

Translators and Interpreters in small-diffusion language combinations: Are they specialised?

Norwegian-Polish language
pair as a starting point.

What is a small-diffusion language combination?

For the purpose of this presentation:

- Polish + any language except:
English, French, German, Russian, Italian,
Spanish
- Mainly my own language combination:
Norwegian-Polish

I will be talking about:

- The market for NO-PL translating and interpreting
- Who are NO-PL translators and interpreters?
- What language resources and strategies do we have?
- What education and development possibilities do we have?
- How fast do we work, do we use CAT-tools?
- The clients, the rates, the quality.

The survey

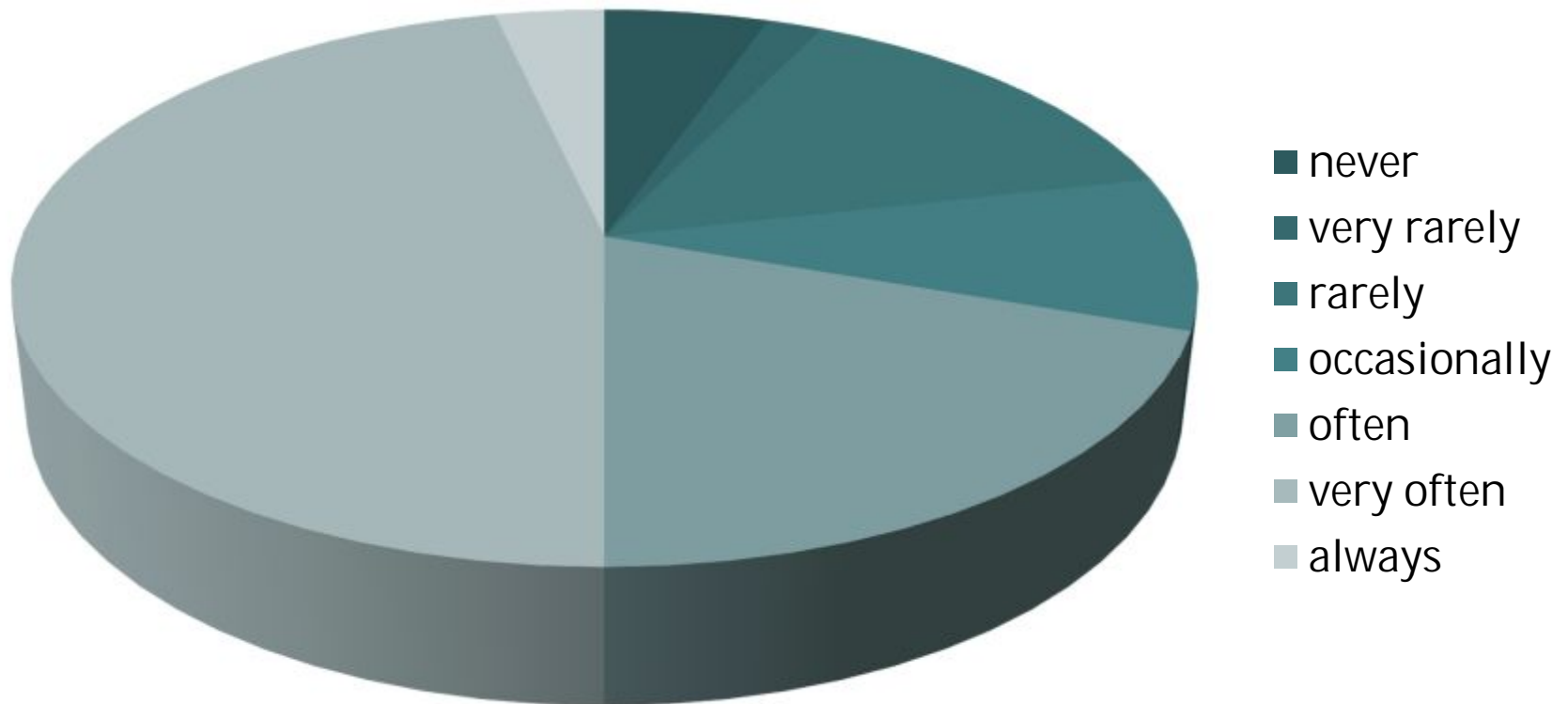
- 59 translators/interpreters
- Polish + Norwegian (50,85%)
- Polish + Czech, Danish, Estonian, Greek, Icelandic, Lithuanian, Dutch, Swedish, Turkish, Croatian, Bulgarian, Hebrew, Latin, Hungarian, Romanian, Ukrainian, Catalan
- 1-2 respondents per language combination

