**President’s message**

**Kevin Quirk**

Dear FIT Members,

I’m very proud to share the activities of many of our member associations in this edition of Translatio, from ASTTI’s Financial Translation Summer School (p. 7) to UNIVERSITAS’ 65th anniversary celebrations (p. 2) and the bold—but clearly necessary—decision of the court interpreters of ÖVGD to go on strike (p. 8).

It is particularly encouraging to see two specific initiatives organised by our members, especially since many of our member associations have expressed challenges with recruiting younger members. OTTIAQ’s mentoring programme to help recent graduates become certified goes a long way towards securing the future of the association (p. 8), while SSPOL’s two-day event of seminars and workshops entitled ‘Translating Europe 2019 – What millennials should know about market demands’ shows great commitment to young individuals in Slovakia (pp. 9–10).

In addition, this edition of Translatio contains updates on the activities of members in the FIT LatAm region (pp. 5–6) and news of a project initiated by the FIT Educational and Professional Development Task Force (p. 3).

Special mention should also be given to a new publication on literary translation produced by our partners at CEATL – Conseil Européen des Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires (pp. 3–4), and to the upcoming three-day international conference ‘Translating and interpreting 4.0 – New ways in the digital age’, organised in Bonn on 22–24 November by BDÜ (p. 10).

Another activity that has taken up much of FIT’s time over the last year has been the first ever FIT Presidents Forum.

Last autumn, FIT member UNIVERSITAS kindly invited the Executive Committee of FIT to hold a one-day in-person meeting in Vienna, Austria in October 2019 in conjunction with the Austrian association’s 65th anniversary celebrations. Meanwhile, the idea of arranging the first ever FIT Presidents Forum slowly began to take shape. Many have long felt that FIT should play a more active role in bringing its members together to network and share best practices. Until now, we have only had our triennial FIT Statutory Congress, and as many of you know, such meetings are more formal and offer few chances for open discussion.

Over the next several months, the original plan of holding a single day of meetings had expanded to include not only an EC meeting, but also a UNIVERSITAS seminar to celebrate International Translation Day, a FIT Europe annual meeting, and, last but not least, the first FIT Presidents Forum, spanning a total of four full days and involving every member of FIT.

FIT is deeply indebted to Dagmar Jenner, President of UNIVERSITAS, to FIT Council member Alexandra Jantscher-Karlhuber and to everyone from UNIVERSITAS for being so accommodating. Furthermore, I would like to thank FIT member ÖVGD and, in particular, FIT Honorary Advisor Liese Katschinka for inviting FIT Europe to hold its annual meeting in Vienna during the same weekend and for working so closely on the ground with UNIVERSITAS. Without your coordinating efforts, the first FIT Presidents Forum would never have been the great success that it was! Further reports on the FIT Presidents Forum and ITD celebrations around the world will be included in the next issue of Translatio. I encourage you to share news of your events with our editorial team.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that FIT remains committed to making the voice of translators, terminologists and interpreters heard in more places and across more domains during this mandate. Look out for more news on our plans for more FIT Regional Centres in upcoming issues of Translatio.

Wishing you an enjoyable read!

Kevin Quirk, president@fit-ift.org
UNIVERSITAS Austria celebrates its 65th anniversary and ITD

Founded in 1954 as an alumni club for graduates of the interpreting program of the University of Vienna (hence the name, an amalgam of university and unitas), UNIVERSITAS Austria has, over the past decades, evolved to become a strong professional association that recently opened its doors to community interpreters by creating COMMUNITAS, a platform geared towards interpreters without academic training. A proud member of FIT, UNIVERSITAS Austria has had close ties with FIT since joining in 1958. UNIVERSITAS Austria member Liese Katschinka was FIT vice-president from 1984 to 1987 and general secretary from 1993 to 1999. The immediate past President of UNIVERSITAS Austria, Alexandra Jantscher-Karlhuber, currently serves on the FIT Council.

