

VKD im BDÜ e.V. Guidelines on Remote Interpreting

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During remote interpreting (RI) or distance interpreting, interpreters are connected to the event via audio and/or video link using an appropriate IT solution. When interpretation is simultaneous, this is referred to as remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI). These guidelines focus primarily on the use of RSI during conferences, meetings, seminars, training courses and other events at which speakers, participants and interpreters are in different locations.

Several technical solutions and virtual RSI platforms already existed before 2020. These have gained traction during the coronavirus pandemic and are currently being further developed and heavily marketed. VKD im BDÜ e.V. is taking the opportunity to draw on the considerable experience its members have amassed to offer clients and users some guidance in planning their events.

Various on-site, virtual or hybrid formats can be organised to bridge the physical distance between interpreters and participants. Producing a well-thought-out, integrated solution which works for all parties is always preferable to the instability that can result when connecting different systems. In our experience, working with interpreters via (mobile or permanent) interpreting hubs tends to be the best and most stable solution for your event, all while ensuring strong data protection. Interpreting teams work in booths that are fully equipped with conference equipment, and professional conference technicians provide support throughout the event.

VKD im BDÜ e.V. strongly recommends observing the following points to ensure conference interpreters can work effectively and your online event is a success.

- All participants have access to a fast broadband internet connection via ethernet cable (not wireless).
- Transmission is secure and encrypted.
- All participants have access to high-quality technical equipment (particularly headsets).
- It is clear who will be held liable should the line or platform fail or any other technical issues arise.
- There has been a test run or thorough briefing beforehand.
- A host or virtual event manager is present throughout the meeting who has been thoroughly briefed.
- Professional technical support is provided.
- All participants are as familiar as reasonably possible with their working environment.
- Video conferencing best practices have been noted.

VKD im BDÜ e.V. notes that several commercial platform operators also offer the services of "certified" interpreters. However, the operators have designed these certifications themselves, and they are not comparable to the true stamp of quality a university degree or association membership represents.

The conference interpreters in our association have the skills and experience needed to offer you competent advice and find the best interpreting solution for your event.

You can find further information and a comprehensive checklist for planning your event on the VKD im BDÜ e.V. website:

<https://vkd.bdue.de/en/for-clients/remote-interpreting>

<https://vkd.bdue.de/en/service/downloads>

<https://vkd-search.bdue.de/>