

Making climate science more easily accessible by providing translations on Skeptical Science

EGU 2025 - EOS4.3 - EGU25-1440

Bärbel Winkler – Skeptical Science



INTRODUCTION TO SKEPTICAL SCIENCE

- Skeptical Science (SkS) is a website and non-profit science education organization with international reach which was founded by John Cook in 2007.
- Main objective is to debunk misconceptions and misinformation about human-caused climate change
- Features a database that currently has more than 250 rebuttals based on peer-reviewed literature.
- Selected content has been translated into 25 languages

The screenshot shows the Skeptical Science website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with flags of various countries and the site's logo, "Skeptical Science", with the tagline "Getting skeptical about global warming skepticism". Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a "GO" button. To the right of the search bar, there are social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, and MeWe, along with icons for Posts, Comments, and Email. The main content area features a large article titled "Explaining climate change science & rebutting global warming misinformation". Below this article, there is a section for "2025 SkS Weekly Climate Change & Global Warming News Roundup #14", posted on 6 April 2025 by BaerbelW, Doug Bostrom, and John Hartz. To the right of the main content, there is a sidebar with a cartoon character "Cranky Uncle" and a badge for "Winner of the 2011 Australian museum Eureka Prize". At the bottom of the page, there are logos for "IPCC FACTS", "Guide to RCPS", and "TREND CALCULATOR".

REBUTTALS AND BLOG POSTS

MOST USED Climate Myths

and what the science really says..

- 1 Climate's changed before
 - 2 It's the sun
 - 3 It's not bad
 - 4 There is no consensus
 - 5 It's cooling
 - 6 Models are unreliable
 - 7 Temp record is unreliable
 - 8 Animals and plants can adapt
 - 9 It hasn't warmed since 1998
 - 10 Antarctica is gaining ice
- [View All Arguments...](#)

Global Warming & Climate Change Myths

Here is a summary of global warming and climate change myths, sorted by recent popularity vs what science says. Click the response for a more detailed response. You can also view them sorted by taxonomy, by popularity, in a print-friendly version, with short URLs or with fixed numbers you can use for permanent references.

Climate Myth	vs	What the Science Says
1 "Climate's changed before"		Climate reacts to whatever forces the time; humans are not
2 "It's the sun"		

Climate Myths sorted by taxonomy

- **It's not happening**
 - Temp record is unreliable
 - Hockey stick is broken
 - Tree-rings diverge from temperature after 1960
 - Ljungqvist broke the hockey stick
 - Dropped stations introduce warming bias
 - It's Urban Heat Island effect
 - 1934 - hottest year on record
 - It's microsite influences
 - Satellite error inflated Great Lakes temperatures
 - Satellite record is more reliable than thermometer
 - It's cooling
 - We're heading into an ice age
 - It's freaking cold!
 - 2009-2010 winter saw record global warming
 - Record snowfall disproves global warming

Fact brief - Is Mars warming?

Posted on 5 April 2025 by Sue Bin Park

NO

Mars' climate varies due to completely different reasons than Earth's, and available data indicates no temperature trends comparable to Earth's recent warming. Mars lacking oceans or a robust atmosphere means its trends are more susceptible to external factors. In the longer term, its non-circular orbit causes heating when passing closer to the sun and cooling when further away. In the short term, weather patterns like dust storms impact how much solar heat reaches Mars. Mars warming would imply that the sun is causing generally rising planetary temperatures. However, total solar heat has decreased since the 1980s. Moreover, analyses of the available 50 years of Mars data found seasonal variability, but no warming trend. Earth has warmed 1.5°C (2.7°F) since the 1880s due to the greenhouse effects of available CO2. Our best understanding of available Mars data indicates no warming comparable to Earth's recent climate change.

Skeptical Science posts: 3 April 2025 - Skeptical Science New Research for Week #14 2025

