

OUR FIGHT AGAINST THE CV SCAMMERS

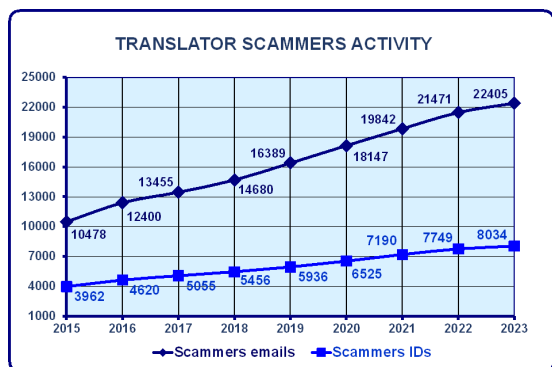
Scammers live online, operate online, and try to hide online. Our mission has been to expose their operation and hiding places and to make their lives a living hell. Yes, the CV scam is real, and our rule is simple: whatever scammers make public, we published it online for everyone to see!

1. WHAT HAVE SCAMMERS BEEN DOING IN 2023? LET THE NUMBERS SPEAK:

Items Tracked	2019	Change from 2018	2020	Change from 2019	2021	Change from 2020	2022	Change from 2021	2023	Change from 2022
SCAMMERS' IDS EXPOSED (1)	5936	9%	6525	10%	7190	10%	7749	8%	8034	4%
New scammers' IDs (ghosts) created per MONTH	40	20%	49	23%	55	13%	47	-16%	24	-49%
SCAMMERS' EMAIL ADDRESSES EXPOSED	16389	12%	18147	11%	19842	9%	21471	8%	22405	4%
New scammers' emails created per MONTH	142	40%	147	3%	141	9%	136	-4%	78	-43%
EMAILS SENT TO TSD	4038	32%	2385	-41%	1286	-46%	1128	-12%	825	-27%
New Listings in Directory resulted from emails	29%	-26%	25%	-14%	33%	32%	33%	0%	22%	-33%
FAKE CVs DATABASE	3938	48%	4653	18%	5334	15%	5927	11%	6147	4%
WEBSITE PAGEVIEWS	57769	-61%	46377	-20%	41432	-11%	37727	-9%	36175	-4%
Pageviews – Daily Average	158	-61%	127	-20%	114	-10%	103	-10%	99	-4%
WEBSITE UNIQUE VISITORS	39600	-49%	34762	-12%	31761	-9%	29793	-6%	28757	-3%
Unique Visitors – Daily Average	110	-48%	95	-14%	87	-8%	82	-6%	79	-4%
WEBSITE FIRST TIME VISITORS	20407	-52%	20649	1%	18277	-11%	17174	-6%	17641	3%
First Time Visitors – Daily Average	56	-51%	56	0%	50	-11%	47	-6%	48	2%
WEBSITE RETURNING VISITORS	19193	-46%	14113	-26%	13484	-4%	12619	-6%	11116	-12%
Returning Visitors – Daily Average	54	-45%	39	-28%	37	-5%	35	-5%	31	-11%
FOLLOWERS ON TWITTER	3105	5%	206	-93%	383	86%	486	27%	548	13%
COUNTRIES VISITED WEBSITE	215	0%	215	0%	216	0%	216	0%	217	0%

(1) Scammer ID: Name (fake or just stolen) + Email

Traffic sources to our website: Direct: 63% • Search Engines: 36% • Website Referrals + Social Media: 1%



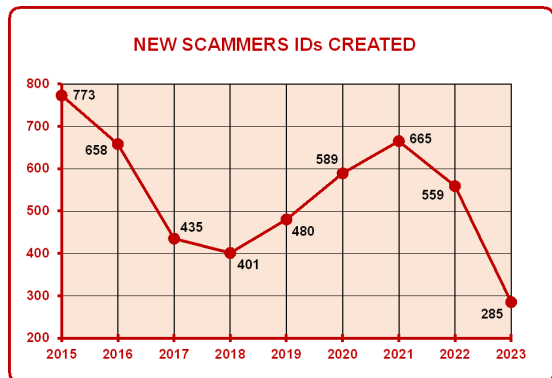
4% MORE [↑] NEW SCAMMERS' IDS.