The market for (specialised) NO-PL translating and interpreting

- Building & Construction
- Industry
- EHS
- Medical
- Legal

The market for specialised Tr. and Int: survey results.

specialised translation and interpreting

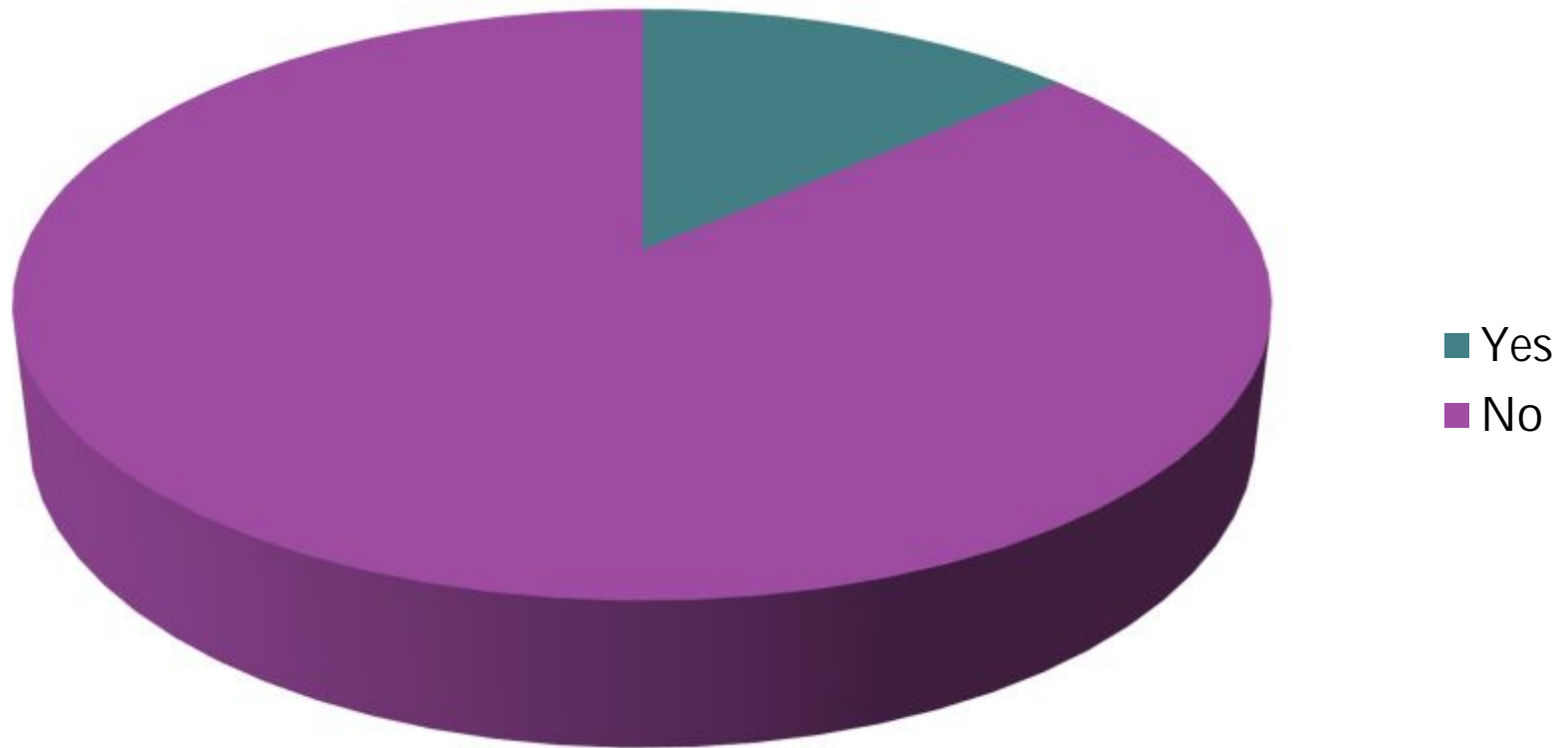


The market for specialised translations: survey results.

	never	very rarely	rarely	ocasionally	often	very often	always
Technology and industry (including construction industry)	10,53 %	17,54 %	1,75 %	24,56 %	24,56 %	19,30 %	1,75 %
Medicine and Pharmacy	21,43 %	10,71 %	16,07 %	23,21 %	14,29 %	14,29 %	0,00 %
IT and telecommunications	41,82 %	18,18 %	10,91 %	14,55 %	12,73 %	1,82 %	0,00 %
Patents	68,52 %	11,11 %	9,26 %	7,41 %	1,85 %	1,85 %	0,00 %
Finance and Banking	25,00 %	14,29 %	14,29 %	19,64 %	17,86 %	8,93 %	0,00 %
Legal	14,04 %	5,26 %	7,02 %	19,30 %	28,07 %	26,32 %	0,00 %
Science	23,64 %	25,45 %	16,36 %	20,00 %	10,91 %	3,64 %	0,00 %
Marketing and advertising	29,09 %	12,73 %	14,55 %	20,00 %	12,73 %	10,91 %	0,00 %
literary translation	43,64 %	29,09 %	12,73 %	9,09 %	3,64 %	1,82 %	0,00 %
audiovisual translation	65,45 %	18,18 %	5,45 %	7,27 %	1,82 %	1,82 %	0,00 %
other	22,45 %	8,16 %	10,20 %	34,69 %	20,41 %	4,08 %	0,00 %

Do you specialise in one subject area?

Yes or no?



Why not?