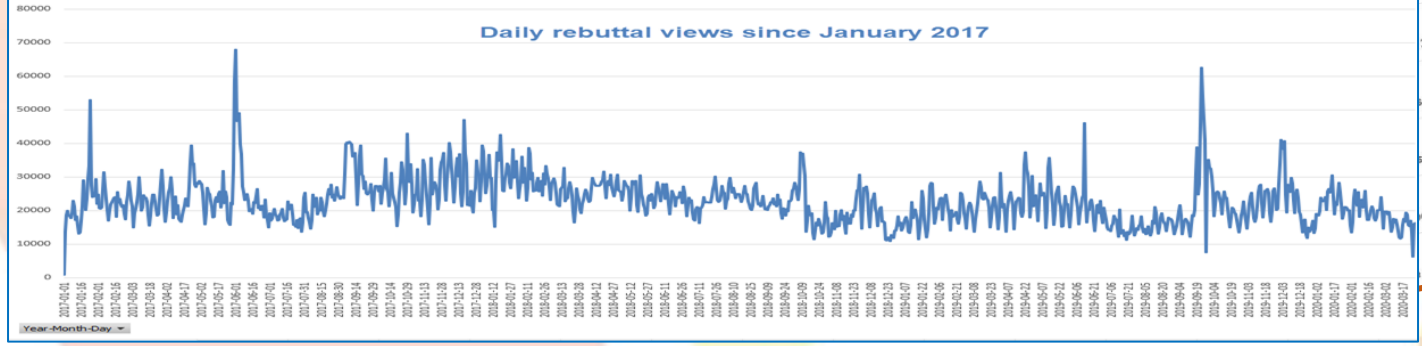


Skeptical Science posts: 3 April 2025

Skeptical Science New Research for Week #14 2025



- 2025 SkS Weekly Climate Change & Global Warming News Roundup #11
- Fact brief - Is waste heat from industrial activity the reason the planet is warming?



Latest Posts

- 2025 SkS Weekly Climate Change & Global Warming News Roundup #14
- Fact brief - Is Mars warming?
- Skeptical Science New Research for Week #14 2025
- Two-part webinar about the scientific consensus on human-caused global warming
- Sabin 33 #22 - How does waste from wind turbines compare to waste from fossil fuel use?
- Clean energy generates major economic benefits, especially in red states
- 2025 SkS Weekly Climate Change & Global Warming News Roundup #13
- Skeptical Science New Research for Week #13 2025



TRANSLATIONS OF SKS CONTENT



- Translation capabilities were added to SkS at the end of 2009
- Initially, only rebuttals could be translated, but translations for blog posts and pages were later added
- Selected content has been translated into 25 languages by teams of volunteers working together across the globe.
- The individuals and teams tackling translations decide what to translate.
- Rebuttals are the area offering the most translations.
- For our planned website update we'll also have new content types to translate