4% MORE [↑] NEW EMAILS.

NOTE: NOT all emails listed in our website are related to CV THEFT SCAMS.

In 2023, we have CONTINUED to witness the increase of emails related to other scams targeting translators (usually originated from Africa and Asia countries), like the impersonation of translation companies and several financial scams (mainly of the overpayment type). We DO NOT list these scammers individually, but we do collect and list their email addresses. This also explains the number of emails listed in our website.

ALL SCAMS ARE ABOUT MONEY. THE VICTIM'S MONEY. THE CV SCAM IS NO DIFFERENT, BUT, LIKE ANY OTHER SCAM, IT ONLY SUCCEEDS IF SCAMMERS FIND A DUMB COUNTERPART: YOU (IF YOU PLAY THEIR GAME).



After NEW SCAMMERS' IDS (NAME + EMAIL) having gone up consistently between 2018 and 2021, from a drop between 2015 and 2018, we have seen a very steep drop (more than 270) in the creation of NEW SCAMMERS' IDS (NAME + EMAIL) in 2023. One very strong drive for this drop is explained in item 2. below.

NOTE: again, approximately 98% of the fake CVs circulated in 2023 were just recycled, i.e., resent either from known names and emails or from NEWLY CREATED EMAILS.

Relentlessly exposed in our website and many other online sources since 2014, scammers keep creating NEW SCAMMERS' IDS in the hope that "this one will go through".

However, no matter how big these numbers seem to be and the nuisance and losses inflicted on the Translation Community, the cold hard fact is that the CV scam is becoming less and less profitable to scammers: to our knowledge, NO SCAMMER GOT PAID IN 2023 (see item 9. below).

United States:	17%	Germany:	6%	The Netherlands:	3%
United Kingdom:	11%	Canada:	5%	France:	3%
Spain:	7%	Argentina:	4%	Latvia:	2%
Italy:	6%	Denmark:	4%	Brazil:	2%

TOP 12 COUNTRIES OF OUR VISITORS
(70% of the total)

2. ABOUT THE DECREASE IN NEW SCAMMERS IDS IN 2023

- In 2023, the events that unfolded in Gaza, following the horrific Hamas massacre in Israel on October 7, 2023 have had a clear effect on the ability of Gaza scammers to pursue their operations. Hence, after October 7, 2023, for 12 straight weeks in a row, **NOT ONE** CV scam has been reported coming from Gaza;
- Exposed everywhere since 2014, Palestinian scammers (the CV SCAM was created in Gaza somewhere around 2009) kept on creating new IDs or just new emails to go with their false identities and CVs. While we cannot ascertain and measure how many of these resulted from CVs voluntarily sent by gullible translators to scammers in response to their infamous "Authorization and Agreement" pitches, their number **MAY NOT BE negligible**;
- Given this dramatic drop in 2023, already continued since 2022, we believe that the CV scamming is taking a real beat. They keep trying, but it seems that some scamming operators are leaving the business, because it simply isn't worth it anymore, and the moneys still collected by the scamming business is not enough to go around for everybody. Luckily for us all, the CV scamming operation keeps being profoundly stupid and showing ridiculously low skills in its craft;
- More translators and companies keep being more and more aware of the CV scam and have joined the fight against scammers, leading to scammers being consistently exposed or just ignored.