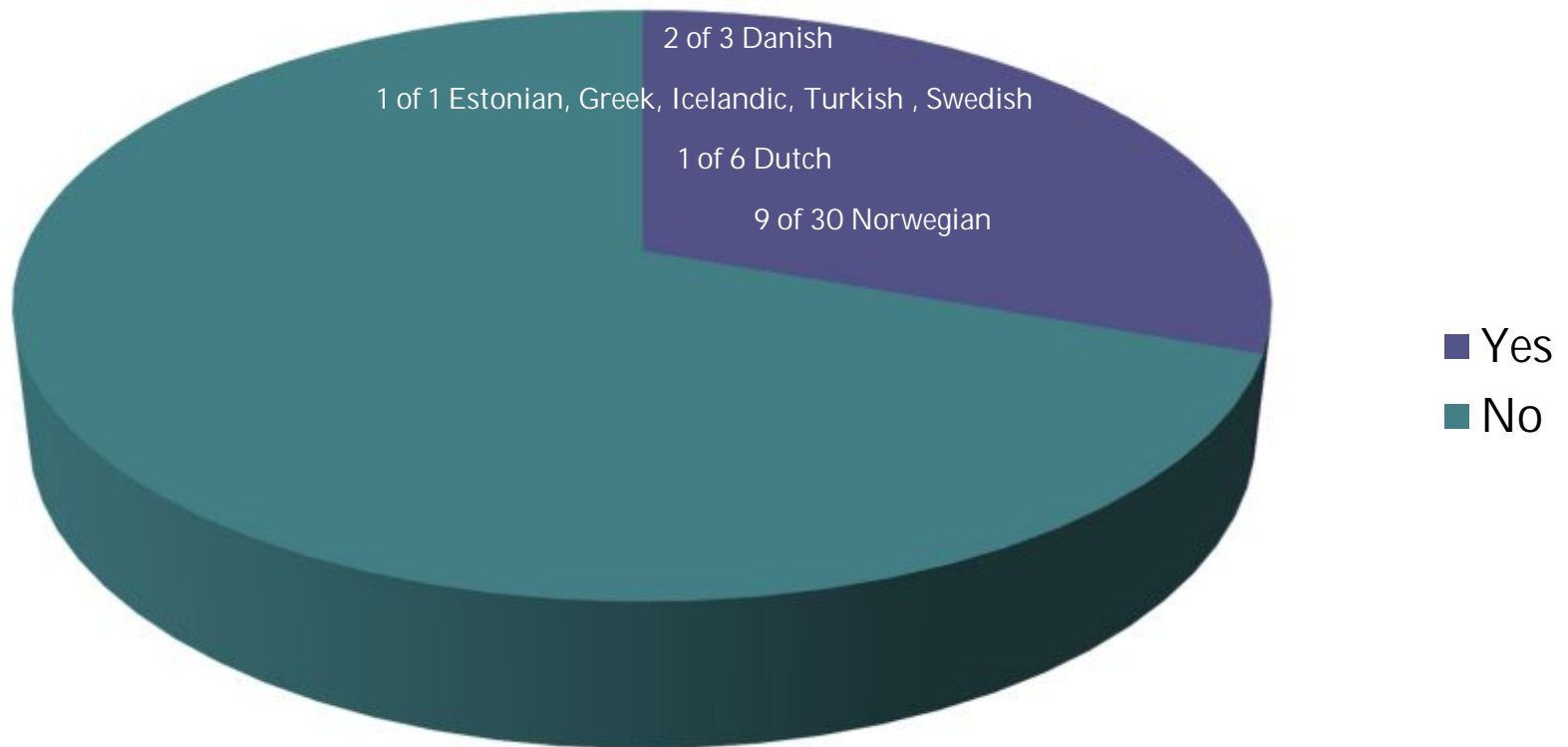
- Not enough jobs/market too small/to big variety of jobs
- I like variety/I see no reason to limit myself
- I feel comfortable with a lot of subjects/ I love challenges
- I have to be versatile to stay on the market
- I specialise in several subjects
- As a court interpreter I have to be prepared for everything
- It's just a side job, no point investing in specialising

Why yes? (8 of 59)

- EHS and B&C, because I do a lot of it
- I work in Oil industry
- It makes the job easier
- Law and economy, because it dominates the market
- There was a demand for a certain type of translation on the market
- I know the subject not only from translation experience
- Because I find the subject interesting
- My knowledge is limited

Could you make a living working in one specialisation?

Yes or no?