To honour UNIVERSITAS Austria’s upcoming 65th anniversary and International Translation Day, the association held an anniversary conference and networking dinner on 4 October 2019 in downtown Vienna, Austria. Under the auspices of the Austrian president, the event featured a keynote speech by Maya Hess of Red T, an organisation dedicated to the protection of translators and interpreters in high-risk settings. There were also two presentations about this year’s FIT theme, “Translation and indigenous languages.” Members of various FIT organisations joined in our celebration, including Kevin Quirk, President of FIT, who shared this special day with us. For more information, please visit www.universitas.org.

By Dagmar Jenner,
President of UNIVERSITAS Austria

Photo credit: Sandra Bertolini
FIT Education and Professional Development Task Force: Working for our members

Of course, everything we do at FIT, including the work of FIT task forces and committees, is done for our members. The Education and Development Task Force would like to take this opportunity to present one of our major objectives for the present mandate that will provide additional benefit to our member organisations.

Although a database of training institutions already exists, it needs to be updated to include current translator, terminologist and interpreter education and training programmes around the world. Current disparities in the volume and accuracy of the information included will be resolved based on the following key criteria: consistency of presentation and layout, comparability, and usability. The fields for the database have already been established and include country, city, institution name, mailing address, phone number, programme name, teaching language(s), working languages, degrees of graduates, duration, category, etc. Since programmes differ from country to country and region to region with regards to prerequisites and degrees offered, and since the specialisations discussed during courses cover the “education” element of our task force as well as the “professional development” section, a special category for professional development will also be included.

In the coming months, all the Regional Centres or area representatives will be contacted as part of this project in order to collect the data to be included in the database from the relevant training institutions in their countries or regions. We ask that everyone who is contacted respond to help us collect as much useful information as possible.

We also aim to incorporate news on all webinars, workshops and courses offered by FIT member associations so that we can advertise them on FIT’s website, FIT’s Facebook page and at relevant events organised by FIT or where FIT is present. The final objective is to create a bulletin board to publicise these professional development initiatives.

However, none of this can be achieved without your support. We hope you will all become part of the team working to create a database that will be useful and relevant for all present and future translators, terminologists and interpreters worldwide and be yet another benefit of belonging to FIT!

Thank you.

Helga Benigni-Cokan, Alejandra M. Jorge
Education and Professional Development Task Force

In praise of translators, terminologists and interpreters on International Translation Day

On this most momentous day
Let bells peal and flagpoles sway.
Let’s raise our gazes and sing the praises
Of translators and interpreters in every way.
For you are the ones who make thousands of choices
While lending your clients your very clear voices
Reflecting the cadence and the tone
Of utterances soppy or dry to the bone.
Whether writing or speaking, you do your best
Ask any one of us; it’s always a test
Of your envious strengths as you work your magic
On texts highly serious or even most tragic.
Whether connecting nations
Or fostering peace,
You create understanding
You’re truly outstanding!
You deserve to be praised!
You deserve to be proud!
You deserve a poem to be read out loud!
Happy International Translation Day!

Kevin Quirk, FIT President

A new magazine for literary translators everywhere

This past May, the European Council of Literary Translators’ Associations (CEATL) launched Counterpoint/Contrepoint, an online literary translation magazine with articles on translation, literature, art and politics from both European and global perspectives by a diverse group of contributors.

One might ask, why does the world need such a publication? Well, the business of the (literary) translator is, by definition, internationally oriented, as translators cross many borders – cultural and linguistic – in their work. From the very beginning, the ambition of the three editors, Hanneke van der Heijden from Turkey/The Netherlands, Anne Larchet from Ireland, and Juliane Wammen from Denmark, was to produce a publication that would be of interest to “translators, publishers, agents, researchers, students, journalists, or people who just have a general interest in literature across borders, the European book market, and in the people that shape both,” as quoted in the first issue.
“Our original task was to increase CEATL’s visibility among our own members,” the editors say. “But we very soon realised that it would make sense to reach out to a wider audience. We are a rather invisible lot as translators, but we play such an important role in getting people to understand and talk to each other, in both a concrete and more abstract sense. And we want to make sure that no one forgets that!”