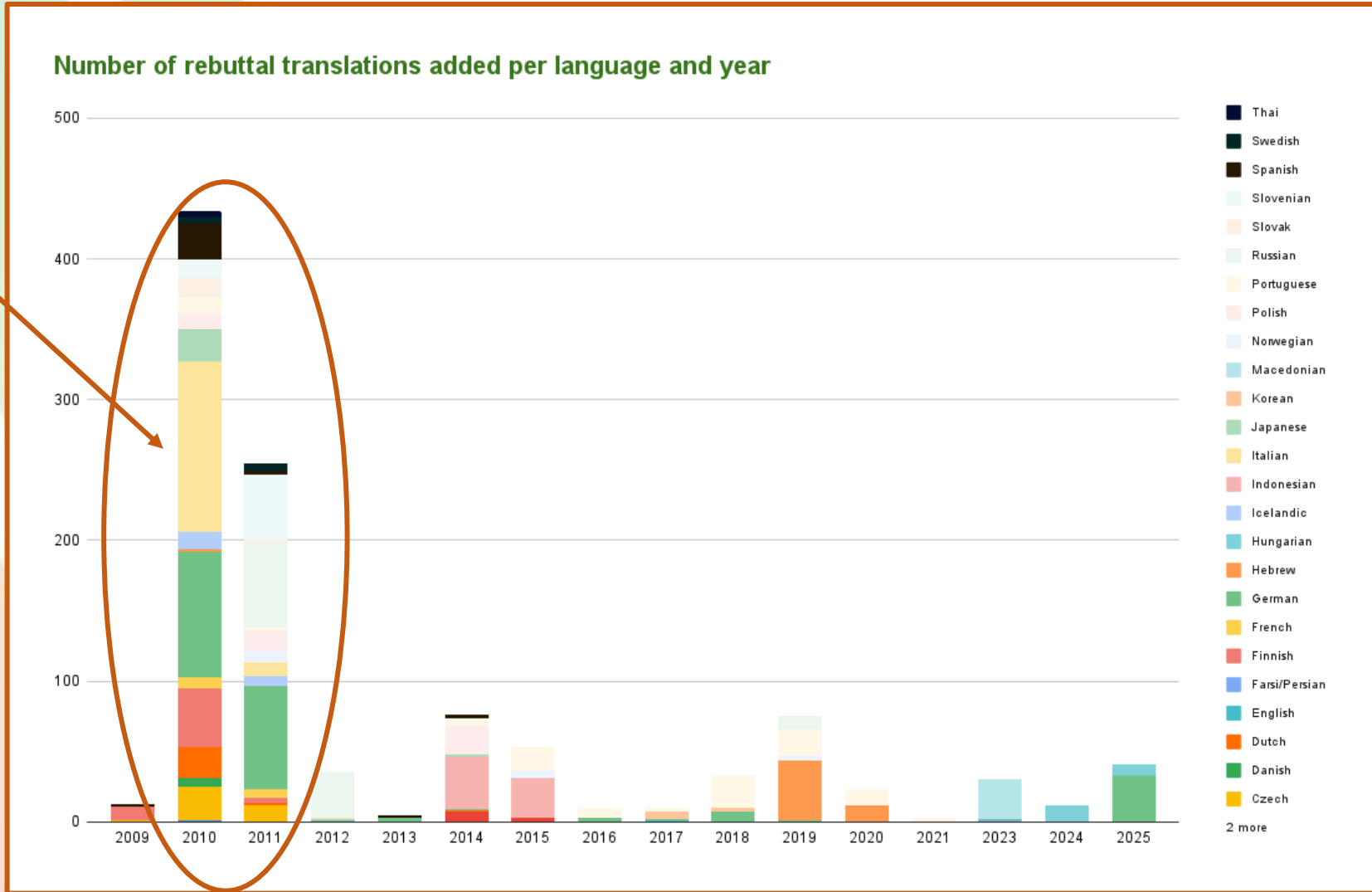
TRANSLATIONS - ORGANISATION



- Volunteers from all over the world have translated selected content into 25 languages.
- Translation teams have access to shared online folders to prepare and proofread translations for selected content
- When people voice an interest in helping with translations they can either work alone, with others they already know, or they can join an existing team for their language.
- The blog post [Join the Skeptical Science Translator Community!](#) published in February 2022 outlines the many translation related activities people can contribute to: blog posts, rebuttals, and handbooks are just three of several options available.
- Note: due to the rather specific content we feature, we are not relying on automated translations as we think that this might introduce misunderstandings

