

March 9, 2015

**To: FIT Council**

**From: FIT Standards Committee**

### **Approved Mandate**

"The Standards Committee (formerly Committee for Information on the Status of the Translation and Interpretation Profession) aims to build a repository of information on various T&I standards around the world. In the course of this work, recommendations will be made as to what role FIT should play in this important area of our profession."

### **Specific Activities Related to the Mandate**

**International Standards:** FIT member ATA (American Translators Association) makes available to the FIT Standards Committee a table of **international** standards related to T&I that is updated several times a year. Please see attached the January 2015 version of this table. As you will see, several new standards are under development, and several existing standards are being revised. Some of these standards come from ISO Technical Committee (TC) 37.

The FIT Standards Committee has obtained liaison status with ISO TC 37 as a whole and with subcommittee 5 (translation and interpreting) in particular. This means that the FIT Standards Committee is now authorized to submit official comments on ISO ballots regarding the development and revision of T&I standards. Typically, several ballots are issues each year. FIT could also become a voting member of ASTM International, which also issues T&I standards.

An ongoing role of the FIT Standards Committee could be to gather and submit comments on ballots regarding international T&I standards.

**National and Regional Standards:** In addition, the FIT Standards Committee has been developing a survey regarding **national** and **regional** T&I-related standards including, but not limited to, laws and regulations from government bodies, codes of ethics from professional associations, and certifications issued by various organizations. The survey will be beta-tested with a few FIT member associations and then sent out by the FIT Secretariat to all FIT member organizations. The FIT Standards Committee will assist the FIT Secretariat in gently encouraging responses from those FIT member organizations that do not respond to the initial invitation and in compiling the responses into a database of regional and national standards, which will be updated periodically.

Because of the constantly evolving nature of T&I-related standards, we recommend that the FIT Standards Committee be an ongoing committee rather than a short-term task force.

Note that the FIT Standards Committee organized two sessions at the 2014 FIT Congress in Berlin, one on translation quality and the other on translator certification. Supplementary reports regarding these sessions will be available to the FIT Council.