

Cochrane Translations – Frequently Asked Questions

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Translating Cochrane content into other languages is a priority for us. We are always pleased to hear from translators interested in joining our local teams of volunteers who work to make Cochrane Reviews available in their language.

If you would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer translator, please read the frequently asked questions below.

Which languages do you translate into?

Thanks to the hard work of our volunteer teams, we currently translate into Chinese (simplified and traditional), Croatian, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Malay, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tamil and Thai. If your language is not included yet, keep reading to learn what else you can do.

Why do you translate into some languages, but not others?

Translation is a big need in many non-English speaking countries, but it is also a big job! It requires a lot of resources to start and coordinate a project, even if there are a lot of volunteers. If we don't translate into your language, then that's usually either because the need for translations is not very critical in that language (e.g. Scandinavian countries), and / or because there are no resources, and no one has come forward yet who can initiate a project. Maybe you can?

What do you translate?

We mainly translate abstracts and plain language summaries of Cochrane Reviews from English into your language. You can learn more about Cochrane Reviews [here](#).

Can I choose what I want to translate?

Yes, you can usually choose which Cochrane Reviews you want to translate. We do recommend translations focus on recently published Reviews. Some translation teams prioritise specific areas of health that are of particular relevance to their country. But generally, translators can choose the topics that interest them.

Can I join even if I don't have any experience?

Yes. While any experience in health, translation, writing or editing is an advantage, it is not a compulsory requirement. Anybody willing to lend their time and skills to our projects is welcome, and we will do our best to support you while you gain more experience, if you wish.

How does the translation process work?

We use an online platform for translation that is freely available for all volunteers. Team coordinators and experienced volunteers work as editors and will review your work before it is published. You can also contact them if you have questions or if you need advice.

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Do I have to commit to a minimum amount of work?

No. In terms of number of translations, volunteer translators do as many or as few as they like, according to their availability. Translators are also free to work at their own pace, not to deadlines.

What is in it for me?

Luckily for us, our volunteers see it as a personal reward to contribute to Cochrane, because they believe in what we do, and like to be part of our organisation. Contributing as a translator can also be a learning experience and equip you with new skills. While we cannot offer payment to our volunteers, your name will appear next to your translations to acknowledge your contribution. We offer certificates and references, once you have translated a certain amount, in recognition of your work.

What can I do if you don't translate into my language at the moment?

Another way to be involved is to translate podcasts of Reviews, which can be translated into any language. Please join our mailing list and follow us on Twitter: @CochraneLingual, to stay informed about opportunities for podcast translation, as well as new developments and opportunities.

You can also take a look at Cochrane Task Exchange, a platform where our contributors post tasks they need help with. Many of these are translation tasks, so why not see if there are any you can help with. Finally, you can also explore other ways of getting involved with Cochrane.

How do I join?

If you want to join Cochrane as a volunteer translator, or have any other questions, please contact Hayley Hassan (hhassan@cochrane.org), Cochrane's Translations Support Officer.