

"Top 10" Best Practices for Inclusive Multilingual Events

GOAL: To make everyone at the event as equal as possible on a linguistic plane.

1.	Provide Interpreter Training:	Ensure that staff members, consultants, or volunteers who provide interpretation services have specific training in interpretation skills, including training about ethics, standard techniques, and specialized vocabulary.
2.	Conduct Outreach:	Use outreach materials in primary languages of target audience Make phone calls in appropriate languages Materials should state that interpretation will be provided
3.	Ensure Comprehensive Translation:	All written materials should be translated and proofread, i.e. registration forms, handouts, directional signs, Power Point slides, and other visual aids
4.	Choose Type of Interpretation:	 Consider languages that will be used by speakers & attendees Consider if there be audience interaction or dialogue Decide what kind of interpretation you will use: <u>Consecutive</u> or <u>simultaneous</u>? If simultaneous, <u>one-way</u> or <u>bidirectional</u>?
5.	Schedule Interpreters:	Schedule interpreters as far in advance as possible Schedule 2 interpreters for events more than 1 hour in length Consider level of skill required & confidentiality concerns when selecting interpreters Avoid dual roles and conflicts of interest in interpreter role
6.	Provide Materials for Interpreters:	Provide materials in advance for interpreters so they can prepare for the assignment (i.e. PowerPoint slides, agendas, handouts, copies of written remarks, lists of terms, etc.)
7.	Prepare Equipment:	Ensure adequate interpretation headsets are available Test equipment in advance and have back-up batteries Create sensitive distribution plan for equipment (i.e. offer headsets to <i>all</i> attendees at the registration table)
8.	Establish Ground Rules for Multilingual Space:	Presenters and participants speak directly to each other Only one person speaks at a time Speak loudly and clearly at a moderate pace Observe interpreter hand signals
9.	Set-up Space Inclusively:	Ensure that multilingual staff members are available as participants arrive for registration, questions, directions, etc. Set-up the space to integrate groups who use different languages
10.	Begin Event with Interpreter Introduction:	Allot 5 minutes prior to the beginning of the event for the interpreters to introduce themselves, explain the interpretation process to attendees, and test equipment to ensure everyone who needs one has a working headset

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