STATISTICS – REBUTTAL TRANSLATIONS - 01

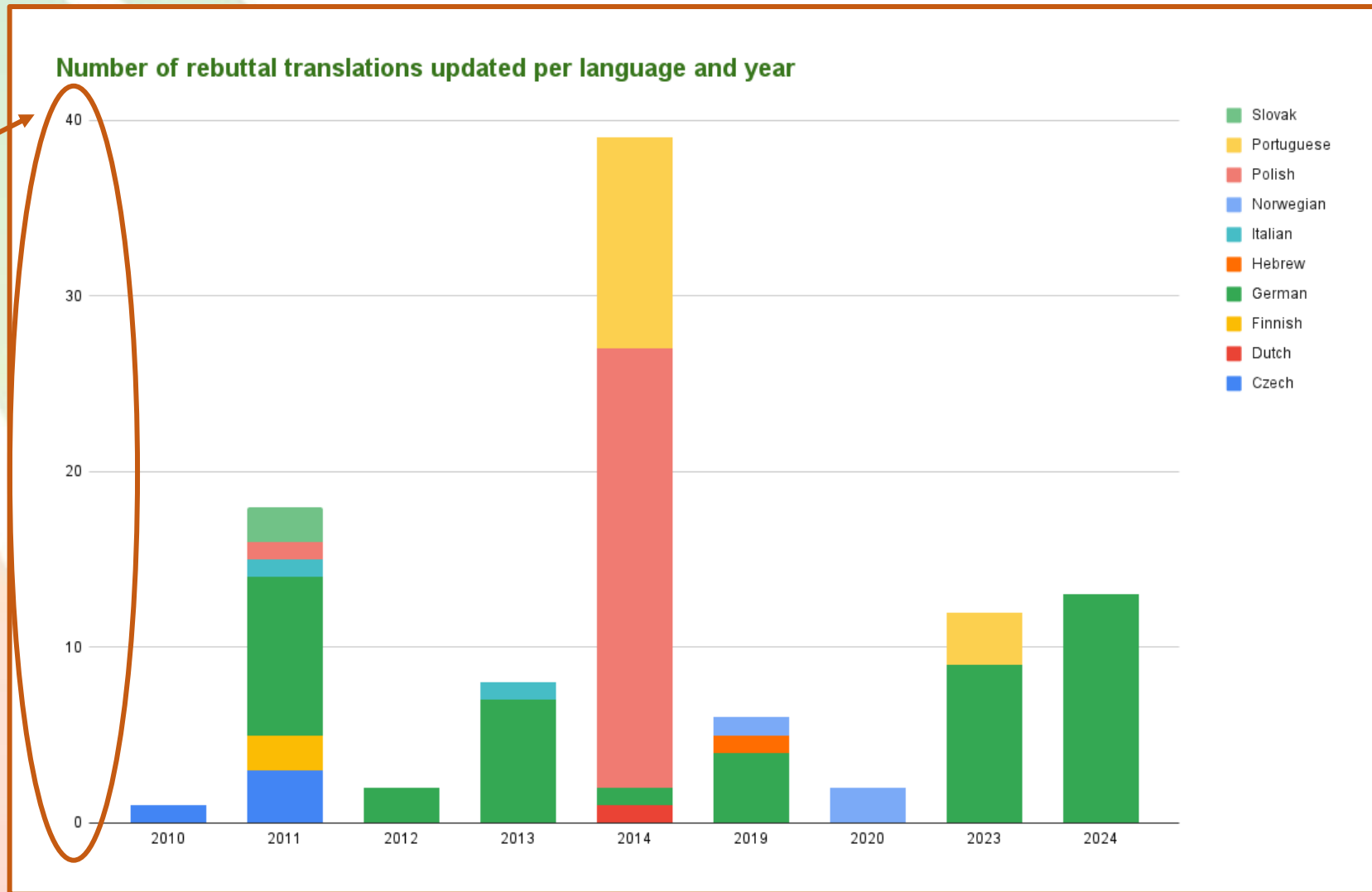
Language	# of translations
German	214
Italian	131
Russian	105
Portuguese	100
Indonesian	65
Slovenian	60
Hebrew	57
Finnish	55
Polish	46
Czech	37
Spanish	33
Macedonian	28
Dutch	25
Japanese	25
Hungarian	20
Icelandic	20
Norwegian	18
French	14
Slovak	14
Swedish	11
Croatian	10
Korean	8
Danish	6
Thai	4
Chinese	1
Farsi/Persian	1
Grand Total	1108



