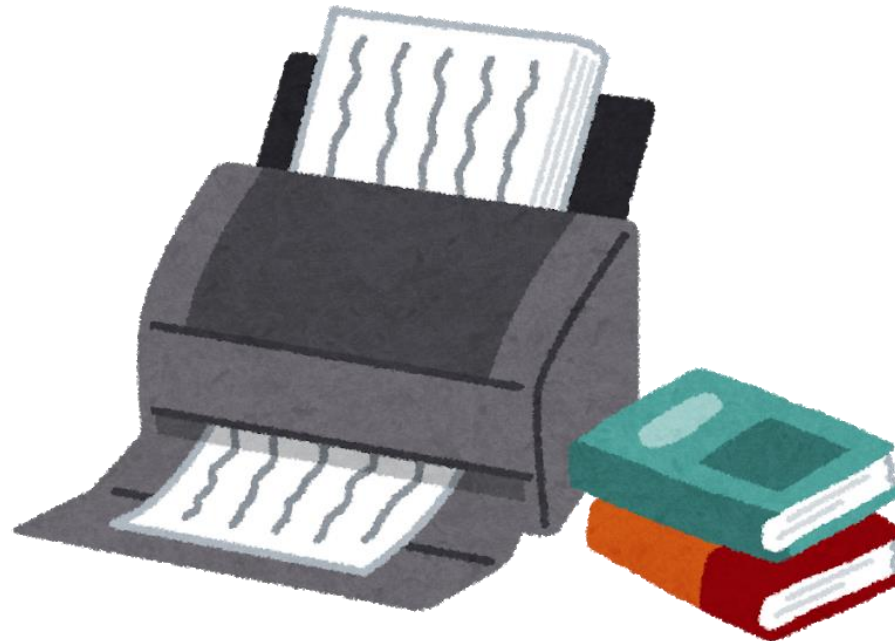
# Second Lesson Learned

- Feedback is important for training and motivating volunteer translators



# Third Lesson Learned

- Motivating and supporting project managers is important to volunteer translation success



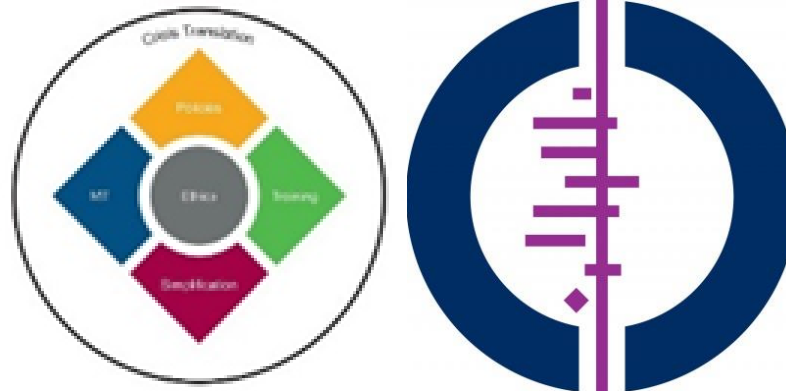


# Recommendations

- Further standardization and automation of the administrative and evaluative steps
  - *Translation quality assessment framework*
  - *Feedback through tracked changes*
- Facilitating knowledge sharing
  - *Peer mentoring / training*
- Ensure sustainability of translation project manager role



# What Next?



- Co-authored conference presentation:  
*EST 2019*
- Co-authored book chapter:  
*Management and Training of Linguistic Volunteers*



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INTERACT  
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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 734211.





Thank You  
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# **Capacity building for knowledge translation: a survey about characteristics and motivation of volunteer translators of Cochrane plain language summaries**

Presenter:

Prof. Livia Puljak, MD, PhD  
Catholic University of Croatia

Cochrane Learning Live

August 29, 2019

# Cochrane Croatia: translations

- Translating plain language summaries
- Since 2013
- **Challenges:**
  - Many individuals sign up for volunteers
    - But many never translate anything
    - Some become very active, and then stop
- **Questions:**
  - Who are our volunteers?
  - What is their motivation?
  - How can we motivate them to translate or translate more?

# So, let's do a formal study

- We did what we know best – research
- Survey of all individuals who have ever volunteered to be Cochrane Croatia translators
- 28 items
- Conducted in November-December 2017
- Via SurveyMonkey

# Results: who are our translators?

- 176 individuals contacted
- 106 responses (60% response rate)
- Participants characteristics:
  - Majority were women
  - Majority had university degrees
  - Majority were medical doctors
  - Almost all were „lay translators” – few were professional translators
  - The majority indicated that they did not participate in other translation activities
  - Half of them participated in other unrelated volunteer activities



# How did they get involved with our translation project?

- Friends/colleagues (37%)
- University lectures (29%)
- From the Cochrane Croatia website (18%)
- From the Cochrane Croatia's Facebook page (14%)
  
- The majority signed up for participation in translations before 2017

# Their motivation?

<b>Reasons for joining*</b>		
Contributing to the community	77	72.6
Learning new and useful information	77	72.6
Interest in topics from the field	73	68.9
Improving translation skills and knowledge of English language	51	48.1
Field of research / work matches translation topics	46	43.4
Helpful in job search / useful in CV	38	35.8
Other	3	2.8
Skipped question	0	0

