

English



COATI

Colectivo para la Autogestión de Tecnologías para la Interpretación

(Collective for the Self-organisation of Interpreting Technologies)

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COATI is a not-for-profit group that works to build and maintain collective interpreting tools based on the experience of DIY self-organisation and open source.

We come together from different struggles and cultures to meet, share ideas and experiences, and coordinate actions. Crossing borders and cultures also means crossing language barriers, and interpreting can be a vital tool for social movements that take their struggle across linguistic borders. However, commercial solutions are extremely expensive, putting them out of the reach of many groups and social movements.

Self-organised solutions are an important part of our political ideas and these require patience and hard work. In order to work with interpreting, it is necessary to give sufficient consideration to interpreting techniques and technologies. Ensuring it works requires time, human resources and technical understanding.

COATI works together with groups and social movements to find economical, workable and dynamic solutions to these problems.

What we offer :

- **Consultation and advice** about possible interpreting and sound system solutions for events;
- **Alternative interpreting technology** and technicians;
- **Training** for volunteers as interpreters and/or technicians, to help organizations attain autonomy;
- **Awareness raising** and resources about the political importance of language and working in multilingual meetings.

COATI is based in Barcelona, Catalonia, but we participate in events all over the world, so don't hesitate to contact us for a quote.

COATI Technology

The solutions we offer have all been designed and self-built within the social movements. They are an alternative to expensive commercial equipment.

This means that we offer comparable technical specifications to commercial equipment, focusing on other priorities.

We are not a service provider. We work together with the social movements, and try to balance values such as accessibility, ecology, flexibility, autonomy and dynamic working hours, with maximising aesthetic and technological specifications.

The equipment we are currently using is a self-built, alternative system. It relies on the active collaboration of technicians, interpreters, event organizers and the public to provide all the features of conference interpreting equipment.

In this way, we can offer sound equipment and interpretation technology to cover everything from small meetings to ambitious big events, democratizing access to interpreting capabilities and dramatically reducing the costs.

Language is about power

People participating in a meeting in a foreign language are easily marginalised, and meetings are often dominated by people who are comfortable with the main language of the meeting (usually colonial languages such as English, Spanish and French). It is therefore everybody's responsibility to increase the equality of our communication and create space for more minority languages. There are some really basic things you can do to work towards this.

**SPEAK SLOWLY !
SPEAK CLEARLY !**

Think about the words you use

- use short sentences
- use simple words
- avoid slang
- take care to say special details clearly (e.g. names, dates, acronyms, places etc.)

Make sure people can see you.

Don't interrupt! This is basic respect, but it is extra important because when several people speak at the same time it becomes impossible to understand or translate.

And remember, interpreters and technicians are people, not machines.
Treat them with respect !