Bulk of rebuttal translations were added soon after translations became possible



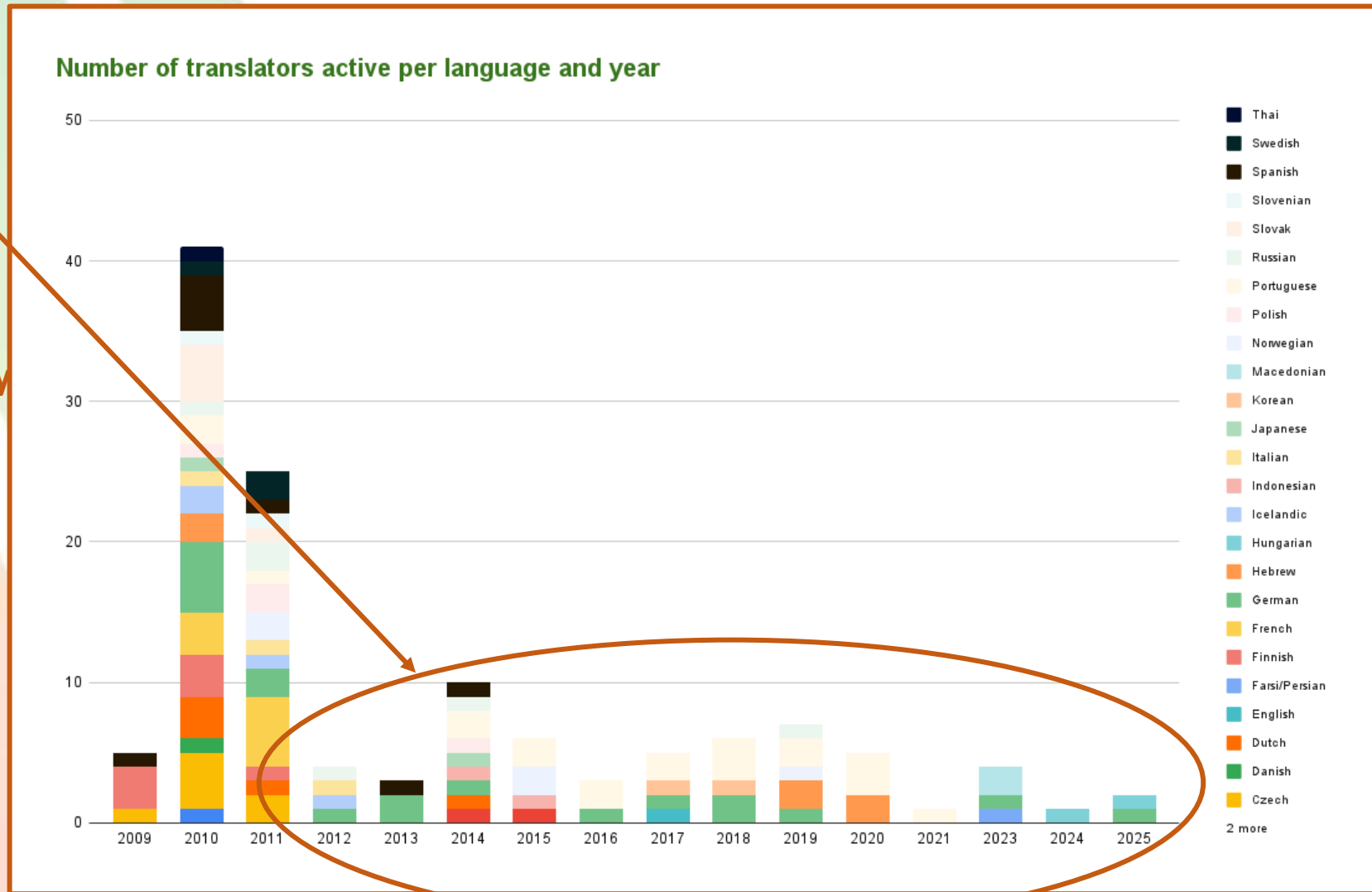
STATISTICS – REBUTTAL TRANSLATIONS - 02



Only a few rebuttals were updated in a few languages in the subsequent years

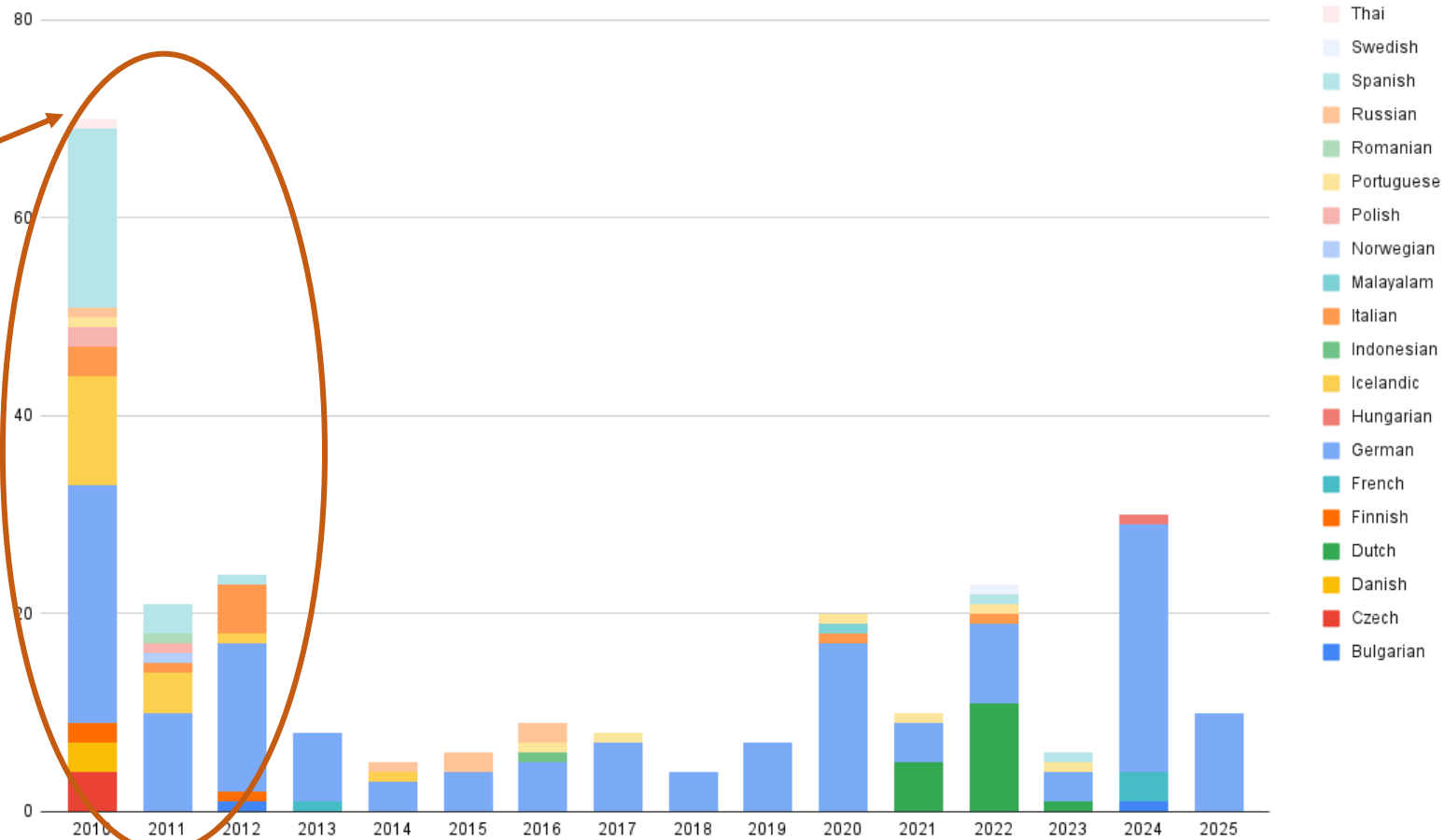