- ANYTHING NEW IN THE CV SCAMMING BUSINESS IN 2023?** Not really! Even excluding the disruption of their operations because of the situation in Gaza after October 7, 2003, the CV scamming business is still more of the same:
 - Scammers kept on creating new emails for their fantasy or stolen identities, in the hope that "this one will go through";
 - Using the same genuine CVs to create several other fake CVs: **sometimes the same CV is used to create 5, 8, 12 different fake CVs**;
 - After a heavy use of Hotmail addresses in 2021, scammers kept massively going back to their beloved Gmail accounts in 2023.
- YES, THE CV SCAM IS A PALESTINIAN SCAM.** About 99% of CV scammers is located in Arab countries (namely Palestine, including Gaza, although some translators still seem not to believe this) and to a much lesser degree, in Egypt. If any more tangible proof was needed, the total absence of activity from Gaza scammers after October 7, 2003 (i.e., for 12 consecutive weeks) speaks for itself. Will we ever see the end of the Palestine and Gaza-based CV THEFT SCAM PLAGUE?

TSD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

by the TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP

www.translator-scammers.com | Follow us on Twitter: [@scammersTSD](https://twitter.com/scammersTSD)

Issued: January 3, 2024 | Page 2 of 2

- WARNING JOB POSTERS.** We continued warning translation jobs posters about the high probability of their offers being also answered by scammers with fake identities and phony CVs. We **STRONGLY INSIST** that the inclusion of advisories in the translation job posts pages warning about this risk and the need for a careful vetting of all applicants would be a great service to all in the Translation Community.
- CV SCAMMERS PROFILES IN TRANSLATORS' PORTALS.** Again, nothing new here. Scammers continue to see (and use) translator portals as a fast and cheap way to get some sort of online footprint and "professional credibility". Yet, shamefully and with almost total impunity, scammers do keep profiles in Translators Portals. In our Translator Scammers Directory (PDF) (downloaded 27111 times do far), we have a section listing 264 profiles (234 in 2022) kept by scammers in Translators Portals.
- DATABASE OF FAKE CVs.** The Database of Fake CVs (yes, the fake CVs themselves) now contains 6147 files (5927 in 2022). More fake CVs are constantly being added as they are processed or become available. Also, please read the information about accessing the database **very carefully**.
- DATABASE OF SCAMMERS FAKE ADDRESSES.** The [Directory of FAKE OR STOLEN addresses, phone numbers, VAT numbers and other junk info shown on the scammers' CVs](#) continues to grow. It now contains 4387 entries (4182 in 2022) and is **one more useful tool** in the fight against translator scammers.
- A SCAMMER EXPOSED IS A SCAMMER BUSTED:** more than exposing scammers by the thousands, our work can be seen as more effective when scammers are denied working as false translators or simply busted, when they are already waiting for their money. We are pleased to announce that, to our knowledge, **no scammers were paid in 2023 (again, to our knowledge)**.
- OTHER SCAMS TARGETING TRANSLATORS (ADVANCE PAYMENT, OVERPAYMENT, CONTACTS FROM WHATSAPP/TELEGRAM AND OTHER FINANCIAL SCAMS). AND, WHY IS THIS TYPE OF SCAMS SO POPULAR AMONG TRANSLATORS AND GOING ON FOR SUCH A LONG TIME?** Because, naive and unwary translators keep fueling these scams by happily responding to them. And, to those who have fallen to these scams, you don't have our sympathy. **STUPIDITY AND GREED HAS A PRICE.**

IN OUR DIRECTORY, WE DO NOT DEAL WITH FINANCIAL SCAMS, like advance payment/overpayment scams, Nigerian scams, pay-to-work, wallet lost abroad, employment abroad, dating and romance (where "lovers" are asked to pay for "translation services" to communicate with their ravishing Russian or Korean "ladies", all with 36D breasts!), and data verification (phishing) scams. **Whenever possible, we keep the names, emails and other data used by scammers,** like addresses and phone numbers (always fake) in our Directory, so that their data show up in online searches. It is however worrying that many translators and companies still lack active knowledge about the scammers operation and accept jobs from, e.g., john.lord.thebigword.com@gmail.com!!! In all Translator Portals, we can see people coming forward publicly telling how they've fallen victims to all sorts of scams, from stolen/fake CVs to overpayment and other financial scams. Where do these people live? In Fairyland? And what about the many others who never publicly share their losses to scammers?

