S9 transcript

S9: Hello.

Mod: Hello, thank you very much for agreeing to take part in, in the project. And thank you very much for standing your consent form I have just received it. So just before we start I, and before I start recording, can you hear me properly?

S9: Yes, I can hear you very well. Can you? Yes, yes.

Mod: Good. Do you have any questions as to project or anything? Not clear or? Not really,

S9: I honestly, in one year in the office, we didn't really get a chance to speak about it. I'm very I find it very interesting. But I have only a broad idea of your research. So hope I will be responding in a way that you would be interested. But yeah, no questions. So not.

Mod: I mean, I'm not looking into the ETFs was about language. So that's the main thing. I'm just looking for your perspective and your opinion about the language use. So that's generally the the main idea behind it. So the language policy within the network. So any answers that you give will, will be useful for me anyway.

Mod: So I'll start recording now.

S9: Okay

Mod: so just let you know, of course, roughly about 20 questions, but most of them are very easy. And they will start with your background information, because I wasn't able to observe you in Turkey, obviously. A little bit more about your role there. And then we'll move on to translations. Man-, internet, where communication and then just the closing question at the end. So let's just start with your background information.

Mod: So how many years have you worked in the NGO sector for?

S9: work, like professional paid work? Or does that include voluntary work as well?

Mod: any

S9:Okay, with 20 years that starts from 2001.

Mod: So it's 17 years, then? That's pretty massive experience, I'd say? And how many years have you been working for CAN?

S9: Pretend this is my fourth year?@ So I started in in the beginning of 2015.

Mod: So could you describe your role in CAN Europe? In general, then I'll move on to your role backing Turkey. So what do you what are your responsibilities in Kenya?

S9: Sure, so my title says, content energy policy coordinator for Turkey. So that includes Well, in terms of titles, we always have policy coordinators in CAN Europe is you know, but so that entails caught some of the climate change policy work and energy, but more focusing on coal, policy work, but also supports two different campaigns of different members and partners in Turkey and elsewhere. in the country, whenever that links to an issue with Turkey, so for instance, if it's a cold investor, German cold investor investing in Turkey, then I also work with German NGOs, for instance.

Mod: And how is how is it different to work outside of the Brussels office view? Because I've seen how the people work. And I know more or less how the sort of daily tasks are performed, but I assume yours is your role is slightly different because you play somewhere else. And you probably work with other organizations, closer than the people that are working, can you have office, where they have to focus on the members as a whole? Obviously, they have special groups, but I believe yours is slightly different. Could you tell me a little bit more about how you're different?

S9: Sure. So the difference that I have is that I'm based on the ground, so on the ground meaning so for instance, the Balkans policy coordinator who used to be dragged on as you know, now she left off urgently, but she left. Yes, now there is a new person in the office. Not yet. But he's moving from Bosnia to Brussels to replace Dragana. But so the difference with that is that that's also reason coordinate. But then being based in Brussels, makes that person like that Balkans policy corner to work more on the European hooks for the Balkans climate and energy policies, and then support them. So mine is different because a turkey, Turkish turkey relationships are not as tight as Balkans you relationships. So from the policy side, there's like, limited stuff that one can do for Turkey based being based in Brussels. So that's why I'm also based in Turkey, not in Brussels. That's one thing. So the link with the EU policies, like my words, language, or your policies is sort of limited. And whenever there is an opportunity or occasion we try to use that, but it doesn't come like every day. Um, and then secondly, I'm based on the ground. So as you said, as well, I'm in various different and working groups. So and CAN Europe Secretariat, I'm a part of the no-coal team. And then also I join the meetings of trillions team, the subsidies, the team that works in subsidies, but also here in Turkey on in and different groups with different NGOs, and sometimes local groups, like when it's a more site specific campaign that I'm supporting,

MOd: in a way you work with specific organizations on the ground in Turkey, when there is something going on means a call area, or are they planning to build a new call? Is that?

6:38

S9:Yes. So that is one kind of work that I I do in coordination with other groups, or then. And if there is an climate policy related meeting and unkind, organized by ministries, then I find myself in a different group of NGOs, as well as the advocacy for for climate ambition and that stuff.