CEATL sees translation as a contrapuntal field that branches out into politics and language, trade and culture. Our aim is to contribute to the discussion of what translation is with our colleagues and to explain it to non-translators. Translation requires cultural insight, in-depth knowledge, linguistic skill and, in our case, literary sensibility; in short, an ability to put yourself in a position where you gather up all that knowledge, intuition and skill and create a text that is both faithful to the source text and a text in its own right.

The second – but by no means secondary – aim is to draw attention to the working conditions of translators, mainly across Europe, but around the world as well. CEATL works to follow and influence decisions concerning translators made at both the EU and the national government level. Sometimes being a translator can be quite a solitary job, but working together with colleagues in organisations like CEATL can make a difference, politically. By sharing both our victories and our challenges through Counterpoint, we hope to improve cooperation and increase solidarity and thus have a better chance of standing up to some of the major commercial players in the book market. For instance, CEATL’s political work paid off when AmazonCrossing changed its contracts to be more favourable to translators.

On a personal level, it is always heartening to know, whatever the particular conditions in your country, that other people share your aims and that you are not alone in facing the highs and lows of your work.

Counterpoint/Contrepoint is free and published twice a year. Read and subscribe at the following links in English and in French.

By Jørgen Christian Wind Nielsen,
Union of Communication and Language Professionals, Denmark

Counterpoint's first issue, available now

Photo Credit: Martin de Haan, Tim Flohr Sørensen

(L to R) Counterpoint editors Hanneke van der Heijden, Juliane Wammen, and Anne Larchet
At the recent FIT LatAm annual meeting, hosted online on the Zoom platform by FIT LatAm Chair Alejandra Jorge and moderated by Vice-Chair Dagmar Ford, associations shared their recent accomplishments and endeavours. Read on for regional highlights from our members.

Argentina
CTPCBA organised courses with a focus on the Spanish language and legal translation. It is also providing an innovative new process for certifying translations: digital signatures.

AATI celebrated ITD with a public event at the Immigration Museum in Buenos Aires with indigenous language artists and translators. AATI made an ITD video with subtitles featuring members of its board and task forces in several languages, including sign language.

CTPPC focused on continuing education activities, such as the Second National Seminar on Legal Translation. It co-organised the Ninth National FAT Conference in Córdoba and forged collaborations with universities to promote ethics and professionalisation.

CTPSF organised training sessions and conferences reaching more than 1,200 attendees and has experienced rapid growth in its membership with 130 new members. It recently moved to a new location in Santa Fe, giving its activities increased visibility.

Brazil
ABRATES continues to pioneer initiatives with marginalised Brazilian communities, such as ABRATES AFRO, a programme aimed at generating interest in translation careers within the black community.

Chile
COTICH organised continuing education activities and strengthened ties with educational institutions. It is working to gain recognition for the role of certified translators/interpreters and has the near-term goal of establishing its internal regulations.

Colombia
ACTTI organised training activities and conferences and published translation guidelines for members and clients. It is working with government stakeholders to advocate for a better standing for official translators and interpreters and is co-organising a seminar for indigenous language interpreters in Bogotá with AATI.

Costa Rica
ANTIO’s major achievement was joining FIT as a regular member. This has opened many doors at an international level, and members can now access more and better training activities. ANTIO joined forces with peers in neighbouring countries to work on topics of shared interest.

ACOTIP co-organised an international colloquium entitled Translation Cultures: Language, Use and Certification with ANTIO and the professional master’s programme in translation at the National University. It has also created a committee to develop a translation bill for Costa Rica.

Cuba
ACTI is co-organising the Fifteenth Symposium on Literary Translation with the Cuban Writers and Artists Union. ACTI is focused on co-organising the FIT World Congress in Varadero in 2020.

Ecuador
ATIEC co-organised a three-day interpreting course for English–Spanish interpreters with AIIC and delivered a legal translation online course as part of the efforts to renew certification. It is organising ITD celebrations with a seminar on best practices for the profession.

Guatemala
AGIT, on the occasion of the Guatemala–Israel Trade Agreement, organised a conference at Universidad del Istmo with linguist Dr Christophe Rico on his method for learning ancient languages, particularly Greek, at the POLIS Institute of Jerusalem.
Peru

ATPP has been working on standardising the issuance of certified translations and introduced the ATPP Certified Translation Manual in 2018. This has increased awareness of the added value of certified translations and acceptance of ATPP certified translations.

