

FIT EUROPE

REGIONAL CENTRE EUROPE OF THE

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

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FIT Europe CPD Survey 2018: Initial report

July 2018

Prepared by the Board of FIT Europe CPD Working Group

On April 17th, 2018 FIT Europe launched a survey of its member associations to explore the state of play with CPD across Europe in our sector.

A series of questions were devised by the Board's CPD Working Group, the widely used tool **Google Forms** was employed as a quick and easy data-gathering tool and the link to the survey was sent by email to all our member associations. A brief description of the aims was sent in the email. The survey remained open from April 17th to 30th.

Questions were designed to be easy to answer, requiring either a yes/no/not applicable response or selection from a choice of options.

Participation in the survey was entirely voluntary. The sample analysed only includes those member associations who responded to all questions in the survey.

Below we present the results of the survey in outline.

Summary of the CPD survey results

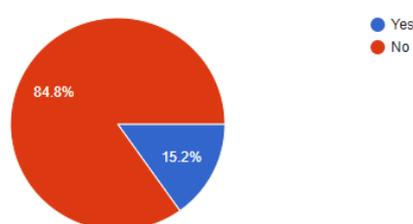
The aim of this survey was to collect information to form an overall picture of how CPD is considered, defined and undertaken by FIT Europe associations.

A total of 33 associations out of 59 (55.9%) took part in the survey, revealing that there is great interest in the matter among our member associations.

The following is an overview of the responses we received:

1. Is continuous professional development (CPD) a professional requirement provided by the law in your country?

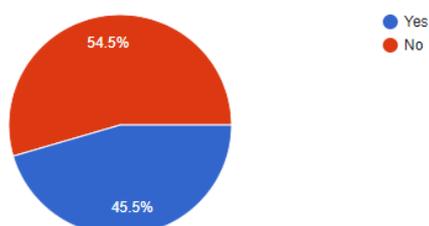
33 responses



In approximately 85% of FIT Europe associations CPD is not required by law, yet almost 50% have a CPD policy.

2. Does your professional association have a CPD policy?

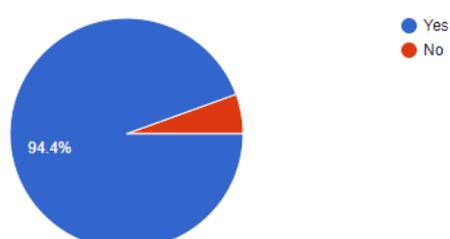
33 responses



Despite considerable differences among FIT Europe associations (some do not have a CPD policy, while others consider CPD as an essential precondition to retain membership), 95% of them would be interested in introducing a CPD policy.

3. If not, would your association be interested in introducing a CPD policy?

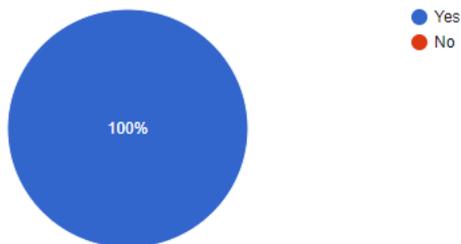
18 responses



All would like to know about others' experiences and 97% would be interested in identifying and exchanging best practices.

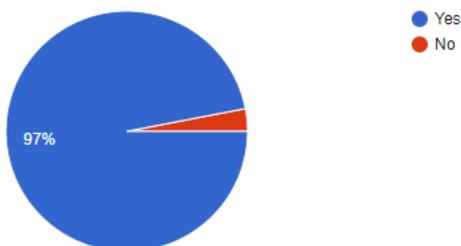
4. Would your association be interested in hearing about the experience of associations who have a CPD policy?

