

# 2015 TRANSLATIO

## FIT Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The post-Council meeting issue of *Translatio* necessarily means pages dedicated to the annual face-to-face gathering of your representatives. At the first Council Meeting of the 2014–17 mandate, held for the first time in FIT history in Baku, Azerbaijan, much of the agenda was devoted to future proofing the Federation and looking strategically at how the Federation can meet your needs. My thanks to our colleagues in Azerbaijan Youth Translators Association (AGTA) in hosting the meeting and making the Council feel very much at home. The summary of the meeting as seen by the person at the centre of the action, your Secretary General, Sabine Colombe, can be found in the Council News section.

In this issue, you will also find out more about the different Standing Committees and Task Forces which will consist of experts nominated by member associations from across the world tackling problems and addressing issues pertaining to their areas of interest. Remember your participation in these groups is critical in making sure that the Federation reflects and represents the views and concerns of translators, interpreters and terminologists across the globe including the remotest regions where FIT reaches.

An event I hope you will be promoting is the International Translators' Day that forms an important part of reaching out to the public. This year the poster was designed by Laura Lindstedt who was interviewed by Eleanor Cornelius. ITD is one day of year when we should tell the world about what we do and why is it important.

You will see FIT becoming more visible in more places and across more domains. Authoritative position papers from FIT will be circulated and quoted. Furthermore, your interest will be represented further and wider as the FIT pin is seen in more events around the world, the most recent of which were GALA (Spain) and DFKI (Germany). So if you know of any event at which FIT should be present, contact me directly.

I am particularly pleased that the Council meeting does not dominate this *Translatio* issue in which you will find out more about the FIT Europe initiatives in support of conflict zone interpreters in Afghanistan, news and developments from Indonesia, Congo, Italy, France and Canada. Speaking of which, please join me in congratulating Michel Parent who has been elected to lead FIT North America. His vast experience and stature in North America is a real asset to this Regional Centre. More on this in the next issue.

Finally, *Translatio* is your FIT Newsletter. The Council welcomes your views, criticisms and encouragements. So do let us have your reactions, at [translatio@fit-ift.org](mailto:translatio@fit-ift.org).

*Henry Liu, [president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org)*

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## Prize for Interpreting Excellence

**D**orothy Charbonneau was awarded the first Prize for Interpreting Excellence by FIT at its 2014 Congress in Berlin.

For Dorothy, a certified conference interpreter with over 30 years of experience, 2014 marked 30 years since she became one of the first persons to receive a Graduate Diploma in Interpreting from the University of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. An only child of immigrant parents, she has been a “natural” interpreter since childhood. Experience has taught her that even natural interpreters need training and support to achieve the highest level of performance.

During her career, Dorothy has worked in all areas of the profession, from community settings to international conferences. Her first paid work was as a freelance court interpreter. Shortly afterwards she worked as a staff court inter-



Mrs Dorothy Charbonneau

preter with the Ministry of the Attorney General of Ontario before moving to freelance conference interpreting. She

was then taken on by the Translation Bureau of Canada, over 25 years ago.

Dorothy has also been actively involved with her professional association, the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Ontario (ATIO), serving for nearly 15 years as Director of Conference Interpreting. In 2014, she was acclaimed Vice-President of the Association. She is a passionate advocate for proper training and working conditions, as well as the recognition of these qualifications and the protections afforded by the *ATIO Act* to both the public and to language professionals. She is a member of AIIIC, Canada Region (ACIC), and an associate member of the Literary Translators Association of Canada (LTAC).

*Denis Louis Bousquet*  
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## Karel Čapek Medal for Translation from a Language of Limited Diffusion

**D**uring last August’s FIT Congress, the Karel Čapek Medal was awarded to Ms Kari Kemény from Norway.

The purpose of FIT’s Karel Čapek Medal is to improve the quality of literary translations from languages of limited diffusion, and to draw attention to the role of translators in bringing the peoples of the world closer together.

Kari Kemény, who has been working as a freelance translator since 1975, with more than 70 published literary translations to her name, was nominated for the award by the Norwegian Association of Literary Translators (NO).

The jury gave their reasons for awarding the prize: “The scope of Ms. Kemény’s oeuvre of translations from the Magyar language into Norwegian consists of some 24 works by both internationally recognised Hungarian authors as well as those who are ‘just’ important within the scope of the Hungarian domestic literary



Mrs Kari Kemény

tradition and its various expressions and forms. Ms. Kemény epitomises the literary translator, with everything that the

work involves and as a humble worker in the fields of literary translation.”

Kari Kemény was unable to attend the award ceremony at the FIT World Congress in Berlin, August 2014 due to ill health, but sent the following message “It is an honour I hardly deserve but which makes me rejoice all the more. As a translator from and to languages of exceedingly limited diffusion, that is, from Hungarian into Norwegian, it has been a great pleasure, good fun, and an enormous challenge to work with some of Hungary’s most prominent writers, such as Péter Nádas, Péter Esterházy and Imre Kertész.

“I would like to express my profound thanks to the authors for writing such creative and demanding prose. Working with these writers has been very stimulating and has required of me that I exceed my own limits as a translator.”

