

Community interpreters... a link between worlds

BECOME A VOLUNTARY INTERPRETER

If you would like to participate in our project as a volunteer community interpreter, please complete our online form at www.icvolunteers.org/register.

REQUEST FOR HELP FROM VOLUNTEERS

If your organization or institution would like to request our services, you can write to info@icvolunteers.org.

PARTNERS

The Languages and Immigration project has been put together in collaboration with a number of partner organizations, including:

- *Bureau de l'Intégration des Etrangers* (BIE)
- *Département de l'Instruction Publique* (DIP)
- City of Geneva : *Département de la Cohésion Sociale, de la Jeunesse et des Sports*
- *Groupement genevois des Associations de Parents d'élèves du Primaire* (GAPP)
- The ICVolunteers office in Barcelona
- Community Associations
- Sociolusion and A Association Web for Migrants, project of www.migrabweb.ch

ICVolunteers



Volunteers... linking
knowledge with needs

CONTACT

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Website: www.icvolunteers.org

SUPPORT

We sincerely thank our donors who have made it possible for us to carry out the study "Voices in the chapter" and/or set up of our language accompanying service for migrants.

- Loterie Romande
- Federal Office for Migration
- City of Geneva
- Republic and Canton: Bureau de l'Intégration des Etrangers (BIE)



Avec le soutien de la
 Loterie Romande



Etat de Genève

 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

LANGUAGES SERVICES

Community interpretation
for parents of non-French speaking pupils



ICVolunteers

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1999, ICVolunteers (ICV) works in the area of communication, training, languages, cyber-volunteering and conference support. We are a non-profit organization with a workforce of volunteers who are able to benefit from opportunities to develop themselves professionally as well as being able to make social contacts. We work with public and private institutions, organizations and associations to carry out social and educational programmes for projects that reflect our vision and ethical values. At an international level, our organization works with a network of volunteers from 189 countries who speak 155 languages. Our headquarters is in Geneva where we have a network of 1,500 persons.

LANGUAGES AND IMMIGRATION PROJECT

ICVolunteers¹ has carried out a study funded by the city of Geneva and *Loterie Romande* which shows that little means are available for non-French speaking migrants to accompany them for their day-to-day needs.

We have interviewed a large number of migrants and representatives of the community. All interviewees spoke of the challenges integrating, due in part to problems learning French. How do people get by in Geneva without being able to speak French? Many migrants have to rely on their families to help them in various situations, such as education, health and administration. Too many children have to shoulder this heavy responsibility. In certain areas, such as education, the subject matter is too sensitive; a child should not have to act as an interpreter between his or her teacher and parents.

This is the reason why ICVolunteers-Switzerland is following in the footsteps of our office in Barcelona to develop a project called 'Languages and Immigration', with a new pilot phase starting in schools.

BENEFICIARIES

Our programme mainly targets the following:

- Community associations
- Parents of pupils
- Schools and teachers

AN INTERPRETATION SERVICE LINKING IMMIGRANTS AND SCHOOLS – THANKS TO YOU!

We would like to make a language service available to immigrants through our network of volunteers. This service would primarily target immigrants and would supplement services already offered by institutions and organizations.

Our objectives, all of which will rely on the work of volunteers, are to enhance relations between immigrants and teachers, to encourage respectful communication, improve access to institutions, to put an end to the isolation that exists and to encourage a desire to learn French so that immigrant families are able to have more control over their own lives.

This service is available to all, regardless of their status, origins and social situation.

Our service will comprise:

- Information sessions for representatives of community associations and parents of schoolchildren;
- Support to teachers and education advisers to enable parents to discuss directly their concerns or simply to familiarise themselves with the Geneva school system;
- An interpretation service available to all parents.

FREE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY INTERPRETERS

Working with the office for the integration of foreigners – BIE (*Bureau d'Intégration des Etrangers*), community interpretation workshops will be set up for volunteers who would like to participate in this project. Volunteers will be chosen according to their background and languages spoken. The aim of these workshops will be to provide the basics of intercultural communication as well as the different techniques of community and three-way interpretation. The role of the interpreter is not to translate the content of the discussion word-for-word: translation has to be sensitive to cultural factors and also to provide information on the functioning of Geneva society.

WE NEED YOU

If you are interested in this project, if you have experience of community interpretation or if you speak one of the languages spoken by some of the immigrant community do not hesitate to get in touch with us!

All languages are useful, but we would be particularly interested in those who speak Spanish, Portuguese, Kurdish, Russian, Thai, Chinese and any African languages.

CONTACT US!

Email: volunteer@icvolunteers.org

Tel.: +41 22 800 14 36

THANK YOU!

¹ Study available on request : info@icvolunteers.org