33 responses



5. Would your association be interested in identifying and exchanging best practices on CPD?

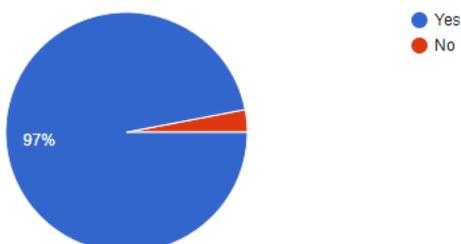
33 responses



97% of FIT Europe associations already organise CPD events. A further step could be implementing the recommendation of reciprocity, i.e. opening all events – whenever possible and bearing in mind language constraints and the format of the venue (location-based v. online events) – to members of other FIT Europe associations. This is very encouraging.

6. Does your association organise CPD events (i.e. conference, workshop, webinar)?

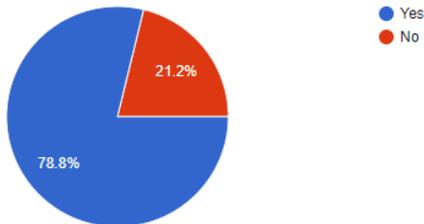
33 responses



As a matter of fact, almost 80% of FIT Europe associations already recognise attendance at other FIT associations' events as an acceptable form of CPD.

7. Does your association recognise attendance at CPD events run by other FIT associations in the translating/interpreting sector as a form of professional development?

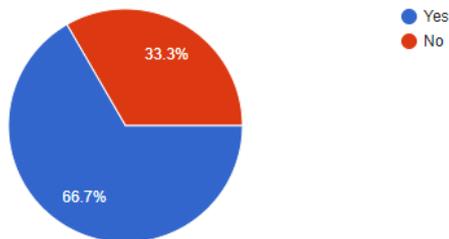
33 responses



Almost 70% also recognise attendance at non-FIT-associations events as CPD.

8. Does your association recognise attendance at CPD events run by non-FIT third parties in the translating/interpreting sector as a form of professional development?

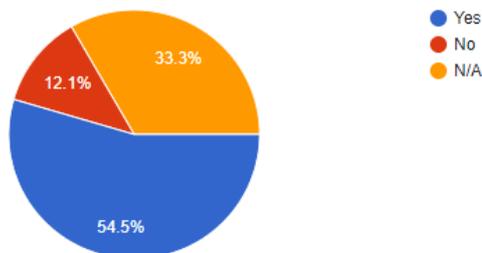
33 responses



And 55% even recognise attendance at events of third parties not in our industry.

9. Does your association recognise attendance at CPD events run by third parties NOT in the translating/interpreting sector as a form of professional development?

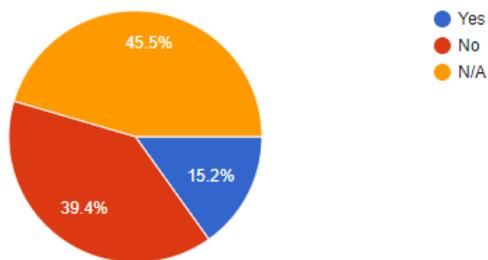
33 responses



Only 15% of FIT Europe associations use units of measurement for CPD purposes (such as credits, hours, days).

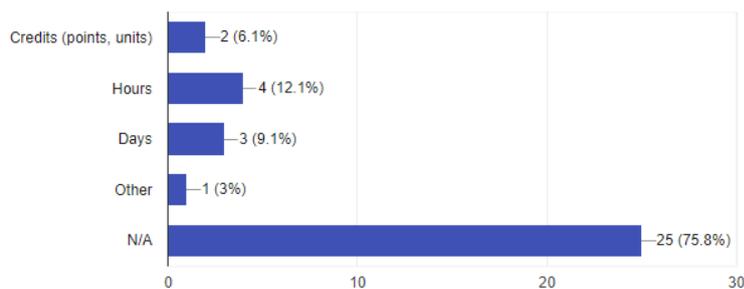
10. Does your association use units of measurement in its CPD policy?