*Kevin Quirk*, [kevin.quirk@accentia.no](mailto:kevin.quirk@accentia.no)

# Excellence in scientific and technical translation

The FIT Award for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation was awarded, for the first time, at the 60<sup>th</sup> FIT Congress in Berlin 2014 to Mrs. Svetla Moutafova, Bulgarian Translators' Association. Mrs Moutafova was nominated by the Bulgarian Translators' Association and was the unanimous choice of the Jury Committee, chaired by Pamela Mayorcas ITI Fellow member, founder of this new prize. I would like to congratulate Mrs Moutafova on being the first recipient of this new prize which is awarded for the whole body of her very extensive work as well as for her translation of the magnificent book *Masterpieces of Nature*<sup>1</sup>.

I was delighted not only to have the opportunity to present the prize in person but also especially pleased to be able to meet Mrs Moutafova in person.

I was also proud and delighted that this Award for excellence in scientific and technical translation was awarded at FIT 2014.

Without scitech translation, researchers, scientists, members of the medical and legal professions, manufacturers, administrators, would not be informed about or be able to monitor the work being done, by fellow professionals in other countries. International trade would be limited and the international community would not be able to share innovative thinking.

Covering the whole gamut of scitech



Mrs Svetla Moutafova

texts, from chemical abstracts and engineering patents to instruction manuals for machinery to sales websites or – to works which popularise science, as in the case of Mrs Moutafova's fabulous translation – scitech translation plays a vital role in the exchange of knowledge and information and thus to the betterment of mankind. This latter is, I believe, a cornerstone of the FIT philosophy.

Svetla Moutafova was born in 1946 in Sofia, Bulgaria. In 1969, she graduated from Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski with a Master of Arts (MA) with major German and English philology and optional Spanish.

From 1971 to 1991, Svetla Moutafova was Head of Department of the Scientific

and Technical Information at the Institute of Communications Industry; she was responsible for all its scientific and technical translations, patent and economic information and for the scientific and technical library. The department also issued a monthly abstract bulletin on tele-communications and related fields.

While at the Institute, Svetla Moutafova took a three-month specialist course in scientific and technical information at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski and a two-month course on International Scientific and Technical Information Systems at the Institute for Advanced Training of Information Workers in Moscow. In 1983, she received the gold medal as a "High Achiever of the Ministry of Engineering and Electronics".

Following an open competition, she was appointed to a senior expert position for international cooperation at the Central Cooperative Union in 1992, retiring from that post at the end of 2003.

Svetla Moutafova is a member of the Scientific and Technical Literature section of the Bulgarian Translators' Union and is now, for a second term, a member of its Supervisory Board. She now works as a freelance translator, primarily on scientific and technical texts.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr Abi Burns, 2010: De Agostini Libri SpA, Italy.

## FIT ACTIVITIES

### FIT Committee on Education and Training Work

The FIT Committee on Education and Training conducted a needs assessment survey among FIT members to obtain and gather views and statistical information about existing educational, training and professional development opportunities for translators and interpreters. The survey was completed in March 2015. Participating organizations were asked whether they have established training and professional development committees for professionals in the fields of translation and interpretation. Information was also collected

about training guidelines published by FIT members.

Numerous respondents shared up-to-date information about institutions in their respective countries currently providing training programmes in translation and interpretation, including undergraduate and graduate programmes. Other organizations provide online self-directed training, internet-based educational webinars, workshops, seminars and web-based language resources. Topics ranged from the pedagogy of interpreting and translation, localization project manage-

ment, translation theory and technology, as well as trainer training for the ongoing benefit of translators and interpreters.

The results are being added to the existing translator-training database maintained by the Intercultural Studies Group of the European Society for Translation Studies (EST) and the FIT Education and Training Committee. We recommend increased cooperation between member organizations to create more training and professional development opportunities for interpreters and translators.

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# Human Rights Committee – The case of Denmark

In Denmark, the situation of interpreters in conflict zones has been intensely debated in the media by members of Parliament, ministers and the Joint Council of the Danish Defense Committee. In December 2014 the independent Danish Institute for International Studies published *DIIS Recommendations from Research: The Fate of Local Interpreters – Past and Future Challenges in Military Operations*. The report states initially that 'during conflicts, special consideration for the local citizens is needed, and a need to use local interpreters will always exist.'

The preamble states that 'in the aftermath of Iraq and Afghanistan, the use of local interpreters emerged as political and ethical issues in Denmark, raising a variety of critical issues. Who is responsible for the interpreters? And how can their safety and well-being be safeguarded in future operations? Risk-reduction and accountability may be fruitful themes to start with.'

Other quotations from the report are interesting: 'Even with a careful preparation phase, the risk for local interpreters cannot be expected to be reduced completely during or in the unpredictable aftermath of conflicts. On this background the International Federation of Translators has recommended the development of an international legal instrument protecting interpreters working in conflict zones.'

The research report offers five operational recommendations and four policy recommendations. Operational recommendation no. 5 reads: 'When signing the contract, a clear adjustment of expectations between interpreters and employer should take place. The commander in chief should clearly and systematically state the rights and possibilities for protection during and in the post-conflict phase to the interpreters.'