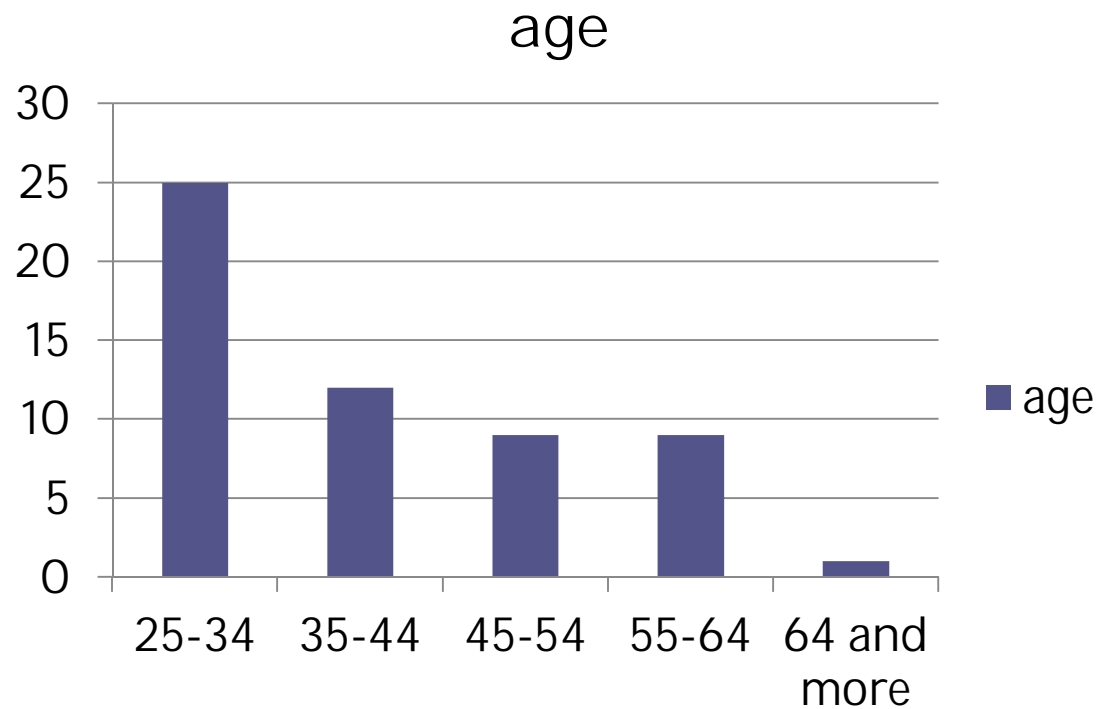


We do specialised
translation/interpreting, but

