

## Joaquim Alves: “Translators connect the world”

*JABA Translations, the first company in the world with full-time in-house translators, gave us insight on the translation market and the daily life of a translation company in a fun and engaging manner.*

On Friday January 24 we visited JABA Translations, an agency translating mostly into Portuguese. Mr. Alves, the owner and CEO received us and invited us into his “home” after a brief explanation about the company.

### **A Peek at our Future**

We were given a tour around the company where we discovered the following. The ground floor consists of the administration and accounting departments. Downstairs is the project management floor, which is divided into four teams, separated according to region. They are the only ones who are in contact with the clients and divide the work for the appropriate language pair translators. There is a “stress-free” zone right outside, an open space with a barbecue and a kitchen. The first floor has the translation teams, divided by their working languages. One week a month they can work from home, but the rest of the time they have to join their JABA team. Spanish, French, Portuguese, German, Brazilian, English - these are the language pairs the translators in this company work with. If a client requests a translation from an exotic language, they expand their working languages by hiring freelance translators. On the top floor is the IT department, into



which we were not allowed since they work with confidential information.

### **Quality Guarantee**

In order to guarantee the best solution in the market, regarding translations, the company invests heavily in in-house translators. For example, there was an intern translator in the company. A translation test was done to evaluate the translator's skills. After passing the exam, the intern is now in a training program meant to prepare him for the company's Methodology.

### **A Pioneer**

Joaquim Alves started the company alone. JABA Translations now has around 20 people working in-house and over 50 freelance translators. The CEO, a charming and sociable person who values interpersonal relationships, is constantly networking to expand the company. To paraphrase him, it is neither the internet, nor smartphones, nor any other technology that connects the world, but rather **translators** themselves.

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