Mod:So do you, like some of the people in groups are in both circles? But then most of the time? They're different groups of people. Okay, and the next question would be, could you tell me? What type of communication technologies do you use to communicate with do what ization is integrity?

7:36

S9:So it's, you know, official email address. And then WhatsApp is pretty much used here for purposes as well, because WhatsApp is encrypted, its end to end encryption. So when there's more of this stuff that people are we don't want to be dead, we're going to be sicker and sicker. My WhatsApp is also being used.

Mod: That's interesting to mention that. So why would you hide things? Like would it be information about you, for instance, get from someone from let's say, Brussels, and then pass it on to your organization? Or would it just be normal? er day to day, talk about your tasks, so work related, but you wouldn't want this to be sort of accessed by someone like a third party?

8:39

S9: Yes. So it's just an attempt to Turkey to enjoy being sort of under pressure by the by the authorities. So for instance, we learn on our phone are tracked and listened. That number was a fact, I have an example to explain this as well, if it's interesting for you. And so for instance, if I'm talking with a campaign or colleague in Turkey or someone at a local level, talking about this coal mine project, and then like sometime, or if there is a Chinese Turkish investment, sideways cetera, that is definitely delicate information. And that could be used against us if it's tracked. And if someone wants to pick up on us from the authorities dummy call each other on WhatsApp. So it's like WhatsApp calls. WhatsApp, audio, typing, chatting on WhatsApp, kind of like, that's usually how we use WhatsApp. Or then there's one WhatsApp groups, that people alerts each other. So for instance, if there is a at the moment, there's a major new lignite plant in mind, that is planned in Turkey. So there's lots of people at the local level, and national international levels could exchange information around this one specific project that is pushing at the moment. Yes, this is this is one of the issues that you must take into consideration when you work in countries like, you know, we've got delicate matters, I assume maybe in Poland would be similar situation? Because we so based on coal, in a way, it's all delicate.

Mod: But now, this question is slightly linked to what I want to do in the project. And it's linked to what you said. So what languages do you use in your role on a daily basis? I assume it's Turkish.

S9: Turkish English, depending on what kind of week that is. So if there's more stuff, so my written language is English or Turkish again, so it always depends on the context. But I also speak French. So for instance, in 2015, we ran this campaign with French, a nose and Turkish local groups and national groups against this one, French investor in Turkey, Nicole and Mr. Turkey. And then like, Damn date night, day to day basis, I was using my French and English as well. So it's kind of depends on the daily or the week, but mostly Turkish. And that's like the main wish.

Mod: And then if we go back to the encrypted calls, like with the organizations that use it contact through WhatsApp, would you consider using other language, Turkish without you think, change the situation, or at least make it more secure?

S9: Not really, but we never tried it.

Mod: I guess they also have translations. But yeah, I just want to test to clear this, if there are any questions that you think are silly, it's just me asking them because I need to know a little bit more about your background, and I don't know much about you or anything, so I just need to gain a bit more understanding. So bear with me. So you said you use Turkish as the main and then English as a second language in your role. But which language? Is there a preference? Do you have any preferences to using any of those languages? In your communication?

S9: m, no, I mean, it's not reference, but it depends on the issue, because I do like, like, I translate in between the two as well, because of my, my task of coordinating Turkish a little efforts with European effort. So quite a part of my daily task is translating content, it doesn't have to be like a mo, Mo, kind of translation from language is but like to notice or communicate different kind of information from the ground Turkey, to CAN Europe, plus the European groups, I have to like think English, like whatever understanding Chinese or paraphrase at least, English and then the other way around for Turkey, so just one recent example is that technical issue. That is that is already in force. And the capacity mechanism is very technical. So I'm not gonna bother you with that. But that is being er. So so in Turkey. So now me, I've prepared this briefing. We think it's hot in Turkey. In English, because it's a draft, I need input and feedback from people [Secretariat and other MOs]. And I, I didn't monitor testing every technical language and in Turkish to English and under the same thing from English around. So I just, yeah, it's kind of fun. When there's jobs, I put my notes in whatever language that comes easy for me, but in the final version be decided. So it's not preference, but we decided better we have this briefing in, in both languages, like into full full final form. Or then maybe it's one make sense to have it in English anymore. It's more of a national thing that we do only in Turkish.