We do not specialise

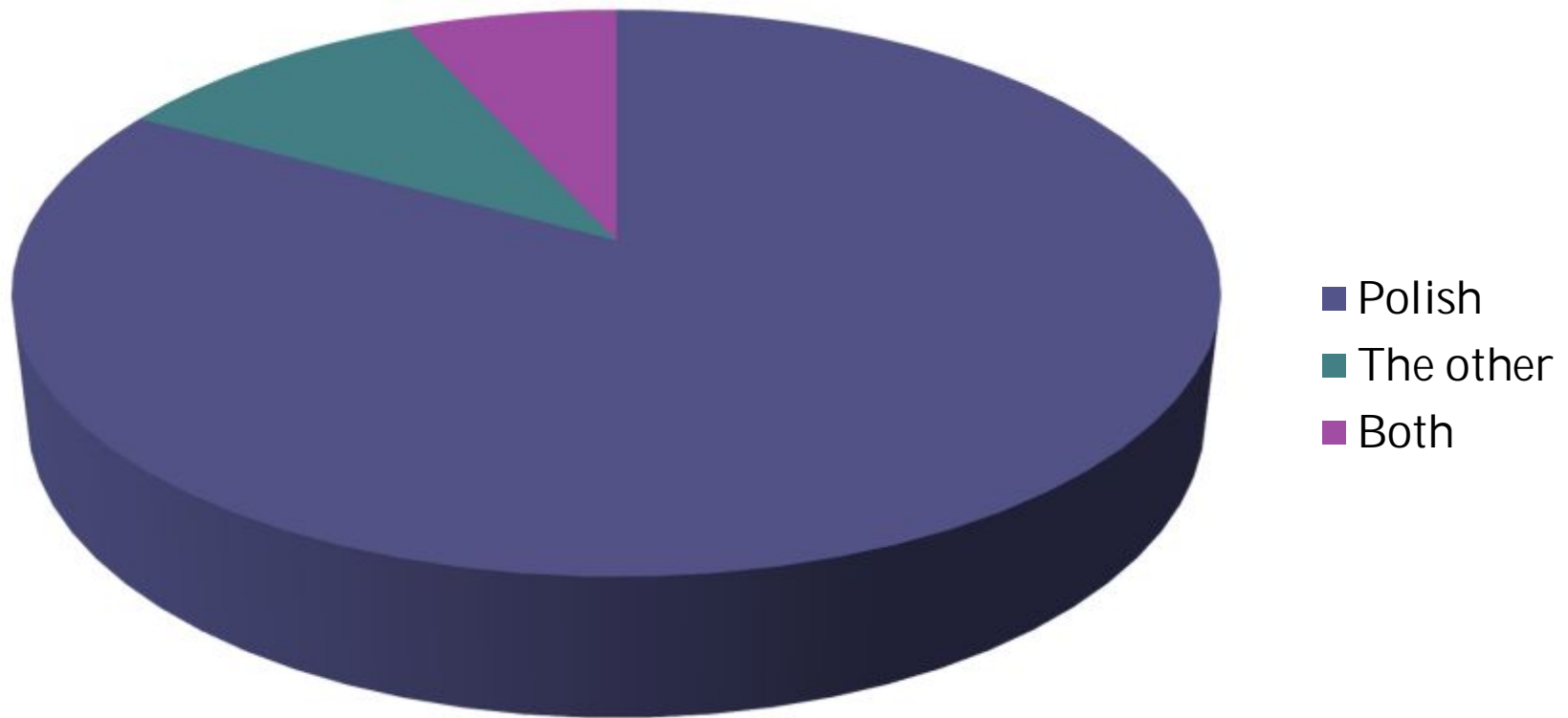
Who are we?

