



IAF Education Working Group

Welcome Document:

Dear ITWG member,

By means of this document, we as IAF Translations Working Group (ITWG) coordinators, would like to welcome you to the IAF translations working group, which is a subgroup of the IAF Education Working Group (EWG). We would like to take this moment to provide some background information about the group and hopefully answer any questions which you may have. Should you have further questions after reading this document, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Introduction and ethos:

“The ITWG (IAF Translations Working Group) was created in May 2018 with the objective of translating IAF publications into different languages and to thus facilitate dissemination of falconry related information and IAF publications to the wider falconry community, thereby bringing our global falconry family closer together” (2018 Report). In February of 2019, ITWG became one of the 5 formal subgroups which make up the EWG.

The IAF Education Working Group is responsible for setting the IAF education policy (within the framework provided by the president, secretariat and board) and for overseeing and assisting with the development of strategy for its subgroups.

As ITWG coordinators, we (Farooq Khan, Ilaria Cerli and Julian Mühle) are also members of the Education Working Group and in addition to coordinating this sub group we develop the strategy of ITWG and report both EWG decisions to this sub group and provide reports on this groups activities to the EWG. As of May 2020, several languages with more members than other languages will also have language leads who may contact you on behalf of the group (details may be found on the third page). We further welcome the suggestions and ideas from any ITWG member, you can drop us a brief email or message for suggestions or questions any time.

This is a volunteer based group of likeminded falconers from all over the world who volunteer their time and their linguistic skills to translate content for IAF and thus make information about falconry, raptor conservation and sustainable use available to as many members of the global falconry family as possible.

The idea is to make information about falconry available to as many people as possible and to thus bridge national and linguistic borders.

Dynamic:



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This group is united by our common goals and forms a community of falconers of all ages, backgrounds and from all countries. The group's primary medium of communication is emails which are sent out by the coordinators or by the language leads (with a coordinator in copy) to request the translation of a document. To this effect, we ask all members of ITWG to provide an email under which we may reach them when they first join the group, as well as the language(s) they can translate into and the country where they are from.

A further medium of communication is the Facebook group for this group, which is called "IAF Translations Working Group (ITWG)" (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/IAF.Translations/>). This closed group is used for announcements relevant to the group as a whole, but may also be used socially by ITWG members to post things related to falconry which they may wish to share (provided it conforms to the IAF Social media rules). Some specific languages with many participants may also be coordinated via WhatsApp groups. You may find documents such as the current ITWG strategy for this calendar year, updates, and other documents on this group. You may also request other documents which you may be interested in should you not be able to find them on the Facebook page (such as older strategy documents).

To date ITWG has translated over 600 documents for IAF and continues to translate more. Our primary translation tasks include translating the monthly IAF eBulletin, IAF Journal articles, content for the IAF Sustainable Use Websites (Perdixnet, Sakernet and AmFalCon) and documents for specific IAF working groups. At the moment that this document is being written, ITWG has a capacity to translate documents into over 35 languages and has over 200 members.

Since the group is growing extensively and we are adjusting the coordination capacities to address this we may not always manage to get in touch with all new members for a while, so we wanted to take a moment to virtually reach out to all of you (especially in these challenging times where we need to stay close to our families and friends).

As of this month, we are introducing four language-specific site leads for languages with many members. These languages shall be Spanish, French, Polish and Arabic. For those who are active in those languages, you will be contacted by the specific language lead in the future. All emails from language leads will continue to copy at least one coordinator so that we may assist with any questions and help with the implementation. Please remember, even if in the past you used to get more emails from one of our coordinators directly but may be contacted by a language lead more frequently as of now, you can always reach out to us with any questions or just to check in.



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This is part of a slight restructuring which has become necessary for some languages in the ITWG due to so many enthusiastic falconers contacting us to help. Ideally, for each major language (measured by member capacity), we would like to have a language lead, who will help coordinate and will have the contact details of each person for this language; a Priority 1 member with a high degree of proficiency and enthusiasm who has offered to translate documents on a very short notice (1 or 2 days), and a revisionist, who shall be a very experienced member of the group who will assist with correcting the first translations of new members and periodically and randomly check the proficiency of all members within that language section. We envision this to provide a more pronounced support system and more points of contact who can help all ITWG members with questions that they may have. Of course, each member will also have us as coordinators whom they can approach to ask any questions they may have or for any issues or suggestions, which may arise.

We will keep you all updated and posted, via email and via the Facebook group about any further changes and developments for the group as a whole.

As ever, on behalf of the IAF, we would like to thank each of you for all the hard work which you have undertaken for our art. It is very much appreciated and significantly strengthens the global falconry community.

With Warm Wishes,

Ilaria Cerli,
Farooq Khan,
Julian Mühle.