Mod: So now that we mentioned the translations. So you said you have to translate documents. So for instance, let's suppose you receive a relevant document from the Secretariat, which is in English, obviously. So what do you normally do with it before passing on information? I know he said, he knows you, you know, translatable to work. But what do you normally do with the information that you think is relevant to the partner or member organizations in Turkey, before passing that information or the document to them?

S9: Come in, and when I'm sending to if it's the general list, like the mailing list and take it on a part of like the coal or working group, or the climate, working group, this decision, and if if the piece of document is more of a heads up for your new record, or something like that, and then I just like, like, I forwarded, Turkish just kind of like summarizing what this is about, and what it says. And I always put like, these notes below in English, just get back to me, if I don't understand something like, I don't translate everything. But then, if it smells like it calls to action, or if it is a petition, like, we want people to act like Turkish groups to engage and get active, then I go into the more of a tailor made, so I don't again, translate everything, word by word, but put it into context in Turkey, and why we would need Turkish groups to engage? And then and then send the email that way.

16:24

Mod: Okay. So he wouldn't translate everything, just bits and pieces? And how would you? I don't know the situation with the NGOs. Do you know how they feel about working in English, what did they say, if you if you said only a paraphrase of what the document is about and send the English version as the full document? Did they normally respond a lot to you asking questions about things, or (.) is English in generally, in general, very well understood and taken among the NGOs in Turkey,

S9; err English language groups such as Greenpeace and mp 50. And so colleagues in these groups have English as one of the languages. So if I'm specifically sending some documents to these colleagues only, and I wouldn't, we want to add, I like paraphrasing, but just tell them to check it out, or Mexico etc. But I also know from nationally like, like, for instance, some legal advocacy groups like [name of an organization], like they're all very experienced, and senior lawyers, but who don't necessarily understand English that much, and finding their engagement, then, that I do have faced quite a bit. And then I sort of like personally get in touch saying that stuck, I couldn't help if there's something that going on, what usually happens is that they don't come back to me asking for translations, but they dealing with it inside their organization. So they usually have at least one person who's fluent in English and who can help.

18:14

Mod: Very interesting, I'm just really trying to grasp everything. It's been some time studies. So you do the translation. So I just have to look through the questions, I marked the ones that we've already covered. So if you had a choice, would you prefer to receive documents from the Secretariat in like, a ready made products in your own language already? Or is English enough for you to think is,

S9: I guess English would be still would still be good for me. Because, as I said, like I don't, I don't prefer sending like translations, because the context doesn't really like doesn't always fit. I mean, for Turkish. Turkish context, as a CAN Europe person, I try to filter out like the opportunities that will help groups here. So not every single thing relates them. But if there is like, I mean, one document could come from the Secretariat on the fossil fuel subsidies, very technical stuff. But if I can filter out like, one thing, that would be interesting for us, meaning roots in Turkey, like us being raised in Turkey, to do something about it, and for our members and our partners to engage, then I put it I always put into context. So even if those documents would come in Turkish, I would still add at least three sentences in the beginning to put that into context.

Mod: Okay. Yeah, that's probably very happily them for them. Okay. And now as we, as we move to the next set of questions, it's, it's about internet and network communication. So it's not only the Turkish context, but the whole network in, you know, you obviously have to communicate with them as well, for instance, to keep them updated, or so on. But, yeah, I would like you to think about the two context Turkey and Europe as a whole. So are you finding the language practices in CAN Europe network, a different experience from what you expected? Prior to joining? CAN Europe? So did you have any type of expectations as to how the communication would look like, in such wide network of organizations? (.) ? Can you hear me Me?

S9: Yes. I didn't really have expectations, because English in CAN international voices comes to email groups. I'm and I don't know how many. Again, it's all of us in the Secretariat that way. So it's reaching out to different groups at different levels?