We were featured

We continued to see a large number of translators, translation companies and other players in the translation community [TALKING ABOUT OUR WORK and our Directory in their websites, blogs and other platforms](#). In 2023, we were featured in the following original online publications, and in posts and comments in translation portals and social media too numerous to mention individually. A big Thank You to you all:

Date	Publication Title	By / Source
JAN2023	<i>The Translator CV Scam Doesn't Seem to Work Anymore</i>	Seyma Albarino, SLATOR (Switzerland)
FEB2023	<i>Stealing Professional Identities</i>	Rocio Txabarriaga, SLATOR (Spain)
JUN2023	<i>Translation Scammers: How Can You Avoid Them?</i>	Rossion (Canada)
AUG2023	<i>Mission Translate – Review Scam Complaint – Language Translation Linguist</i>	Blog about the scam from Mission Translate

Acknowledgments

Our work and this Report would not have been possible without the support and collaboration of the many independent translators and translation companies who tirelessly share with us data, emails, fake CVs and other documents circulated by scammers, and more are joining this fight every day. Without your dedication – you know who you are – scammers would have a much easier life. **A very special appreciation goes to all our very determined champions in 2022.**

How the CV Scam works – A reminder

It all starts when CVs from real and legitimate freelance translators are stolen from translation websites or provided by unwary and gullible translators to unscrupulous scammers posing as job providers and then modified with made-up names (sometimes, the victim's name is kept unchanged) and emails controlled by the scammers. Remember, **the CV Scam is based on ONE thing, and ONE thing ONLY: an email address (or several email addresses) created and operated by scammers as their point of contact.** No postal addresses, phone calls or video chats: **scammers communicate by email only, and only in English.** Ghost "Elena Mazzotta" explained why this choice of language: **"I talk with all my clients with English language even if they are Italian, because of a lot of reasons such that to find my emails easily when I need to search about anything, to improve my English language and a lot of things that make my works easier"**. And "Carlito Tronci" explained why he refused a video interview: **"I have a speaking problems, my vocal cords damaged due to an old accident."**

Then, with their "impressive" CVs, claiming proficiency in English, French, Italian, Spanish, Turkish, Dutch and even "Narwiegion" (and always "capable" to translate in every direction), boasting degrees from 4 universities from 3 different continents in a span of 5 or 6 years, including language studies abroad of their own native language (!) and claiming to be/have been "language teachers" or being in business for 20 or 30 years, but with no online presence anywhere, these "multi-skilled" and "multi-language" scammers heavily spam everybody in the translation world with 10, 15 or 20 messages a day, trying to lure unsuspecting clients with their shining "skills", or responding to online job posts. As for payment, they **ALWAYS ask to be paid to PayPal accounts. Also, forget about asking scammers to remove your email address from their mailing lists.**

As for fees, scammers undercut 2 or 3 cents to what they perceive as "market fees", i.e., **just enough for some greedy, but careless and wide-eyed companies believe they've found Treasury Island...** Then, if a job lands on their computers, scammers will just deliver some Google-translated gibberish or turn into "companies" or "independent PMs" to attract the cheapest operators they can find online, which, in the end, are either not paid or just paid no more than miserable rates. **The client-victim will never use them again, but damage has already been done.**

And who are the scammers' victims? From translators living in poor African countries to those living in wealthier European or North American cities, everyone is prey to their scamming madness, but particularly those with years of experience and juicy CVs. And **when busted, scammers ALWAYS initiate threats to defame their client-victims online:** **"I will put you in the blacklist at all the sites"** or **"I want be paid, or I speak bad of you with thousand translators"** are just some lines from these clowns.

THE TRANSLATOR SCAMMERS INTELLIGENCE GROUP

they steal your CV, your work, and your money together, we'll make their lives a living hell

In 2023, our [TSD Annual Report 2022](#) has been downloaded 877 times

www.translator-scammers.com | Follow us on Twitter: [@scammersTSD](https://twitter.com/scammersTSD)