STATISTICS – REBUTTAL TRANSLATIONS - 03

After the initial „push“, the number of active translators and languages dropped considerably



STATISTICS – BLOG POST TRANSLATIONS - 01

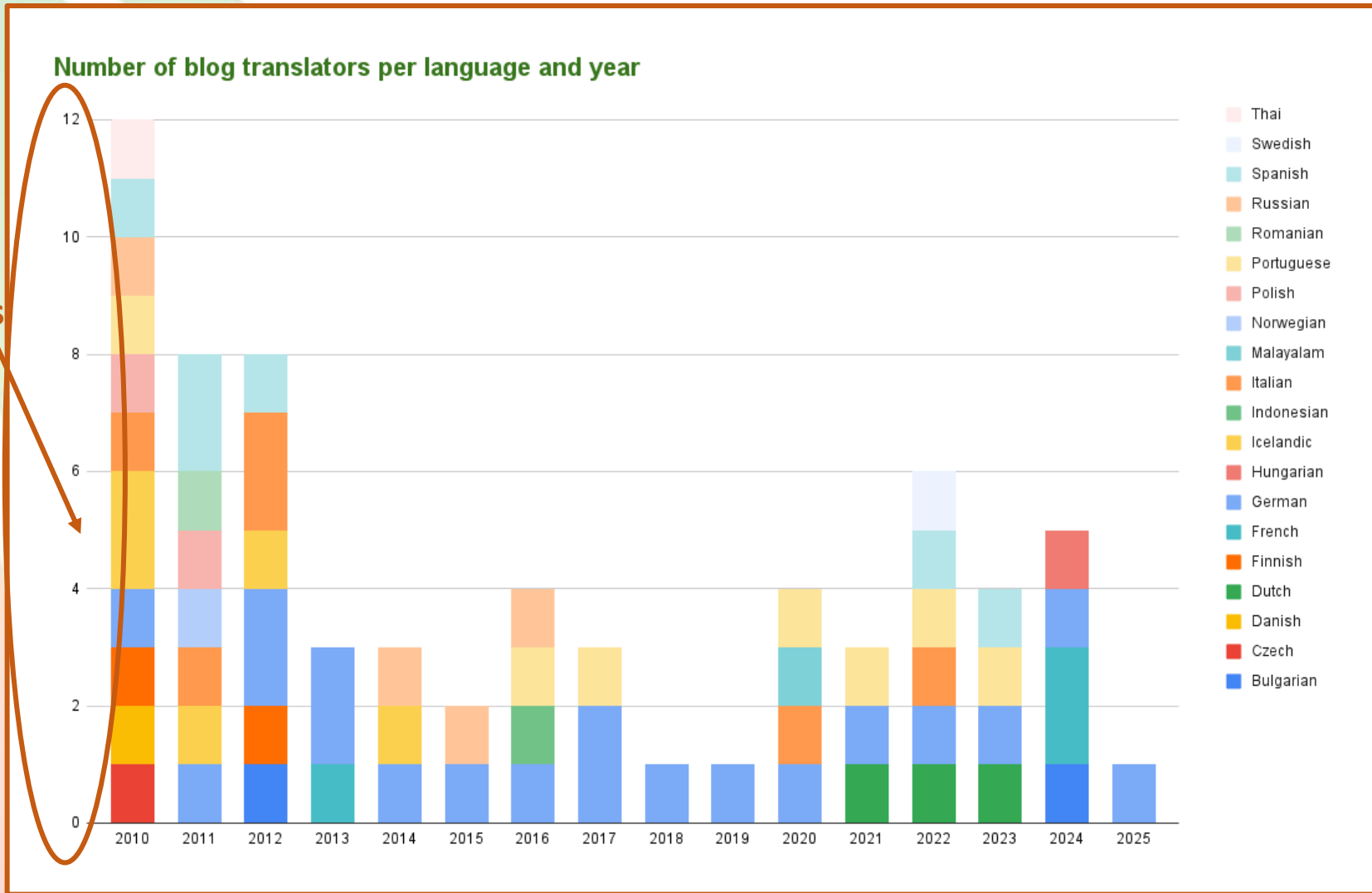
Number of blog translations added per language and year