Policy recommendation no. 4 reads: 'The Danish Government should support and

work for an international safety document for the protection of interpreters in conflict zones as recommended by the International Federation of Translators 2014.'

The Danish Minister of Defense has said that he has asked the Joint Council of the Danish Defense Committee to make draft guidelines for the use of interpreters in conflict zones.

Read the full report here (in English): [http://www.diis.dk/files/media/documents/publications/diis\\_tolke\\_recommendations\\_final\\_v2.pdf](http://www.diis.dk/files/media/documents/publications/diis_tolke_recommendations_final_v2.pdf)

'Ohana means family. And family means that nobody gets left behind.' How can we make local interpreters in conflict zones belong to the FIT family? The work will continue!

Jørgen Christian Wind Nielsen  
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## COUNCIL NEWS

### FIT Council meeting at Baku

The FIT Council held its first meeting in late March after the Berlin Congress. The meeting took place in Baku, a city of over 2 million people and capital of Azerbaijan, at the invitation of the AGTA association. Two days of intense work were just barely enough to deal with current questions and define the new Council's direction and priorities.

#### At the heart of the discussion: committees and task forces

The committees and task forces are key elements of FIT. Through them, FIT drives its actions, communicates and gets involved for the good of the translation and interpreting profession.

The Statutory Congress 2014 modified the rules for committees and set up some task forces to improve efficiency. For the most part, the former committees had very wide and sometimes nebulous objectives, often too ambitious for a small

team of volunteers. The new task forces will have more limited and well-defined tasks to be completed within a fairly short time frame (from 6 months to a year, renewable where necessary). The teams will have a simplified structure so as to become operational quickly. Once the work is completed, the task force will be disbanded and its members free to take part in another assignment. In this way, participation in a task force is no longer unlimited, as was the case previously. This new formula enables each person to know exactly the length of their commitment and the precise task to be undertaken.

Some permanent committees will be retained when there is no imposed time limit. However, to renew the teams and maintain the work dynamics, there will be a call for applications and elections every 3 years, and the 2008 limit of three 3-year terms is retained.

In the Committees and Task Forces article below, you will find details on the committees and task forces that the Council wants to create and in which you are invited to participate.

#### New memberships and departures

The *Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL)*, the *Association des Traducteurs et Interprètes de Genève (AIT)*, the *Asociación Colombiana de Traductores et Intérpretes (ACTI)* and the *Association des Traducteurs et Interprètes de Georgie (TIAMTA)* have requested either their FIT membership or a change from observer status to ordinary member status. The Council has approved these applications, and the next statutory congress will be asked to ratify them.

With regret, we announce the departure of the Australian Association for Literature Translation (AALITRA), the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)



Participants at the FIT Council Meeting in Baku

and the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT).

### Regional Centres

FIT Europe and FIT North America have held general meetings and elected new committee chairs. Natacha Dalügge-Momme is the new president of FIT Europe and Michel Parent, the president of FIT North America, the rules and regulations of which have also been approved.

### Next Congress at Brisbane

Alison Rodriguez, Council member, confirms the dates of the Statutory Congress (1 and 2 August 2017) and Open Congress (from 3 to 5 August 2017). Preparations are well in hand and the main themes have been set. These include ethics in translation, literature and the postmodern world, transcreation, political language, indigenous languages,

new and emerging languages, and sign languages.

### Topics presented at the last Statutory Congress

Several proposals requiring modifications to the by-laws could not be voted on at the Statutory Congress because they were not communicated to members two months before Congress. One of the proposals concerned the staggered renewal of Council members (ITI proposal) to avoid the departure and accession of the whole Council at each Congress. Alan Melby and Sabine Colombe will prepare a plan for the staggered accession (annual) of recently elected councillors.

### External relations

GALA: FIT's president was the first to have been invited to the GALA conference in early March this year in Seville (Spain). Informal contacts will be followed up.

DFKI: The Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research in Germany is also working on automatic translation. It has approached FIT, asking it to participate in this project by making its network of translators available to assess the quality of automatic translation and compare it with that of a human translator. A framework contract has just been signed. Ordinary members will be contacted in due course to suggest translators who are interested in participating (remunerated).

### Next meetings

EC meeting: 6 October 2015 in Peru

Council meeting: March 2016 in Paris (France)

EC meeting: Xi'an, APTIF Forum, May 2016; in Havana, December 2016

*Sabine Colombe*  
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## Abolition of admission fees

Good news for all those associations and organisations not yet members of FIT: the admission fee of 70 Swiss francs has been abolished, as decided by the Council at its recent meeting. It seems unjust and counterproductive to us to demand payment from an asso-

ciation that is considering a closer relationship with FIT but is not assured of admission.

In 2011 FIT, as the voice of translators, interpreters and terminologists throughout the world, abolished the minimum subscription and reduced the subscrip-

tion for poor countries by half. With this latest action, FIT has removed another barrier to membership.

*Sabine Colombe*  
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## FIT egroup cruising along

The discussion group that links association members, the committees and the Council has been functioning for 4 months, and has now reached cruising speed. Eva Malkki (eva.malkki@sktl.fi) and Jeanette Ørsted (secretariat@fit-ift.org) are managing the subscribers and ensuring harmony and cordiality within the group.