21:34

So I didn't know I didn't know how much to expect. So I didn't know I can't really compare, because I didn't know what to expect before starting Really?

Mod: And would you describe what you think about? language role in CAN Europe?

S9: Yes, I mean, one thing that comes to my mind, er is the policy on language versus normal, my normal language. So that is one that is sort of important to be able to translate in English language to the normal life. language, because sometimes, especially because of, I cannot do this all the time, it's kind of international, because that's a bigger network. I'm not the only International, when it comes to mind if people see processes and climate negotiation, so people work on policy stuff, or like certain agreements and legal documents, they sort of take it for granted. That kind of language the er and abbreviation is all that stuff.

MOd: uhm

S9: So it is, it is important to keep in mind and in big networks like that, to be able to translate like at least like, not everything of course, if someone does only legislative process, then you cannot translate everything to that person. But then still in a way to, to define a process so that the people at least could follow what the issue is, and what is big news around it. Because otherwise, it's it feels like it's too much. For CAN Europe too much EU bubble oriented. So it's kind of hard to reach out outside that bubble that we want to influence and for international for CAN international it'sthe UNFCCC erm (.) audience that will be targeted. So it's usually good to have people who ask questions, and who assess the policy document, whatever, er (.) in a more normal er (.) day to day language.

24:00

MOd: And when you say language in the CAN international network, is it English as well, I assume it is?

S9: It is English. Yes. But then it becomes very technical at times because Because we're talking about agreements in legal stuff.

Mod: Yeah. I saw that on the General Assembly. @

S9: @ jibblish for someone who doesn't follow

Mod: Yeah. even for the people, er (.) I spoke to one of the er i don't remember his name but he was from Sweden. And he was I don't remember which organization he was representing. But we just had an informal chat. And he said, You know, I sit down on those presentations and note down all the words and abbreviations because I don't understand them. And it's a learning curve for me to, you know, so yeah, this has been also mentioned the other night obligations with mentioned several times when I spoke to people, either in the office or inside of the office. Okay. Now, English, would you describe what you think about English being a dominant language? for communication in the network?

S9: How would you like me to describe it, like from a language perspective, or like, its practicalities?

Mod: erm both?

S9: uhm (2)

Mod: so, your own opinion about that? I just, I'm just looking for your opinion, really, on? the experience that you have in terms of /communciation

S9: /yeah/

Mod: and it could be practicalities or whatever you think is relevant

S8: yeah, I mean, it's, I can't really think of, like it's good to raise this question, because these are the stuff that you never think of you just take it for granted, @

Mod: @

S9: that is the widest, I mean the language that is spoken by widest in the world. So obviously, it makes it practical.

Mod: uhm

S9: erm But then also, also, we use simplified English. So poor language @ you know, like we kind of masacre the language by using it in a more, you know simplified way@, right. That's kind of pity for hte langauge itself@

Mod: @

S9: but. So, (.)yeah, I mean, it's er I find like, personally, I find that English is not really the most creative language to be USED, for all like for ALL contexts that we want to communicate around. I mean, I can tell it because I also speak in French. And sometimes, Turkish is not creative at all. So English is way better than@

Mod: @

S9: Turkish is on that sense. But like, in some contexts, or some creative writing in a press release is sometimes a phrase would sound much better than French because there's, I don't know, there is sometimes a word for a feeling or for a story, you know, but then again, I can't like I'm saying this for English, but I'm not a native English speaker. So my knowledge of English is not that big. So it's kind of hard for me to say that, like, yeah, English is lacking, this and that because maybe it's not lacking, but its me lacking @

Mod: @

S9: that part of English@

Mod: well, Your English is very good. I can't see any non creative things in your

S9: @ thank you

Mod: I can relate to we say in terms of learning other languages.So you say English is the practical, but not always the best means in terms of communication, when it is in in the communication? Do you ever feel at a disadvantage position? Because of the fact that English is the language for communication in the network? So we touched a little bit on what you said previously about the

Maybe things that we don't know about English, because we are not native speakers?