33 responses



11. Which units does your association use in its CPD policy?

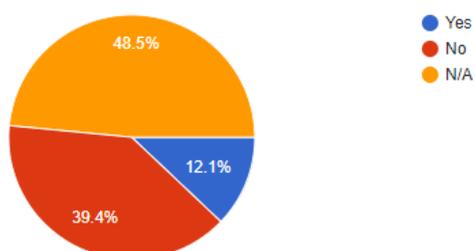
33 responses



12% of FIT Europe associations use a quality-based grading system, allowing members to share information on the usefulness of the events they attended to enable other members to benefit.

12. Does your association use a quality-based grading system, for example: useful/very useful/unfocused?

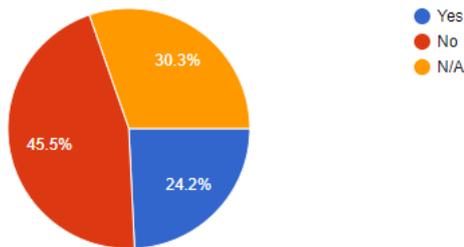
33 responses



More than 24% of FIT Europe associations expect members to undertake a certain amount of CPD within a certain timeframe.

13. Does your association expect members to undertake a certain amount of professional development within a certain timeframe?

33 responses



15. How much professional development has to be undertaken within such timeframe (specify if credits, hours or days)?

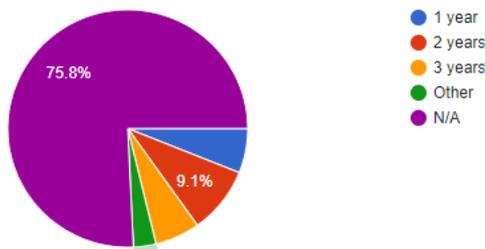
8 responses

not specified
4 days
30 hours (recommended)
24 hours per year
I don't know
20 credits
N/A
2 events in 2 years for certified members

However, the responses concerning the timeframe reveal a very varied picture across our member associations.

14. If so, what is the envisaged timeframe?

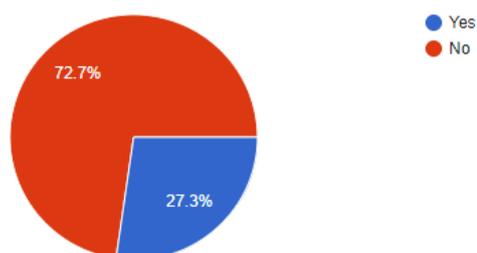
33 responses



And last but not least, more than 27% of FIT Europe associations offer their members a record-keeping system for CPD.

16. Does your association offer its members a system of record-keeping for professional development?

33 responses



Conclusions

Unsurprisingly, there is great interest among our associations in the topic of CPD and perhaps even appetite for putting things on a more structured basis. Some of the questions we will be considering as a next step:

- Is it possible or desirable to attempt to harmonise CPD across Europe?
- To what extent can/should FIT Europe play a leading role here?
- How can we best disseminate examples of best practice among our associations?
- How can we help bring together associations with a long tradition of CPD and associations just starting out on this path?

This survey was a first foray into the field to gather information on the state of play in our associations. We are very happy with the information collected and above all with the response rate – almost 60%!

We believe that CPD can really make a difference and offer our members a competitive advantage by developing and strengthening their qualifications in a market that tends to level everything down.

Our next step will be to conduct brief phone interviews with FIT Europe associations in September and October in order to collect more in-depth information. We hope this will foster thorough debate of the matter at our Annual Meeting in The Hague in November 2018.

So far, there is no EU Regulation or Directive on CPD for non-regulated professions like ours, and we would like to be ahead of the game in this field.

The Board would like to wholeheartedly thank all respondents who dedicated their time and went to the effort of answering the survey. We hope that we can have all FIT Europe associations on board at the Annual Meeting in The Hague. Further information will follow in due course.

If you have any comments or questions about the survey please feel free to contact us at: gsvanzan@fit-europe.org.