Mediation choice in immigrant communities. The case of Russian speakers in southern Catalonia

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Mediation choice

A range of options (mediation strategies) people can actively choose from
Translation technologies

Lingua francas

Mediation

WP 4

Public service interpreting and translation

Intercomprehension
Case study

• 51 Russian-speaking migrants in southern Catalonia

• Three Russian-speaking interviewers

• Interviews (52 items): mean duration 19.28 min., 938 min. total
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Respondents’ L1

- Russian: 72%
- Ukrainian: 10%
- Bielorussian: 4%
- Moldovan: 4%
- Other: 10%

- Russian 72%
- Other 10%
- Ukrainian 10%
- Bielorussian 4%
- Moldovan 4%
Professional activities

- Student
- Tourism
- Seller
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Housewife
- Teacher
- Entrepreneur
- Heavy machinery
- Manager
- Doctor
- Banker
- Journalist
- Builder
- Hairdresser
- Barwoman
- Humanitarian work
- Programmer
Level of studies

- Higher: 31
- Secondary: 20
Social inclusion

- **Interviewer:** Have you ever felt excluded in this community? Have you ever felt you’re an outsider? For example, because of your language or your origin?

- **F21 (BEL):** Of course, when you come to a foreign country and you don’t understand people and people do not understand you, then they simply ignore you. They don’t care about who you are and why you are here. But even when you have learned the language and you have achieved something, in some situations I feel like it’s bad not to be Spanish. For example, not long ago the official exams for sworn translators were announced. I was very upset because I couldn’t even take them as I didn’t have a Spanish passport.
Mediation strategies
Translation and interpreting

Have you ever been in need of translation?

Yes: 32
No: 19
Have you ever needed an interpreter?

72% No
28% Yes
Translation and interpreting

Even if you could use the services of translators/interpreters in all of your official dealings with administration in this country, would you still be interested in learning the main language of the country?

- **Yes**: 82%
- **No**: 18%
Lingua francas

• Is there any language which you consider more useful for you, than others? If yes, then why?
  – English (62%, global lingua franca)
  – Spanish (27%, because I live here)
  – Russian (11%, for work and communication)
  – Catalan (none)
Translation technologies

Do you use Google Translator or other online translating services?

76% Yes
24% No
Most frequent languages

Spanish
Russian
English
Catalan
French
Ukrainian
Other
Purpose

- Studies
- Communication
- Official information
- Technical words
- Any
- Everyday situations
Intercomprehension

• Slavic and Romance ✗

• Spanish and Catalan ✔
Conclusions

• Teaching of Russian at primary and secondary (local) schools
  – More inclusion
  – Immersion vs. plurilingual approaches of education
  – Economic benefits for the whole community
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Thank you!