

## cb Hexalogue or Code of Good Practice

The Six Commandments of 'fair-play' in literary translation

### 1. Licensing of rights

The licensing of rights for the use of the translation shall be limited in time to a maximum of five years. It shall be subject to the restrictions and duration of the licensed rights of the original work. Each licensed right shall be mentioned in the contract.

### 2. Fees

The fee for the commissioned work shall be equitable, enabling the translator to make a decent living and to produce a translation of good literary quality.

### 3. Payment terms

On signature of the contract, the translator shall receive an advance payment of at least one third of the fee. The remainder shall be paid on delivery of the translation at the latest.

### 4. Obligation to publish

The publisher shall publish the translation within the period stipulated in the contract, and no later than two years after the delivery of the manuscript.

### 5. Share in profit

The translator shall receive a fair share of the profits from the exploitation of his/her work, in whatsoever form it may take, starting from the first copy.

### 6. Translator's name

As author of the translation, the translator shall be named wherever the original author is named.



Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires  
(AISBL) European Council of Literary Translators' Associations

## There are things Google cannot do.

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As an international non-profit organisation, CEATL is largely dependent on external funding. If you want to make a donation to support our work, please contact our President ([president@ceatl.eu](mailto:president@ceatl.eu)).

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Associations {AISBL}



*Europe:* a cultural and linguistic patchwork, joined together by an age-old tradition of intensive exchange. Written texts play an important role in this exchange, because literature (in the broad sense) is the place where living cultures store their capital: if you want to understand another culture, you must read its books. For this reason, literary translation is fundamental to everything Europe represents. In the famous words of Umberto Eco: 'The language of Europe is translation.'

However, no literary translation is possible without the knowledge, skills and artistic talent of the translator. As a council bringing together 32 translators' associations from 26 countries, representing a total of some 10,000 individual authors, CEATL is the main European interlocutor in the field of literary translation. Its two principal goals are the exchange of information and best practice between member countries, and the defence of translation quality in a European context.



## About us

CEATL is an international non-profit association under Belgian law (AISBL). The delegates from the member associations come together once a year at the annual general meeting, which is hosted by the associations in rotation. In recent years several associations from former Eastern Europe have joined, as has the Turkish association Çevbir. CEATL will continue to encourage associations in the new EU member states and in EU neighbouring countries to become members.

CEATL has two sets of aims, one internal and one external. On the internal front we gather information on the situation of literary translation and translators in the member countries and share experiences and examples of best practice. On the external front we defend the legal, social and economic interests of literary translators in a European context, which includes EU lobbying and reacting publicly to trends or events impacting on our profession and on the quality of literary translation. We help individual member associations to strengthen the position of literary translators in their countries.

## Working groups

CEATL's working groups collect and publish information on specific topics related to literary translation and translators in Europe. Currently there are six active working groups:

### *Working conditions*

This working group was the first to be created, in 2005. In 2008 it published a groundbreaking report on the catastrophic income situation of literary translators in 23 European countries and regions. This report can still be downloaded from the CEATL website. The second edition will be published in 2012, supported by the Dutch collecting society, LIRA.

### *Copyright and e-rights*

The emergence of electronic publishing has produced a true revolution. Books can now be permanently available all over the world without any material support. This creates a whole new situation in international copyright. CEATL's copyright working group will report on these developments and their consequences for literary translators. A preliminary survey has been published in 2010 with support from the Swiss collecting society, ProLitteris.

### *Visibility*

For most of CEATL's member associations, improving the translator's cultural visibility through all kinds of actions and events is the key to a better socio-economic position, and thus to higher translation quality. The visibility working

group collects data on the translator's cultural visibility. It also prepares pan-European visibility actions, such as International Translators' Day.

### *Training and education*

Until now, no overview of training and education facilities for literary translation in Europe existed. With support from the Dutch Foundation for Literature, CEATL's training and education working group is drawing up a detailed statement of affairs, in three phases: university programmes, permanent education, and private courses.

### *Best practices*

Sharing best practices between literary translators' associations is one of the main aims of CEATL. The Best Practices working group, which has received support from the Norwegian collecting society KOPINOR, collects successful initiatives in the fields of visibility, training and education, and working conditions. Short descriptions are published on the internal website to serve as an example to associations in other countries.

### *Translation news*

Since 2010, the CEATL website has a blog-type news section presenting literary translation news from all over Europe. The news can be selected by topic or by country. It is automatically posted on Twitter: @CeatlNews.