It is organised as a Google group, allowing all associations and institution members associated with FIT to contact their counterparts worldwide. Information on international events, questions

and various proposals within the group will be quickly addressed directly to the connected governing bodies. For now, one address per member is registered for this *e-group*, and obviously this is the one that must be used to send messages. However, forwarding messages to all those who are interested is encouraged. The number of messages is still reasonable and will not fill up your inbox, especially if you have created a dedicated directory (it is unusual to receive more than 3 or 4 messages a day).

There are many notices for training,

seminars and meetings, along with job offers and calls for nominations. The appeal to accredited translators for help in the Danish courts and the terrible attack on the Charlie Hebdo journalists have been the focus of our discussions.

Only one snag: surveys and posting of files or photos are not possible in Google groups, as they are in Yahoo groups. However, Jeanette suggests you use SurveyMonkey to organise surveys reserved for this group. We hope you do!

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## New FIT Task Forces – Call for Participation

FIT is able to function thanks in large part to its committees and task forces. These not only are information sources, they also lead in thinking and preparing for the future. Without them, the FIT Council of 17 volunteers could by no means fulfil the expectations of the associations, and all FIT members are invited to take part in them. Any translator, interpreter or terminologist who is a member of a FIT association can participate in these groups on their own initiative, although they must have the backing of his or her association and the FIT Council.

The task forces will no longer be able to function for an unlimited time. They will be set up for specific tasks for periods of 6 to 12 months, which should facilitate their operations. If you want to take part in one or another of the teams below, let us know! The names of people so far who have expressed their willingness to take part are listed in brackets.

### Task Forces

**Literary Translation:** Literary Translation is an integral part of the FIT's heritage. FIT remains the only global voice for literary translators. Through international events focused on literary translation, collaboration with other literary organisations and dedicated projects showcasing talented young literary translators, this task force aims to raise the profile of literary translators and translation. The group was set up last year by Werner

Richter, Ika Kaminka and Brigitte Rapp, and other members have joined them since. An action plan is currently being prepared via the group's discussion list.

**Research:** This group works on issues concerning the overall market situation and conditions for translators to prepare FIT's official position on these issues. (Reiner Heard, vice-president FIT)

**Association Building and Development:** the group advises associations before, during and after their creation. (Eleanor Cornelius, Council member FIT)

**FIT Awards Management:** constituting juries and following up on their work on the many FIT awards have become very complex tasks. This task force will require efficient project management all the way up to the next Congress in 2017. However, short-term subtasks can be identified. FIT secretariat will be on hand to help, using feedback from past congresses. (Sandra Bertolini FIT Council member)

**Legal Translation and Interpreting:** the current task is preparing for the forum in Lima in October 2015. (Monique Rouzet-Lelièvre, Christine Springer, heads of what was previously the LTI committee)

**Education and Professional Development:** the mandate for the former committee of the same name will be changed to identify more realistic tasks. A feasibility study for a FIT on-line training platform is under consideration. (Thelma Ferry and Emma Garcia, heads

of the committee since 2011, Hannelore Lee-Jahnke, committee head up to 2011, Olga Egorova FIT Council member)

**Standards and Codes of Ethics Survey:** the former standards committee prepared a survey on the national standards and codes of ethics of our association members. This new task force will complete the project. (Alan Melby FIT Council member and head of the previous Standards committee)

**International Database of Complaints and Disciplinary Decisions:** this database will contain the disciplinary decisions made by FIT association members in response to complaints for failure to observe rules and codes of ethics. The task force will move ahead with data collection. (Henry Liu, President FIT)

**FIT publication Translatio:** the FIT journal has resumed quarterly publication, thanks to the involvement of the entire Council and a group of volunteer editors and designers. The current content and production planning team needs to be reinforced and transformed into a task force. (Sabine Colombe, FIT Secretary General, Catherine Hodot)

**FIT publication Babel:** Frans de Laet, editor in chief of this scientific translation journal for several months now, is setting up a new editorial committee in charge of evaluating and revising the articles submitted. Based on task force rules, the committee will have a longer term, with a three-year mandate. (Frans de Laet)

**Website and social media:** FIT's presence via its web site and social networks (Facebook and Twitter) is delivered by Eva Malkki (webmaster), aided by Eleanor Cornelius, Ismayil Jabrayilov and Kevin Quirk. This is a considerable work load. The new task force will study the creation of a YouTube channel and will identify communication priorities. (Eva Malkki, Eleanor Cornelius, Ismayil Jabrayilov and Kevin Quirk, all FIT Council members)

### Standing Committees

Some tasks are entrusted to standing committees:

**Solidarity fund:** this committee, currently headed by Reiner Heard, should be expanded. It will deal in confidence with applications received from association members in financial difficulties. (Reiner Heard, vice-president FIT)

**ISO standards:** Izabel Souza is a member of several ISO work groups where she represents FIT. A complete report on the various groups is available on the Standards committee page of the FIT site. This committee will have to gather information and cooperate efficiently with the ISO work groups concerned. (Alan Melby, Izabel Souza)

**Human rights:** Sven Borei has been working for a long time for translators and interpreters in peril, but his mandate is ending. A new team will be put in place, but Sven will make himself available as an expert with his experience and his generosity.

