

## Interpreting about climate change – motivation for climate action



I started translating environment related texts in 2005, when I was working on an EU-supported project for preparation of the National Environmental Strategy. During this time, I came across EU directives on water, air, nature, noise, chemicals, access to environmental information... Even then I was amazed by all those documents that obliged EU member states to guarantee a clean and healthy environment to their citizens.

About this time I also started translating climate change related documents. This was mainly due to the cooperation with UNDP and the climate change projects they initiated and implemented over the past 20 years. It was a new topic and it involved translation of texts that had not been translated into Macedonian until then. The texts originally in English had some new terms for which there were no Macedonian equivalents yet. For me, this was a big challenge, and when translating (especially from English to Macedonian) I often had to consult the experts working on the projects or experts at the faculties or the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts (such as carbon footprint, resistance etc.). Hence, due to the need for good translation of relevant terms that would invoke the closest meaning in Macedonian we created a database of terms which, thanks to the efforts of UNDP and the Office of Public Communication at the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, was published as a [climate change glossary](#). This glossary contains more than 1000 terms directly related to climate change.

Through these work assignments I developed a great love for the subject and I learned a lot. I learned what climate change is, what measures are needed to mitigate it, how to adapt to climate change and what climate actions we can take.

This connection of mine with climate change, as well as the knowledge and understanding of the subject, has certainly affected other areas of my life. As a member and President of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Macedonia, I try to share environmental concerns and climate change information with my colleagues in the Association. In order to be innovative and make our events environmentally friendly, in February we organized the [first "green" annual assembly](#). This was an event with which we showed that we really care what kind of environmental impact our activities have.

I really try to pass my knowledge and attitudes to my younger colleagues I often work with, hoping that they will, with the same enthusiasm, incorporate the environmental component into their daily professional activities and continue to develop and update climate change terminology, as well as share information they obtained when translating climate change texts.

Due to my professional involvement in this area, in my master thesis I also incorporated a special overview of climate change terminology.

We can see that the climate has changed significantly, compared to the time when we were children, when we had long dry summer and cold winter. In the recent years we can see that there are events with heavy rainfall (we could see the effects of the floods in Skopje and Tetovo in 2015) and dry periods (such as this winter, almost without any snow). All this affects availability of water for irrigation of the crops, for electricity production which on the other hand affects the price of products and electricity, something that we are all concerned about.



We should all start thinking seriously about what we can do to mitigate climate change. Although sometimes our personal or family actions may seem insignificant, yet if we all work together (certainly led by the state and the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning) we can influence the situation in our immediate surroundings. We need to think about our own carbon footprint, how we contribute to pollution and how we can reduce it. We can avoid plastic, choose a greener vehicle, use public transport or bicycles, save household water....

The biggest change has to happen in our minds, we need to realize that this planet and its natural resources are not here for us, but that we are just one link in the chain through which we are connected to all living beings on the Earth.