28:19

S9: Well, yes, I mean obviously native speakers would have more er more advantage in terms of creative writing, I mean I can see that like if I draw a press releases in in in English, that I wouldn't get right away because I know that, er I can feel that I am missing some vocabulary down, I'm not being like, totally like, my pressure is not being that attractive, so I would definitely to send it to someone in native language to make it a little fancier with better er vocabulary.

Mod: uhm

S9: So in that sense, yes, we can put the disadvantage that way. Like I would think twice, whatever I am writing

Mod: uhm

S9: and that's, that, I think that could also apply to internal communications, so between colleagues who are on the list, because I would like to make sure that I'm not implying somethin else when I write something. So it's the TONE of voice, especially in written language. The tone of voice could be sometimes tricky for the non native speakers. er So I double check what I write like before sending an important email to different lists, etc. Whereas a native speaker, I think that that would be more straightforward, they would er immediately know like, like set the tone of voice from the beginning of the email way. And sometimes I need to go and correct my own email to make sure that it's not misunderstood.

29:47

Mod: Now thinking about your own context, your er you know, French English and Turkish is your native language, do you also know any other languages. I mean, do you speak any other languages to speak.

S9: Portuguese I can understand and in Spanish as well, but I cannot write like long emails in these languages.@

30:13

Mod: but you still know even bits and pieces in those languages

S9:yes

Mod: Do you think if we turn the question in to the advantages, this gives you the advantages well over someone who only speaks, let's say Turkish, or Turkish and English, in Turkey, I'm talking about the groups that are involved in Turkey.

S9: Yes, definitely. Like, like, knowing these other langauges definitely gives a er and advantage, like at least yeah even for, Portuguese and Spanish , like if it's only in that language, I can still click onreport if I'm interested and skim through to see the general lines and and that's not bad like it's

Mod: uhm

S9: er (.) and it's er (.) and the same goes for French and English. So that has er definitely advantage been er (.)

Mod: so you mean you wouldn't be able to access that information like the others without/

S9: /yes/

Mod: the knoweledge

S9; yes

Mod: Do you have any examples of maybe that er does anything like come to mind/?

S9: uhm

Mod: of language knowledge and access to/

S9: /Yes! Like One example was this campaign that I mentioned you about in 2015, we did a joint campaign with French groups, so [name of organization] and [name of organization] and then CAN France [RAC France] [name of organization] was helping out etc. and the local groups here with a little help from national groups. So that was helpful for me, to follow up the 'Engine' - 'Engine' is the name of the utility, French utility, I can write it to you if you are interestes. [ writes on a keyboard the name of the utility]

Mod: yes, thank you.

S9: So because I could follow the campaign, because I was interestesd anyways even without like er before finding the Turkish hook (.), that helped like kicking off the campaign, AND one example is that So we were doing a joint action, it was a day of action, our French colleagues were opening a banner IN PARIS in front of the 'Engie' headquarters, saying that 'ENGIE stop (unintelligible) like the plans like the power plant in Turkish er in in Turkey, and then I was with local communities in [unintelligible name of place] Bay where the plant was planned. And we were holding banners in three languages because this was like it was Turkish, English and French. And I think if I wan't there on the ground the French banner wouldn't be there. And then French groups used that photo with the French messaging, because it was a day of action. And the message was given to the French utility base in Paris. And so, you know the French they're, like@ , with English, they're like they're bit lazy. So they're always prefer using French messaging and stuff. So that was helpful in that content.

Mod: Thank you That's with the French yeah@

S9: @

Mod: they must have been really happy with you being there with the banner in French@ now we touched upon the things aobut passing the information, and so on. So the CAN Euroipe network is a type of organization that really relies heavily on passing the information. So the next question is, have there been any instances where when you could not get access to relevant information that you needed because of the language barrier? I know, we said that you had an advantaged situation because you know, other languages.

S9:yeah

MoD: But on the other side, have you experienced any sort of language barriers where you could not yet relevant information. And you knew that the infomration was somewhere there?