- 81% women



Mother tongue (survey results)

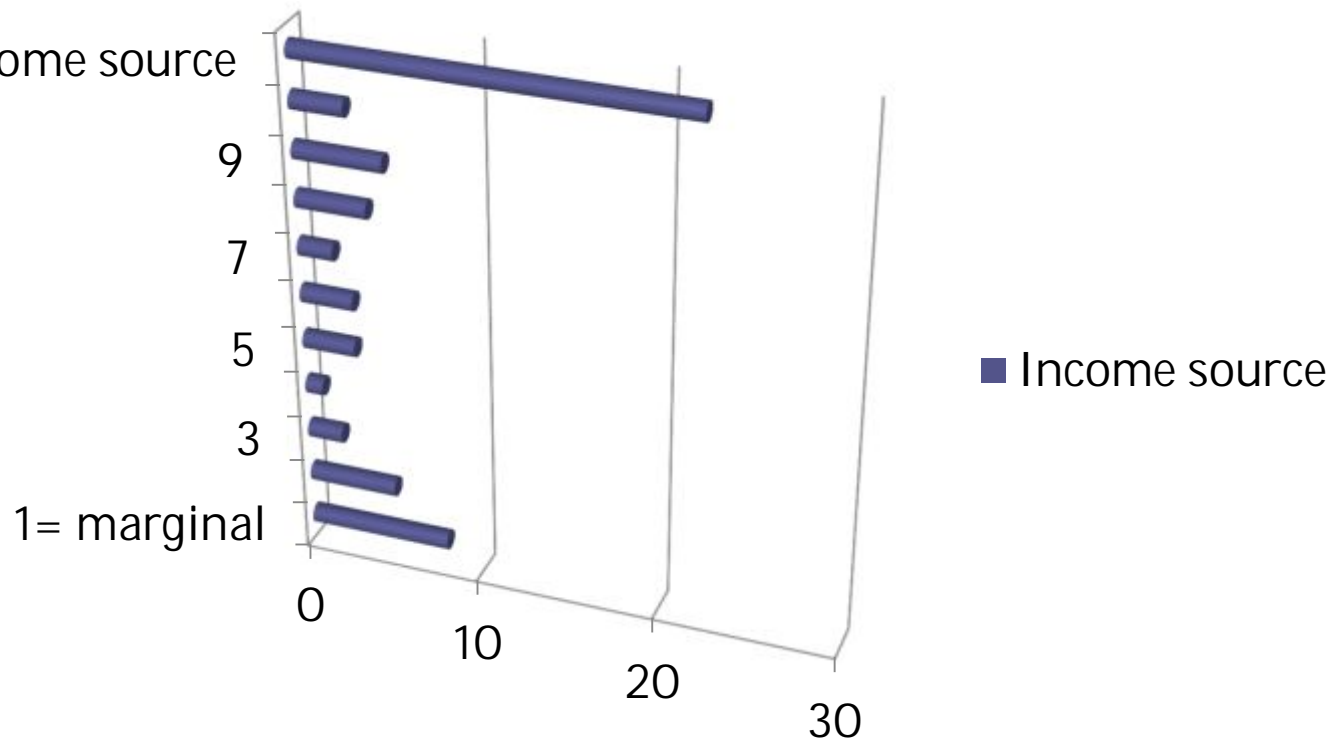
Which is your mother tongue?



