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Professor Milena Žic Fuchs
Standing Committee for the Humanities
European Science Foundation
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13 June, 2011

Dear Professor Fuchs,

As President of the European Society for Translation Studies, I write to express our Society's concern and dismay at the systematic downgrading of Translation Studies journals in the 2011 lists released by the European Science Foundation.

It is difficult to understand why some journals are downgraded to or remain stuck in the "national" category when they have editorial boards and/or advisory boards that are international. Likewise, it is absolutely unclear why some other Translation Studies journals were downgraded from INT1 to INT2.

Part of this downgrading seems due to the absence of any specialist in Translation and Interpreting Studies on your Linguistics and Literature boards, and the correspondingly erroneous view that translation and interpreting are minor activities on the edge of the major established disciplines.

Since translation and interpreting are necessary for the social cohesion and governance of Europe, Translation Studies is a strong and flourishing academic discipline that merits proper recognition, especially in Europe.

In view of the current systematic lack of recognition in the ERIH lists, and in full support of similar complaints by the Canadian Association of Translation Studies and the Asociación Ibérica de Estudios de Traducción e Interpretación, the European Society for Translation Studies takes the following measures:

1. We urge the European Science Foundation to establish a category for Translation Studies as a discipline, as you have done for Gender Studies, Classical Studies, and Religious Studies.

2. We insist that any committee evaluating Translation Studies journal include some members who are experts in Translation Studies.
3. We urge our members not to use the ERIH lists for "bibliometric information or assessment processes of individual candidates, be it for positions, promotions, research grant awards etc." (as ERIH itself requests).

Please note that a full statement of our position is available online here:

http://www.est-translationstudies.org/resources/journal_rankings_erih_statement.html

Sincerely

Dr Anthony Pym