These eleven task forces and three permanent committees are only a small part of what has been proposed, but priorities had to be set.

In the future, results from the committees and task forces will be more prominent, and published in *Translatio* and on the web site. If your proposal has not been selected, or if in your opinion it is missing, please be aware that right now a new group could be set up rapidly: find 3 people to make up the group, ensure the support of your association and make a proposal to the Council, which will quickly decide.

### Suggestions for task forces

The Council has received a number of suggestions but no promises to help with these groups. If you believe in the usefulness of these groups and you have a bit of time to devote to it, the translators and interpreters community will be grateful to you.

**Medical Interpreting:** Access to medical services in one's own language is a fundamental human right. With migration and globalisation, the need to provide such service is becoming more acute. This task force is to draft an international recommended standard based on best practice guidelines across the globe and to raise the profile of medical interpreters and interpreting.

**Audiovisual Translation:** AV translation is not just confined to subtitling in our increasingly multimedia world. This task force is to address specific issues perti-

nent to AV translators and to raise the profile of AV translators and translation.

**Copyright:** Like Literary Translation, Copyright is at the heart of the history of FIT. The 1976 Nairobi Declaration is one of its major achievements. Through international events focused on copyright issues, collaboration with other international copyright organisations, and dedicated projects towards promoting copyright best practices, this taskforce is to raise the profile of copyright issues in translation, interpreting and terminology.

**FIT Clearing house:** In the Information Age, there are notes aplenty, just from FIT member associations and associates. This task force is to setup a system whereby FIT becomes the hub for information pertaining to translation, interpreting and terminology, including education opportunities, commercial and marketing opportunities, and in a form that members can readily access. (Robert Ensor, FIT Council member)

**E-publishing:** With the proliferation of e-publishing across disciplines, and much reduced cost in comparison with traditional publishing, this taskforce is to investigate whether FIT should embrace this medium. (Robert Ensor, FIT Council member)

**FIT Apps development:** With the proliferation of apps, this taskforce is to investigate whether FIT should embrace this medium for the benefit of our members. (Robert Ensor, FIT Council member)

*Sabine Colombe*  
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## Research in Automatic Translation – Collaboration with DFKI

In February 2015, FIT signed a framework contract with DFKI following a successful pilot collaboration project codenamed QTLaunchPad.

DFKI stands for Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz (German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence), one of the world's largest nonprofit contract research institutes in the field of innovative software technology and artificial intelligence.

You may wonder why FIT would be working with DFKI. Amongst its many areas of research, DFKI has a division dedicated to multilingual technologies, led by Professor Josef van Genabith, based in the

Saarbrücken campus.

Before attending the recent Council Meeting in Baku, I visited the Saarbrücken campus with Council Member Alan Melby and held talks with Professor van Genabith to learn more about the scope of the centre's research and future developments. We also discussed how FIT can provide critical and specialist services for DFKI's ongoing research into multilingual smart technology and machine translation and its limitations.

FIT's reputation as the voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world is solid, and increasingly well known. Our unpar-

alleled access to professional translators and interpreters and our mandate to represent them are two of the many assets which attract research centres like DFKI. The Council is working hard to ensure that we have the infrastructure to provide professional services in an ethical, open and accountable fashion, allowing us to become involved in projects which would otherwise be beyond the reach of individual member associations or their members. So stay tuned to FIT, and you can be part of the bleeding edge of research in our profession.

*Henry Liu*, [president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org)

## FIT position paper on crowdsourcing

FIT is the voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world. But where is the evidence backing up what we are saying? The 2011 Congress in San Francisco first expressed the as-yet unfulfilled need for position papers on topical and/or controversial issues. The crowdsourcing position paper prepared by the last Council is the first of such documents.

Thank you to those who commented during the two-month consultation period. Based on your comments, Council Members Kevin Quirk and Alison Rodriguez have worked hard in preparing this revised version, which is now available on the FIT website, from where you can download it. Please disseminate this widely.

During the recent Council Meeting in

Baku, the Council also authorised the creation of a dedicated research task force which will form the infrastructure for asserting FIT's authority by commissioning other position papers. This will become part of the specialised services which FIT provides to you, our member associations. Like you, I look forward to reading their work.

Henry Liu, [president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org)

## FIT ACTIONS

### FIT President is Guest Speaker at GALA 2015

It took 7 years for a FIT President to be invited as the special guest at a GALA conference. And there could be no better place than Seville, where the atmosphere is always warm and welcoming.

Not everyone in FIT knows about GALA (Globalisation and Localisation Association). Some may have preconceived ideas or even prejudice about them. To be honest, the same also applies to GALA members towards FIT. But the truth is that we are all in it together, in the translation, interpreting and terminology profession.

Between 22 and 25 March, I spoke to over 200 representatives of technology vendors, and translation & interpreting companies from around the world, and I have the business cards to prove it. For-



GALA President Robert Etches and FIT President Henry Liu (Courtesy of GALA)

tunately, I had Council Members Alison Rodriguez and Alan Melby helping me fly the FIT flag. I also met many ASETRAD members attending the Conference.

GALA President Robert Etches and I held

talks about a range of topics of common interest and explored ways in which our two organisations and our members could benefit from concrete collaboration. If you have any suggestions, send them to me.