How big part of our income comes from translating/interpreting?

Income source

11= my only income source



Is translator/interpreter our acquired profession?

"Yes, I studied philology my working language pairs	47,46 %
"Yes, I studied philology but not my working language pair	18,64 %
"Yes, I studied applied linguistics or other subject with a specialization in translation	6,78 %
"Yes, in addition to language study I took post-graduate courses in translation/interpreting	18,64 %
No, I have other education, what kind?	27,12 %
only Scandinavian studies	1,69 %
office work	1,69 %
marketing and management: 5 years in Poland, pedagogy: 3 years in Norway	1,69 %
economic	1,69 %
biochemistry	1,69 %
artist, teacher, art classes	1,69 %
nurse	1,69 %
law, postgraduate translation studies	1,69 %
agricultural, Polish philology	1,69 %
post-graduate education, but not related to translation	1,69 %
philology another working pair, other studies	1,69 %
cultural	1,69 %
natural science	1,69 %
Humanities - Philosophy	1,69 %
Eastern studies in Denmark	1,69 %
"I started / began to acquire translation/interpreting education first after some time of working in the profession	15,25 %

73%
are
linguists

Which market do we operate on?

Polish	23,73%
The other	28,81%
Both	47,46%

Our language resources

General dictionary?

- No – 3,39%
- Yes, but only a pocket edition – 54,24%
- Yes, big and useful in my work – 42,37

Our language resources

Specialised dictionaries?

- Yes – 62,71%
- (B&C, Legal, Medicine, Financial) som of them one-way
- Some of them outdated and not very useful

Norwegian-Polish dictionaries

- General dictionary PL-NO, NO-PL, 60.000 entries
- Mini visual pocket dictionary 20.000 entries (french)
- General pocket PL-NO, NO-PL, ?, CD and on-line
- General + specialised? PL-NO, NO-PL, 14.000 entries
- Mini PL-NO, NO-PL, 12.500 entries
- B&C PL-NO, NO-PL, 12.700 entries
- Legal PL-NO, NO-PL 9.000 entries

Other resources

- Norwegian dictionaries, lexicons etc.
- Polish dictionaries, lexicons etc.
- Polish English resources
- English Norwegian resources
- Other Scandinavian resources
- Free on-line resources PL-NO of various quality
- Google (websites of webshops and manufacturers, legal acts, medical conference papers)
- Wikipedia
- Network of friends and acquaintances

My strategies - examples

- Wire-guided torpedo
- Electrical safety (experts)
- Legal acts (comparing)
- Screws (DIN, EN, Google images)
- Rock blasting (call a friend)

Acces to professional courses?

- No – 83,05%

Would you participate if there was a possibility?

