

Simultaneous interpreters for any language – both live and via video conference
German, French, English, Italian, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, Portuguese etc.

INTERPRETING AGENCY avl interpreters llc

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Blog post: On site or online – why not both?

Many companies, associations and organisations are reluctant to hold large events, even though they are necessary for the flow of information, for personal exchange and for communication in general. The uncertainty associated with the development of the pandemic raises serious questions about logistics and responsibility. The question is whether or not to meet in person. Or in other words, face to face or only via a screen?

And if both were possible in parallel? If a certain number of participants - determined by the evolving health situation, the size of the meeting room or the social distancing imposed by the organiser - can be present on site while the others participate from their offices or from home? And this with almost the same opportunities for participation for both groups:

On-site participation	Remote participation (eg via Zoom)
✓ View of the projected presentation	✓ View of the presentation projected on your screen
✓ View of the speaker	✓ View of the speaker via frame-in-frame speaker video
✓ Verbal intervention through hand raising	✓ Intervention through virtual hand raising and using headsets
✓ Voting by show of hands	✓ Voting via mouse click
✓ Simultaneous interpreting via radio signal or via Smartphone (strong WLAN or 4G connection required)	✓ Simultaneous interpretation via Zoom (up to 8 languages in parallel)
✓ Recording of the conference (requires additional equipment)	✓ Recording of the conference with just one click

The only thing for which we are still lacking an adequate virtual substitute is a handshake with the other participants. However, the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) currently strongly advises against this anyway, even on-site.

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Equipment

In addition to the technical equipment for the interpreters, all you need for a low-budget hybrid scenario is a suitable video conference tool (e.g. Zoom), one or more laptops, a camera and a wireless microphone for the speaker. With this basic equipment, in particular internal conferences with a manageable range can be realised very easily. A wired Internet connection is an important prerequisite for attractive sound and image quality.

External or generally more public conferences require a little more material and planning. Major quality improvements can be achieved with sophisticated lighting and sound technology and with professional support from a team of technicians. In this sense, nothing stands in the way of high-resolution livestream. What is necessary, desired and feasible depends on the occasion - and not least on the available financial resources.

Hybrid solutions - the order of the day

All combinations between on-site events and e-conferences are conceivable and the proportion of on-site and online viewers can usually be changed at short notice. This allows great flexibility in times of great uncertainty and thus offers the best possible protection to all participants. In addition to these pandemic-related advantages, the simplest hybrid solutions are also financially attractive, as participants living further away can avoid the long journey and thus save both money and time. The interpreters do not have to be on site in all scenarios either, and the interpreter booth can therefore sometimes be included in the list of possible savings - together with the costs of transport, set-up, and dismantling.

Given the practical and economic benefits, hybrid events will certainly remain useful beyond the duration of the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. And if we come up with another brilliant idea, such as how to bring handshakes into the Internet, we will be prepared for anything. Until then, we will shake your hand virtually and look forward to your individual hybrid event.

Sincerely,

avl interpreters llc