# What could motivate them to translate translate or translate more?

Variable	Values	%
<b>Suggested incentives for increasing translation productivity</b>		
Feedback on the quality of translations	56	52.8
Reminders	50	47.2
Workshop for translators	34	32.1
Facebook or similar group for exchange of experiences	26	24.5
Other	17	16.0
Skipped question	10	9.4

# How could we improve translators' experience?

Variable	Values	%
<b>Suggested interventions for improvement of translation experience**</b>		
Workshops and webinars, introductory videos	16	15.1
Reminders	4	3.8
Various incentives (ranking, payment, credit for extracurricular activity)	4	3.8
Groups for exchanging experiences	3	2.8
Glossary, detailed instructions on grammar and terminology, professional language editing	3	2.8
Other (feedback, more assigned PLSs, practice PLSs, simplifying the translation platform etc.)	9	8.5
Skipped question	67	63.2

# What do they like the best about their volunteering experience with us?

Variable	Values	%
<b>Best experiences gained from participating in the translation project**</b>	17	16.0
New and useful knowledge and information	6	5.7
Excellent communication with the translation project manager	5	4.7
Personal satisfaction gained from participating	4	3.8
Improving translation skills and expanding vocabulary	13	12.3
Other	61	57.5
Skipped question		

# What we could improve?

Variable	Values	%
<b>Worst experiences with the translation project**</b>		
No bad experiences	26	24.5
Long wait between being assigned new PLSs	4	3.8
Problems with the translation platform	3	2.8
Dissatisfaction with translations done by other volunteers	3	2.8
Insecurity about the quality of translations	3	2.8
Other	4	3.8
Skipped question	63	59.4

# The study results were recently published



ARTICLE

## Capacity building for knowledge translation: A survey about the characteristics and motivation of volunteer translators of Cochrane plain language summaries

Dalibora Behmen, Ana Marušić, Livia Puljak 

First published: 29 May 2019 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jebm.12345>

### Funding information:

This study was funded by the Croatian Science Foundation, grant No. IP-2014-09-7672 "Professionalism in Health Care," awarded to Professor Ana Marusic. The funder had no role in the design of this study, during its execution and data interpretation.

[Read the full text >](#)

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Abstract

# Follow-up research idea

- When asked what could motivate them to translate more Cochrane PLSs, or to start translating if they did not translate anything yet, the most common answers were:
  - feedback about translation quality
  - Reminders
  - workshop for translators
  - and Facebook group for translators



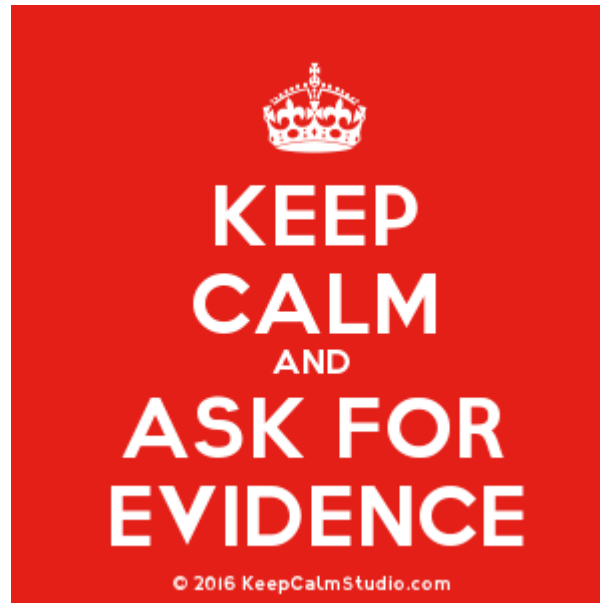
# Let's test reminders

- Implementation of these ideas: time, personnel, or technology constraints
- We thought that perhaps reminders could be most effective
- And that they could be implemented in Memsource
- So we conducted RCT to test whether reminders would be effective in yielding more translations
- The study was completed in the end of June
- We are now analyzing results

# Evidence-based volunteer translations

- It is difficult to find and retain volunteers
- With formal studies, we can find out more about our volunteers
- And how to motivate them
- Find out the most effective interventions
- And improve our translation projects, increase volunteer satisfaction and translate more

Many thanks to my coauthors, Ms. Dalibora Behmen, and Prof. Ana Marušić



Questions, comments, compliments:

Livia Puljak: [livia.puljak@unicath.hr](mailto:livia.puljak@unicath.hr)

# What are the challenges with volunteers?

- Translation requires many skills: language, methods, health, attention to detail, software use, etc.
- Most translators have a health background, few a translation background, but usually only one or the other
- Volunteers stop after one translation, or are generally struggling to contribute on a regular basis, and select ‘random’ topics
- Involving volunteers requires more management and editing time



## What can we do better?

- Clearer expectations and better training for volunteers
- Better support for translation project managers
- Systematic feedback to volunteers
- Creating translator communities
- Better / more automated, systematic rewards ?
- Offer other options for non-native English speakers to get involved
- To be continued...





**Thank you!**

**Juliane Ried, Translations Co-ordinator**

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