Language	# of translations
German	153
Spanish	24
Dutch	17
Icelandic	17
Italian	11
Portuguese	7
Russian	6
Czech	4
French	4
Danish	3
Finnish	3
Polish	3
Bulgarian	2
Hungarian	1
Indonesian	1
Malayalam	1
Norwegian	1
Romanian	1
Swedish	1
Thai	1
Grand Total	261

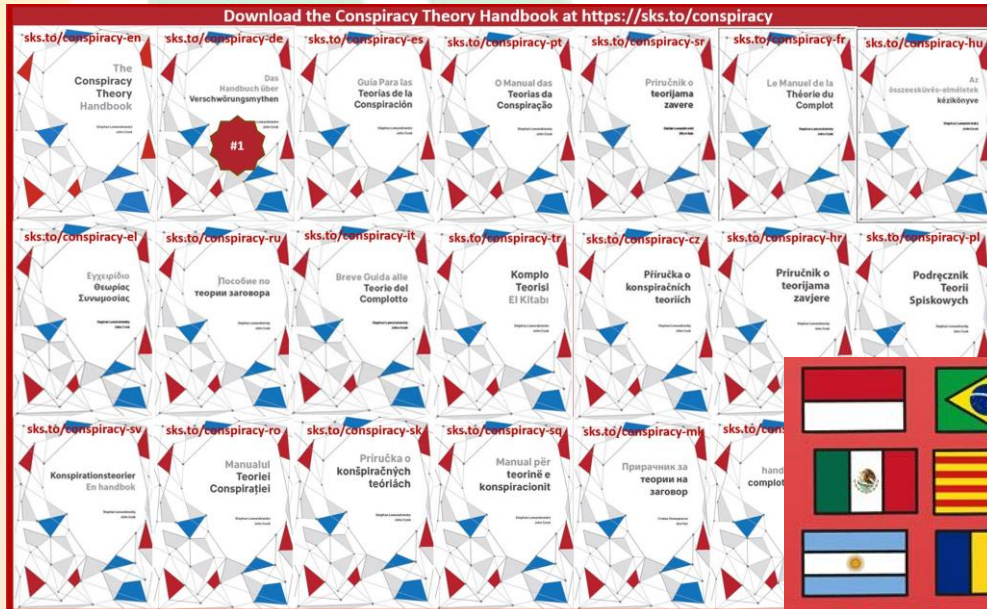
Bulk of blog post translations were added soon after translations became possible

STATISTICS – BLOG POST TRANSLATIONS - 02



The number of active translators tackling blog posts is very low and there is mostly just one per language.