S9: sometimes that happens, tat still happens, that's not like a concrete example, like that some infomration that I really wanted to get but I couldn't because of language barrier kind of example I don't have. But for instance, if there's an urgent like there was a last minute development in and in the Netherlands or in or Germany, I don't speak Dutch or German.

Mod: uhm

S9: and then something important that we want to use that I would like to use that to pass on to Turkish groups so that this news becomes a news piece in Turkey

Mod: uhm

S9: So for instance, (unintelligible) phasing out of coal like that is something key. And it could be a good to react to that in Turkish media, like on the same day then it becomes difficult because like the groups share their press release, in their own language or then if they have a reports in their own language ON the DAY of the event, because of course, it's it takes time. And then we can get the English translation or translation to any other language and I can understand, in a couple of days. So sometimes it makes it it makes that information to er to to spread out with a little bit of delay. So

Mod: uhm OK. but you still get that /information in English

S9: /Yes.

Mod; And that's through the means of English, you said?

S9: Yes, it is.

Mod: if it is, er it is not from French speaking Africa but obviously, somewhere in Europe where things would be translated to French instead of English, then you would also have access to that.

S9: yes

MOd: Okay, thank you. Right, we've got two more questions, really. left sides has gone really well. 35 minutes, which is really good. You'll be free sooner than we thought?@

S9: yeey@

Mod: So would you describe what you think the ideal language practice in Can Europe network would look like? So we know that it's English, in terms of internal communication,I think er when we think about the internal communication in CAN Europe? Do you have any opinions as to how it works, maybe have some experience where you knew that it didn't work? Can you think improving(.)

S9: uhm

Mod: let's say, I don't know.

S9: I mean we are at the Secretariat we are currently working on THAT, like making that bigger and better, because we're a bigger team now.

Mod: uhm

S9: erm we are quite numerous and we have different teams structures that have changed a bit. And you're trying to set up a (.) COHESION between different teams so that it's not like teams don't work in solos. So communications, of course, is a part of that. And we're trying to figure out how to do this best @

Mod: uhm @

S9: so erm In terms of tools. Well, we use email conversation and Skype quite often. And then we use GoToMeeting application to go into bigger meetings so that it's not, it's healthier er online, call like healthier than Skype. But then when it comes to tools, there's also Slack, I don't know if you know, if you know what Slack is?

Mod: er no

S9: I mean that is very useful. I'll just put it here, we try to use it now and the and the coal team, because they're based in different places. So they had one place in Poland and then some are based in Turkey and the Balkans, we have a colleague and in Brussels as well. So slack is very useful that we can just share some links. If there are news, we don't have to fill each other's inboxes, but we could just drop the the (.) the links of different newse pieces, etc. So that's, that is helpful to build like, distance (.) team relations as well, because then you interact with your colleagues a couple of times a day, not only exchanging emails, but like actual dropping your words or a link, or whenever you feel like.

Mod: uhm

S9: And then also now have, like, we do have stuff retreats twice a year where all the staff gets together and we talk about planning policy stuff, but also how we can build a bigger better team, and then how to do the inter team communications and the information flows.

Mod: uhm

S9: And then, sorry, I'm going er/

Mod: /Yeah, no no/

S9: @away from your question

Mod: this is really good because I don't know about these developments and /it gives me a little bit

S9: ah OK

MOd; more of erm understanding as well, and how everything develops and in terms of language, practicing a focus on language only, because you mentioned different types of of erm technologies were things that you use now and the different structures. So I'll repeat the question. What do you think the ideal language practice in CAN Europe network/

S9: /uhm/

Mod: would be like, so here we focus on language now?

S9: and the network?

Mod: Yeah. And you empty office as well, because you have to communicate your part of the office. So that's also interesting for me.

S9: erm, yeah, I mean, yes, this would be what we said about the policy coordinators, including myself to, to communicate, briefly, but at the same time without falling into the abbreviation and technical langauge TRAP.

Mod: uhm

S9: I mean, if it's inside different teams, or inside specific email group, like if you have (.) we have a CAN Europe renewable energy email list for instance, that's ONLY people were into renewable energy stuff. So I guess there you can use as you can go as techie as you want to get@.