It is vital for FIT to be visible to a wider public, acting as advocate on behalf of our profession. Our collaboration with key global and/or regional partners, NGOs (UNESCO), education (CIUTI), and employers (DGT, DGI), is part of this strategy. And improved dialogue between FIT and leading trade organisations representing Language Service Providers (LSP) can only lead to improved relations and benefit the Federation, our members and the wider profession.

Henry Liu, [president@fit-ift.org](mailto:president@fit-ift.org)

## Handbook of Terminology (HoT), Volume I

Volume I of this new publication from John Benjamins is now available in print (as well as in PDF format as an e-book), and as an online publication. Four additional volumes are envisaged.

This volume of *HoT* includes no less than 25 chapters, systematically organised into six parts. Chapters are written by specialists in the field and cover a wide range of topics, including fundamental theoretical questions and concepts, methodological and technological issues, intercultural concerns, and planning and policy matters relating to terminology. A number of case studies are also discussed, providing readers insight

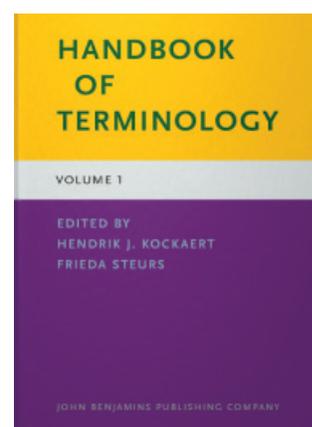
into the ways in which terminological work is practised in real-world contexts.

The book is aimed at a wide readership, in particular those involved and active in academic environments, students, lecturers, researchers and scholars, but also to professionals such as translators, text editors, interpreters, communication specialists and many more.

From a personal viewpoint: this volume of *HoT* is the kind of book I would prescribe for my third-year students in (Applied) Linguistics – for academic and theoretical purposes. It provides a good overview of and introduction to the field from different perspectives.

Volume I of *HoT* Online is available at <https://www.benjamins.com/online/hot/>. A free demo version is available for a trial period of 7 days.

Review by Eleanor Cornelius, [eleanorc@uj.ac.za](mailto:eleanorc@uj.ac.za)



## International Translation Day Poster

The theme of this year's International Translation Day (ITD), celebrated on 30 September, is The Changing Face of Translation and Interpreting / *Le nou-*

*veau visage de la traduction et de l'interprétation.* The winner of FIT's ITD Poster Competition was Suomen Kääntäjien ja Tulkkien Liitto, Finland's översättar- och

tolkförbundet ry (SKTL, the Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters), with a design by Laura Lindstedt.

30 sept

International translation day 2015



FIT members are urged to use the poster to promote International Translation Day in 2015, and to use skill and cunning to gain news coverage in connection with International Translation Day.

Although many aspects of the work of translators and interpreters have changed over the years, the basics remain unchanged:

- The role of translators and interpreters is to enable people to communicate.
- Quality is the touchstone in any assignment, and this still depends on the skill and experience of the translator or interpreter and on selecting the right person for the job.
- Translators still have to craft each text to fit its purpose.
- Clients still need to brief the translator or interpreter of their needs properly.
- Translators still need to keep themselves fresh, up-to-date and on the ball through continuing professional development.

Let us celebrate the great advances that have been made in translation and interpreting, but most importantly the individuals who are at the heart of the profession and who make it possible for us to live in a global village which is also a world full of possibilities in the past and present and for the future.

<http://www.fit-ift.org/wp-content/uploads/2015-Poster-1-Finland-SKTL.jpg>

Kevin Quirk

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The winner of FIT's ITD Poster Competition was the Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters (SKTL), with a design by Laura Lindstedt

## Interview with Laura

Laura Lindstedt from Finland won this year's FIT International Translation Day poster competition with her design for the theme *The Changing Face of Translation*.

Eleanor Cornelius, FIT council member, chatted to Laura to find out more about her and her design:

### **Are you a professional designer?**

I studied advertising graphics and then graphic design at university, but I am not practising this profession at the moment. I hope to be able to do so in the near future; however, everything I do is important for my portfolio.

### **How would you describe yourself?**

I am very curious and I like to experiment and learn, especially in terms of visual arts. I keep myself busy with all kinds of projects.

### **Why did you enter the competition?**

My cousin is a translator in the Finnish television industry and she sent me the link to this competition; so I decided to



try. At the same time, it was an opportunity to improve my design skills.

### **Did you expect to win the FIT competition?**

Not really. I didn't know how many people would be taking part. I am very glad I entered, and I enjoyed designing the poster tremendously.

### **What does winning this competition mean to you?**

It means I can be proud of my work, and it gives me more confidence to continue designing, as this is what I enjoy doing.

### **What inspired your design?**

My works are inspired by everything I see around me such as nature, other design areas, etc. Beauty inspires me.

### **How does your design depict the theme for the 2015 ITD, namely *The Changing Face of Translation and Interpreting*?**

A dynamic image with a changing shape explains the concept in question, and the colours I used give to a simple image the power it needs to communicate that idea. Less is often more, provided the elements are used correctly.

