language is power

It is easy for people participating in a meeting in a language that is not their mother tongue to be marginalised. Because of this, international gatherings and/or debates tend to be dominated by those people who feel comfortable in the language being used in the meeting (normally colonial languages, and particularly English). It is everybody's responsibility to work for equality in our communication and create space for minority languages, and there are some very basic things that you can do to help with this.

COATI

(english)

Colectivo para la Autogestión de Tecnologías para la Interpretación

We offer:

- Advice for events about possible solutions for audio and interpreting;
- Technicians and alternative technology for sound-systems and interpreting;
- Training for volunteer interpreters and sound technicians to help organisations achieve autonomy;
- Resources and information about the political importance of language and ways of working in multilingual spaces.

coati@pimienta.org

http://coati.pimienta.org

COATI is based in Barcelona, but we participate in events all over Europe and beyond.

Some basic points for working with interpreters:

USE THE MICROPHONE
SPEAK SLOWLY
SPEAK CLEARLY

THINK ABOUT THE WORDS YOU USE:

- Use short sentences
- Use simple words
- Avoid using salng
- Take care to say specific details clearly (e.g. names, dates, aconyms, places etc.)

MAKE SURE PEOPLE CAN SEE YOU

DON'T INTERRUPT!
This is basic respect and it is more important here because when several people speak at the same time it is impossible to understand and to translate.

… and remember, the interpreters and technicians are human beings, not machines. Treat them with respect!

COATI

Colectivo para la Autogestión de Tecnologías para la Interpretación

COATI is a not-for-profit collective based in Barcelona. We work together with groups and social movements to overcome linguistic barriers.

Interpreting can be a vitally important tool, however professional solutions are extremely expensive, and can be unaffordable for many groups.

Ensuring that interpreting and interpreting technologies function requires time, human resources and understanding.

We work to build and maintain dynamic, functional and cheap collective interpreting tools based on the D.I.Y. And *open source* experiences, because self-organisation is an important part of our political ideas.

THE TECHNOLOGY

The system we are using here is similar to professional technology, but it transmits using FM radio waves instead of Infrared. This means that it may be more vulnerable to interference, and sound quality may not be the same as a professional system. Nevertheless, this system extends access to interpreting and drastically reduces costs, making it possible to use much more participatory dynamics.

Self organised solutions are an important part of our political ideas, and they require patience and hard work.

How does my receiver work?

It is a normal FM radio receiver that you have to tune to the frequency for the language you want to listen to. If you have a problem, tell one of the technicians, and we will try to fix it.

Frequency

Tune

Off

On

Volume Control

Headphone socket