Mod: uhm @

S9: Because everyone is like interested in the same issue. But when they're like, open lists, like, CAN Europe list or CAN International lists? Or the er all the staff lists, we have that as well, inside the Secretariat staff lists, internal list where you don't only have policy coordinators, but also admin people and and communications coordinators and the and the (.) yeah, human resources person, etc, then it would be good to, to ADOPT the kind of language that is understandable WHILE being able to explain people what what is on your agenda?

Mod: uhm

S9: I mean, it's kind of a, it's a huge exercise, right? Like, it's not easy for the policy coordinators to do that as well. But it's also a matter of habits. If you get to this into your habbit, then it should be possible.

Mod: And do you think English works well, for that purpose?

S9: Yes, yes. I mean, that's, that's the thing as well, as I said, like we use simplified English, so anyone can, can simplify that English to whatever level they want @

Mod: Maybe it's creating a new English?@

S9: yes @

Mod: er new European English. Okay, thank you. Is there anything else that you think you'd like to say? something that hasn't been covered yet but is relevant er relevant to you your role, or the organizations in Turkey? Or the communications you're involved?

S9: I mean One, one thing that that can be interesting, I think that's something we bring up quite often in the Secretariat and the network, as well,that in a European network, you can clearly see the differences, the cultural differences between Western European countries and Eastern countries.

Mod; uhm

S9: So there comes the language issues as well , why like one can, like one can, I think assume, rightfully that the Western European countries, just the level of English speaking is higher than the Eastern countries. So we always try to involve more groups from Eastern Europe into the work that we're doing, because we usually, like the more engaged groups are from Western Europe. But like, I think this is also interesting to think of that, like, maybe not everyone is, in the Eastern Europe is, is practically using English in their day to day life. So then it brings this this additional burden on their shoulders like in order to get involved, they have to first go through one colleague that speaks English and then and then get engaged. But sometimes things go really fast and will be passed in the network as well. So they are not able to catch up. But this is only my observation, this is not verified

43:15

Mod: Some of the poeple I spoke to said that. When we had that Gereral Assembly, and we went to the dinner afterwards, I spoke to one of the girls, she worked for a German organization, something to do with health. And and she said, they were considering including other languages in for instance, the press releases and resume documents for the countries from like, for instance, Pland, because Poland gets, like 90% of its energy production is sourced from coal so it is heavily dependent on it. So obviously, there are health issues connected to them. And that was the organization's main goal to actually have the organization is included, because there was so important in what they were doing as a as an organization to have some input from the countries that are actually very, sort of affected by the coal mining and coal burning, and so on. So this was very interesting, and I spoke to handle that business idea. And it's, we haven't really considered that because we just do different types of work and what we also much wider organization, but in general, he, he approves of the idea and said that it's quite an important thing. And for me, as a researcher, I think, you know, kind of Europe is such a wide networking process, the language barriers and what you said about the Western and Eastern Division er

S9: yeah

MOd: I think that could be taken into consideration to sort of you know from the Western part/

S9: ?yeah It's just not easy for the Secretariat because we all have like our own policy expertise or policy work going on

Mod: uhm

S9: So then we would need EXTRA capacity to do that kind of stuff. But that that is usually not funded. So that's usually the the issue in the bigger networks that that we need to er organize, coordinate and get input and engage. And then translation. Yeah, I mean we sometimes get lost in translation.@

Mod: yeah @ it's it's just not the priority?

S9: Yeah,

Mod: because how can you translate into 28 languages?/

S9: /Yes,/

Mod: relatively (.)Well, it's a big organization, but relatively small in terms of you know, it's not as big as the European institutions that they have a lot of funding. So, yeah CAN Europe, in that sense, it's small.