### **Are you interested in language and translation / interpreting matters?**

I think it is an awesome area. I know some people who work as translators and interpreters and I admire what they do.

Eleanor Cornelius, [eleancor@uj.ac.za](mailto:eleancor@uj.ac.za)

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Indonesia: New HPI Certification for Translators and Interpreters

As previously related in Translatio's 2-3 2013 edition, since 2010 HPI has been awarding certification to translators passing the National Certification Examination or 'TSN'. Margaretha Adisoemarta and Evand Halim were appointed the new Chair and Vice Chair of the HPI Competency and Certification Committee in 2013, and they immediately started to devise two types of examinations to replace the previous general examination. On 17 November 2013, general and legal certification tests were held and the result was announced on 15 February 2014. Successful candidates received their certificates on 23 February, and they are now called HPI-Certified General or Legal Translators. The complete list of HPI-certified translators is available on the following link: <http://www.hpi.or.id/sertifikasi/daftar-penerjemah-bersertifikat-hpi>.

Another breakthrough made by the new Committee is the first TSN examination

for Interpreters held on 30 March 2014, with 17 interpreters participating. Now called HPI-Certified Interpreters, successful candidates were announced on 6 October 2014 and received their certificates on 16 November. The complete list

of HPI-certified interpreters is available on the following link: <http://www.hpi.or.id/list-of-hpi-certified-interpreters>.

Rosmeilan Siagian, HPI Secretary  
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Sitting from left to right: Margaretha Adisoemarta (Chair of the Committee), Eddie Notowidigdo (former HPI President, now a member of the HPI Honorary Board), Benny Hoed (Chair of the HPI Honorary Board), Evand Halim (Vice Chair of the Committee)

## SFT Works with INSEE on Translation Prices

Insee (*Institut National de la Statistique et des Etudes Economiques*), the French national statistics institute answers to the Ministry of the Economy. The institute collects, analyses and publishes data on the French economy and society shedding light on the economic and social situation. Amongst others, Insee calculates the cost of production index for various branches of activities. Economists use these indices to calculate the net domestic product (NDP).

Until now, Activity 7430 (Translation and Interpretation) was not covered by such an index. A study to achieve that has just started. Mr. Gac, who is heading the study, notes that the objective "is not

to measure the price of this service, but to calculate an index that relates to the change in prices over time. The result will be a baseline index of 100 at the beginning of 2014 that will change in relation to changes in prices".

Because of the uniqueness of this activity (about 50% by agencies and 50% by independents), Insee has established two sample groups. The first combines the 25 biggest translation agencies; the second brings together 55 independent translators and interpreters, including 35 SFT (*Société Française de Traduction*) members chosen randomly from lists of professionals. One or more price indicators (per word, per page, per hour, etc.)

and the types of invoicing used by the professionals sampled will be monitored regularly: every quarter for agencies and every semester or year for the independents. This index will not be published before Autumn 2015, as it takes that long to make up a dataset of sufficient length and validity.

SFT, CNET (*Chambre Nationale des Entreprises de Traduction*) National Chamber of Translation Businesses, and AIIC (*Association internationale des interprètes de conférence*) International Association of Conference Interpreters have all shown their interest in its calculation and distribution.

Catherine Hodot

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## New FIT member in Italy: ASSOINTERPRETI

Founded in 1974 in Milan, ASSOINTERPRETI, the Italian Association of Professional Conference Interpreters, has a membership of over 150 professionals, based mostly in Italy.

In 2014 Assointerpreti celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Rome with a memorable riverside party also attended by colleagues from other Associations.

Later in the year our Association was admitted as a full member of FIT and we are very happy to have become part of the FIT community!

Assointerpreti interpreters work mainly in the private market, but also for Italian and European Institutions.

Assointerpreti is a member of UNI, the Italian Standards Body, and CoLAP, the



The new board elected on 15 March 2015, from left to right, Ariella Germinario, Antonella Angelini Rota, President Maria Carla Bellucci, Cristina Dall'Oglio, Fabio Citolini Morassutti

Umbrella Association of Professional Associations.

Carla Bellucci

[carla.bellucci@assointerpreti.it](mailto:carla.bellucci@assointerpreti.it)

## New FIT member in Canada: OTTIAQ

OTTIAC, a professional association, has 2000 members. Its purpose is to protect the public by issuing the professional titles within its remit (certified translator, certified terminologist, certified interpreter), enforcing its own code of conduct and professional standards, and implementing the means set out in the Professional Code (law regulating the system for professionals in Québec).

Its mission is to foster recognition of its credentials through its outreach and influence on the local, national and world scene. OTTIAQ members contribute through their professionalism and ethical use of their title.

Its vision is to be a standard setter and a key forum for improvement for translators, terminologists and interpreters.

OTTIAQ's three core values are account-

ability, which means taking ownership of one's actions, complying with the code of conduct, and protecting the public; professionalism, which encompasses competence, quality, rigour, efficiency, proactivity, creativity, improvement and a high level of autonomy; and leadership, or the ability to guide, influence and inspire.

Réal Paquette, OTTIAQ President,

[presidence@ottiaq.org](mailto:presidence@ottiaq.org)

## New FIT member in Africa : ATIPCO

The Association des Traducteurs et Interprètes Professionnels du Congo (ATIPCO) is based in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a country of great linguistic diversity with more than 500 tribal groups and as many local languages. French is the official language of the DRC.