- Yes – 54%
- No – 8%
- Depends on price - 38%

About 13% take courses English-One of languages

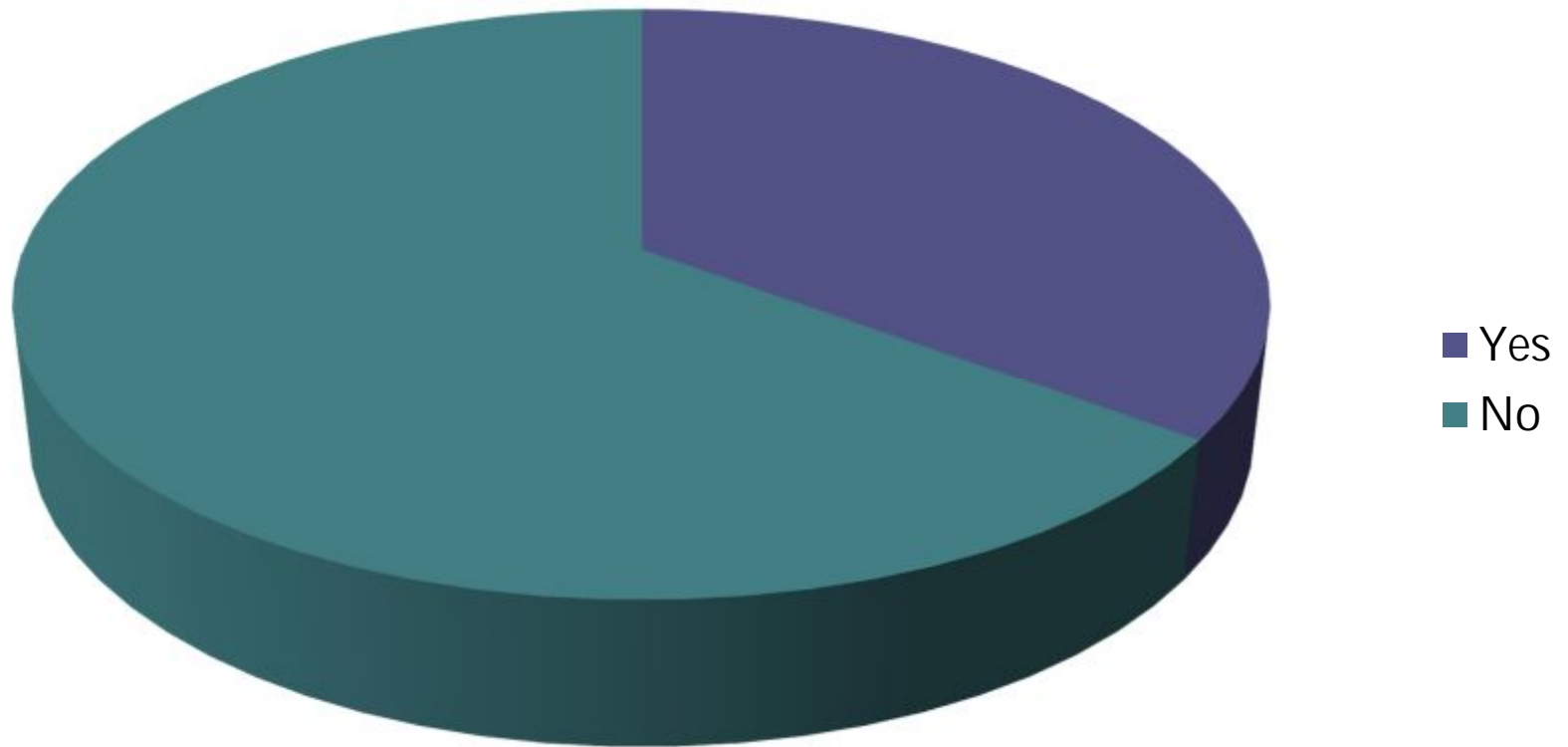
Cooperation with fellow translators/interpreters

- On a scale 1 (never cooperate)-11 (always cooperate), overall score was 5
- 30% never, almost never (1,2)
- Those who answered they have some possibilities for professional courses, ment courses organised among fellow translators/interpreters (except NO).

CAT-tools?

46% received a job with TM attached

Using CAT-tools?



CAT-tools. Why not?

- I do not need them
- I do not know them
- Clients do not require it
- I receive mostly non editable files
- I translate faster without them
- Unjustified cost

How fast do we translate?



- General text: 300-750 w/h
- Specialised text: 50-750 w/h

- And the difference in rates do not compensate for the difference in time consumed.

The clients, the rates, the quality

- Mostly for agencies (6)
- Rate differences between countries

Quality challenges:

- - lack of resources for QC
- - foreign to foreign language translation (i.e. EN-NO)
- - third language translation (EN  PL  NO)

Questions? Comments?

Thank you for your attention!