TRANSLATIONS OF OTHER RESOURCES



NEW: Albanian

Udhëzuesi i mëshuesit për Xhaxhi Kokëfortin

JOHN COOK sks.to/crankyguidesq

Leitfaden für Lehrkräfte zu Cranky Uncle

Download the Teachers' Guide to Cranky Uncle here: sks.to/crankyguidede

JOHN COOK sks.to/crankyguidede

Guía de Cranky Uncle para professoras e profesores

Download the Teachers' Guide to Cranky Uncle here: sks.to/crankyguidespt

JOHN COOK sks.to/crankyguidespt

Водич за наставници Чичко Мрчатор

Download the Teachers' Guide to Cranky Uncle here: sks.to/crankyguidemk

JOHN COOK sks.to/crankyguidemk

de Docenthandleiding voor Cranky Uncle

Get the game here: sks.to/crankyphone, sks.to/crankyandroi, sks.to/crankybrower

JOHN COOK sks.to/crankyguidenl

La Guía del profesor para Cranky Uncle

Get the game here: sks.to/crankyphone, sks.to/crankyandroi, sks.to/crankybrower

JOHN COOK sks.to/crankyguides



TRANSLATIONS OF OTHER RESOURCES

Download the Conspiracy Theory Handbook at <https://sks.to/conspiracy>

Conspiracy Theory Handbook
sks.to/conspiracy

Download the Debunking Handbook at <https://sks.to/debunk2020>

Debunking Handbook 2020
sks.to/debunk2020

Cranky Uncle Game
sks.to/crankyml

Download the Teachers' Guide to Cranky Uncle here:
sks.to/crankyguide

Teacher's Guide to Cranky Uncle
sks.to/crankyguide

FLICC poster
sks.to/flicc-poster



CHALLENGES

- Continuous availability of motivated volunteers who tackle both rebuttal and blog translations
- Interest often quickly falls after initial push
- Keeping the translated content in sync with the English original is currently not possible
- Fixing broken links almost never happens in translated content



INTERESTED TO HELP TACKLE THE CHALLENGES?

If “Yes”, please ...

- ... read the short blog post with more information
→ <https://sks.to/translators>
- ... fill out the Google form
→ <https://sks.to/translatorform>

I'll be in touch as soon as possible to provide more information and we'll take it from there!



Thanks!

Bärbel Winkler

Skeptical Science

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Abstract & Full presentation



Companion Blog Post



AUTHOR INFORMATION

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Bärbel Winkler lives and works in Germany. She has always had a lot of interest in environmental issues and has been active as a volunteer at the local zoo and a conservation group for many years. Over time and while learning more and more about it, Bärbel became increasingly aware and concerned about climate change and what it will mean for generations to come. As a means to turn her concerns regarding climate change into something productive, Bärbel joined the Skeptical Science team in 2010 and started translating selected content into German. Since 2013 she has been coordinating the translation efforts for all languages, contributes a blog-post every once in a while, helps with many projects and became co-author of several consensus-related studies the Skeptical Science team has published over the years. From 2015 to 2024 she also coordinated the moderation team for the online course “Denial101x – Making sense of climate science denial”.

<https://sks.to/BaerbelW>



LIST OF LINKS

INTRODUCTION

Skeptical Science – <https://skepticalscience.com>

Companion article – <https://sks.to/EGU25-translations>

REBUTTALS

Arguments – <https://skepticalscience.com/argument.php>

Fixed numbers – <https://skepticalscience.com/fixnum.php>

Taxonomy – <https://skepticalscience.com/argument.php?f=taxonomy>

BLOG POSTS

Skeptical Science – <https://skepticalscience.com/newsarchives.php>

TRANSLATIONS

All translations – <https://skepticalscience.com/translation.php>

Helping with translations – <https://sks.to/translators>

Debunking Handbook – <https://sks.to/debunk>

Conspiracy Theory Handbook – <https://sks.to/conspiracy>

FLICC Poster – <https://sks.to/flicc-poster>

Teachers' Guide to Cranky Uncle – <https://sks.to/crankyguide>

Cranky Uncle Game – <https://sks.to/crankyml>

Contact form – <https://sks.to/contact>

Google form – <https://sks.to/translatorform>



[\[Back\]](#) [\[Session EOS4.3\]](#)

EGU25-1440, updated on 14 Mar 2025

<https://doi.org/10.5194/egusphere-egu25-1440>

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Oral | Friday, 02 May, 08:50–09:00 (CEST) ■ Room -2.93

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Skeptical Science is a volunteer-run website publishing refutations of climate misinformation. Some members of the Skeptical Science team actively research best-practices refutation techniques while other team members use these findings to share debunking techniques effectively either in writing or through presentations. Skeptical Science is published in English but translation capabilities were added in 2009. Many volunteer translators have taken advantage of this functionality to create content in their native language. With this submission we highlight what is already available and what the challenges are for such a volunteer-based effort.

Many of the rebuttals to climate myths have been translated into 1 to 28 languages thus far but there's a large variety in how many translations exist for one rebuttal. In addition, many rebuttals have seen updates in their English version which haven't yet found their way into already existing translations.

In addition to providing translations for selected content published as rebuttals or blog posts on Skeptical Science, we also coordinate translations for publications like The Debunking Handbook, The Conspiracy Theory Handbook and the Cranky Uncle game which are then made readily available on our website.

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