When the government created the School of Translation and Interpretation at the National Teaching University (*Ecole de Traduction et d'Interprétariat à l'Université Pédagogique Nationale*) in 1997, it changed the way the profession was practised and perceived in the country.

On 12 April, 2006 in their final year, the school's first graduating class of Bachelor's degree students created the Association des Traducteurs et Interprètes Professionnels du Congo (ATIPCO), mindful of their professional future and the challenges of their vocation.

ATIPCO asked for and obtained FIT



Mvwala C. Katshinga, President of ATIPCO,  
Democratic Republic of Congo

membership as a candidate for associate member. In 2014, it was admitted as Ordinary Member at the Berlin Congress. The association is registered with the DRC Ministry of Justice and Human

Rights, although there is still no legislation in DRC regulating the general conditions for practising translation.

Despite this very prejudicial legal gap, ATIPCO continues to increase its visibility through the use of audio-visual media. Some of the more significant events have been the public presentation in 2012 of a book written by one of its members, *Traduction et Développement communautaire en milieu congolais (Community Translation and Development in the Congo)*, published by Éditions Universitaires Européennes (Germany, 2011); the televised celebration of the 2013 International Translation Day (ITD) with a theme suggested by ATIPCO; and the 2014 ITD, co-celebrated with the National Teaching University's Haute Ecole de Traduction et d'Interprétariat (HETI, formerly ETI) in Kinshasa.

Mvwala C. Katshinga, ATIPCO president  
[mvwalak@yahoo.fr](mailto:mvwalak@yahoo.fr)

## NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL CENTERS

### Letter of Support for Afghan Interpreters

After a resolution taken during the FIT Berlin World Congress in August 2014, FIT Europe is launching a major initiative to support all Afghan interpreters serving with allied troops in Afghanistan. Once the allied forces started withdrawing from war-torn Afghanistan, these interpreters, formerly employed by the allied troops, found themselves in the predicament of facing grave danger and being branded as traitors for collaborating with the "enemy". A number of countries have already been proactive and arranged for permanent residence permits to be granted. This support does not however extend to job hunting or even integration. In addition, only married interpreters could bring their families with them, and then only their wives and children, leaving their parents and siblings behind still exposed and vulnerable to acts of revenge.

Afghanistan has been the theatre of military operations for many years. Your national military is taking part in ISAF

and they most likely work with local interpreters. Our colleagues and their families at large are threatened by the Taliban and Al Qaeda. All too often, local staff are left on their own once our military withdraw.

Here are a few links that show how severe the situation is:

<http://www.businessinsider.com/former-interpreters-threatened-2014-7?op=1>

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2831077/Just-ONE-Afghan-interpreter-helped-British-forces-allowed-UK-despite-hundreds-requests-staff-threatened-Taliban.html>

<http://www.newsinenglish.no/2013/02/27/afghan-interpreters-granted-asylum/>

FIT Europe would like to map out the way our governments deal with these unfortunate colleagues after they have served our cause. We need you to contact your Chief of Staff and Minister of Defence to ask a number of questions

and raise awareness of the issue. Here is a sample letter that you can adapt to your national situation. You might want to ask these questions directly or have them put to your Minister of Defence by a Member of Parliament.

Did your association take any solidarity action in the field? (Support fund, press release, lobbying to achieve refugee status, etc.) Information and contributions of any kind are welcome.

To express our support for our Afghan colleagues, FIT Europe has prepared a draft letter addressed to the relevant European competent ministries. This initiative has started a general debate on this sensitive issue, raising awareness among the general public and the political decision makers.

Natacha Dalügge-Momme, President of  
FIT Europe, [ndm@translanguages.de](mailto:ndm@translanguages.de)

Translation into English: Dimitra Stafiliá,  
Treasurer FIT Europe



## FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

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### Draft Open Letter

General (or Mr/Ms Minister of Defence)

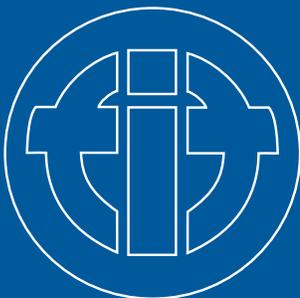
Our Military is a contributor to the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. They work with local interpreters to fulfil their missions. Afghan interpreters and their families are threatened with death by the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. Reports indicate that a number of local interpreters who have worked for the West have been beheaded or hanged. With a general ISAF withdrawal planned in 2016, interpreters may be left on their own and would eventually face retaliation by the Taliban.

Our association represents (country) translators and interpreters and is a member of FIT, the International Federation of Translators and Interpreters. We are deeply concerned and would like to ask you a few questions about our country's situation and position in that respect.

- How many interpreters have worked for our military in Afghanistan?
- How many of them or their relatives have been:
  - threatened with death?
  - assassinated by the Taliban or other radical Islamists for serving our force?
  - killed in operations?
- What is our government's policy for those people after term of service (none, refugee status, other)?

We are looking forward to your answers and would like to thank you for doing all that you can in this very compelling situation.

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