

SULF:s kongress 2024

Make the 2027 Congress fully bilingual!

We greatly appreciate the introduction of one-way simultaneous interpretation from Swedish to English at the plenary sessions of the 2024 Congress. Of the ten members of the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association Board, for example, only two are fluent in Swedish, so the availability of English language support drastically enhances access to SULF's internal democratic processes.

We believe that there is substantial untapped potential to recruit and engage new SULF members by positioning ourselves as a bilingual organisation. This would align with the ambitions of many of the country's higher education institutions, which strive to operate as bilingual workplaces.

SULF has historically faced challenges in recruiting and engaging members from STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and medicine). For a long time, there have been no local SULF associations at specialist universities like the Karolinska Institute or KTH Royal Institute of Technology. These are environments where English is the primary working language, and where many colleagues are recruited internationally. At large multi-faculty universities such as Uppsala and Lund, meanwhile, as local SULF associations we are increasingly conducting our work in English as well as in Swedish.

The cost of translation and interpretation services should be evaluated in light of the long-term potential for SULF's growth. For example, the cost of providing simultaneous interpretation at the 2024 Congress, including all committees (utskott), was estimated at approximately 800,000 kronor: this is equivalent to the membership fees from just 80 new members over the congress period.

As competition between trade unions for new members intensifies, embracing bilingualism could set SULF apart from the competition, making it the obvious choice for thousands of our colleagues who do not speak Swedish but wish to join a union.

The SULF Doctoral Candidate Association, SULF/Lund and SULF/Uppsala therefore submit that the Congress decide:

- that the SULF Executive Board shall make the necessary arrangements to offer two-way simultaneous interpretation and translated documents (to English) at all stages of the 2027 Congress, unless a thorough consideration of costs versus long-term benefits strongly suggests otherwise.

We wrote this motion in English. Below is our proposal for decision in Swedish.

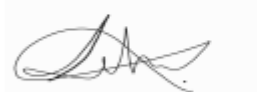
SULF:s doktorandförening, SULF/Lund och SULF/Uppsala hemställer därför:

- att SULF:s förbundsstyrelse får i uppdrag att beställa tvåvägssimultantolkning och översättning av handlingar (till engelska) till alla skeden av 2027 års kongress, om inte en noggrann övervägning av kostnader kontra långsiktiga fördelar starkt talar emot detta.

For the SULF Doctoral Candidate Association

Mohamed Al-Sabri

Chairperson



For SULF/Lund

Brian Thorsbro

Chairperson



For SULF/Uppsala

Paulina Rajkowska

Vice Chairperson