S9: Yeah, but I think the way we solve this at the moment it's not hundred percent solved, but then in the Secretariat, like we are numerous and, and we are quite diverse when it comes to spoken language, like, we had a lot of people that speak all sorts of languages. And we have two Polish people, for instance, now, one is a communications coordinator, the other is a coal policy coordinator. So they sort of it's not their task. But as I do, they also do the information exchange from English to polish and polish to English were necessary. So they're not doing one for every piece of information. But then where necessary, they sort of fill us up entirely. I do that for Turkish. And I'm also based here, so doing the exact work that between the English speaking world than the Turkish speaking world, and on our issues, and then for Balkans as well. The new SX@

MOd: @

S9: let me put it that way. so I can base this also on SX. And SX was also joining into Skype meetings with the Western Balkans, in much like the normal language there would be Serbian, because they all speak a variation of Serbian. And then SX would shared the minutes in English, like, only the highlights, though, in English. So that's what I'm doing too, I guess we're sort of er our diversity of staff like backgrounds is kind of helping out on a volunteer basis for that. But, of course, it doesn't solve the issue. Is, is,

MOd: yeah, but it's still huge help, I guess. You know, your job priorities are not translating. And then if you do that, in a, like, in addition to what you do, it's helpful for you, I think, I guess, and it's helpful for the organizations that you pass that information to So yeah, I think that's, that's the way normally works it. So English, is, from my observation, English is the main language. But underneath English, there's plenty of other languages that do a lot of work/

S9: /yes@

MOd: So like, for instance, getting information as you said, and then passing it on. And in the meantime, translating that to, to be able to pass it on. So that's, that's great to know that these things work in businesses, just plain English, they have like, you know, specific language policy in place. And, you know, in many places, they follow it, not sort of grassroots level.

48:40

S9: But also, if you're interested in languages and those type of things, just to briefly tell you, there's one organization Amnesty International, they have an in house translation services. So they have to offices that deal with translation, they have a policy language policy in place, which actually space that we will have to translate into four languages, they chose four biggest languages. So they do a lot of work on that. But when it comes to human or development, NGOs, it's slightly different story to environmental organizations, because it's, it's sort of encrypted in in the human rights or development. Organizations that they have to respect human rights and language is one of the environmental organizations, you just have to deal with things because things happen really quick. I'm not saying it doesn't happen quick enough. But you know, language is a shoe screen, or not the priority here. And English seems to be working really well in in that context, which is not bad. But as I said, English is better as those that have mean, or the top of the iceberg. But underneath it, there's just such a great variety.

Mod: And that's very interesting to me, too.

S9: Also the way we function as CAN Europe is different than Amnesty International, in a way, that we don't really necessarily better try to be visible outside, like external visibility. And if you want, like it's more Brussels based I guess, like English speaking community anyway, so mostly, like when we support different groups, we support in English, but sometimes the outcomes come in, in different languages. And that is up to the national groups to pick that up. So that's the kind of the difference. But then, yeah, for but then yeah but then again, for national groups to pick that up @ they need to first understand it, so it's in between, it's not like the con- er really like the the framework of the work that we are doing I don't think it's totally comparable with

(time: minute into the recoding 50:47 )

S9: Amnesty International in that sense, or as with Greenpeace as well, because they have so many different offices in different countries.

MOd: yeah

S9: And they do advocacy in different languages language, so it makes more sense for them to put everything in four or five languages, because they come back, they have offices in these countries, but then for CAN Europe we work as the secretariat, but like, linked with so many different national and local groups, and also Brussels groups. So that makes it a little trickier.

Mod: Not Yeah, it's not like, in a way coherent like Greenpeace, but you have specific work on best on Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much. For for your input. That's been very interesting. And thank you for sharing your input. And for your time, I know you're very busy, Angie, have loads of tasks and so on. So thank you again.

S9: You're welcome. Really happy.

Mod: So yeah, I'll probably be in touch with you when I finished but it's probably going to take a while because I'm pregnant again. I really am trying to gather as much data as I can before I go off to my maternity and learn just through the analysis afterwards. Because Yeah, it's crazy with children. One child is very difficult to to two and a half left. Really, I'm coming congratulations. Right. So thank you again, and I'm not gonna take any, any more of your time. So take care. Maybe see you sometime in Brussels, maybe? Sure. Sure. Take care.

S9: Thank you.

52:48

Mod: Bye.