CTP’s main goal is the professionalisation of members through continuing education opportunities. CTP is organising the CITI Lima 2020 Conference, an event that is positioned to become a benchmark for the region.

Uruguay

CTPU recently organised an ATA exam sitting and a marketing workshop for translators with Spanish philologist Antonio Martin, in addition to other courses with Uruguayan universities. It recently moved to new offices in downtown Montevideo.

Venezuela

CONALTI has been struggling to support its members affected by Venezuela’s dire situation. It celebrated its 39th anniversary and is organising an online discussion group with those interested in presenting new ideas on fair translation and interpretation fees during tough economic times.

This is just a summary of the many activities that associations, large and small, are organising to bring FIT’s mission of being the voice of our profession to life in Latin America. A full version of the associations’ reports is available upon request by contacting Lidia Jeansalle at secretariafitlatam@gmail.com.

Collaborative article. Compilation and translation: Marita Propato
Meeting Collage: Dagmar Ford
Logo Collage: Laura Cariola

New lease of life for the SFT’s French–Italian network

A previous version of this article made an inaccurate statement about the AITI. The statement has been removed, with apologies to the AITI, its board, and its members from the Translatio editorial team.

A autumn 2018 saw two new coordinators take the helm of the Société Française des Traducteurs’ (SFT) Rete FI. The network’s initial meeting, held at the Maison d’Italie, Paris, on 9 May, proved a great success, and should lead to more initiatives in the future.

The SFT’s French–Italian network brings together SFT members with those of the Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters (AITI). After three biennial events held alternately in France and Italy (Aix-en-Provence in 2012, Milan in 2014 and Paris in 2016), activity within the network had been dwindling for some time. Faced with this dilemma, the SFT’s two new network coordinators, Corinne Milani and Alessia Palazzi, were keen to breathe...
In early July, the Financial Translation Conference organised by the Association Suisse des Traducteurs, Terminologues et Interprètes (ASTTI) took place once again at the ABZ training centre in Spiez, a small town nestled between hillside vineyards and the shores of Lake Thun some forty kilometres from Bern. This prestigious biennial summer school follows in the footsteps of the Société Française des Traducteurs' Summer School for Financial Translators held in France and Belgium and organised by Chris Durban and Dominique Jonkers.

This year, we took full advantage of the spectacular location – just one of the factors that attracted the conference's many attendees. The gala dinner-cruise on board MS Schilthorn, taking in the magnificent Lake Thun, offered the perfect setting for socialising and networking with colleagues. The first evening saw two students working towards a master's degree in translation present the results of their research into shadow banking and integrated reporting, with free drinks provided by our sponsor SDL. An area where attendees could leave adverts and portfolios of their work was also set up near to the coffee bar for delegates to browse during breaks.

Another reason for the event's success was the programme of presentations and hands-on workshops delivered each day in the conference's four languages (English, German, French and Italian). Speakers from the Swiss National Bank, European Central Bank, and Swiss and European universities, to name just a few, came to explain to some 95 translators the impact of derivatives market reforms, managing exchange-rate risk, and specific aspects of sustainable finance and behavioural economics, not to mention a reflection on the latest global financial crisis and its repercussions today. As for the workshops, freelance translators and employees of Swiss, European and even US institutions facilitated sessions on financial topics, as well as technical aspects of translating and writing. For the first time, this year's programme also included a series of translation slams into each of the conference's four languages. Each slam saw two seasoned translators take on the same text, discussing their approaches and ideas in what proved a thrilling showdown.

The ASTTI would like to thank all attendees, who came from near and far, for their support and interest in the conference; the organising committee for their hard work in delivering a jam-packed and hugely varied programme; and, of course, this year's sponsors. We look forward to seeing many of you back in Spiez in 2021!

Conference website

Valérie Lopez, ASTTI

Corinne and Alessia would like to thank all those who attended this initial meeting and highlight the importance of people getting involved in creating a vibrant network. They are looking for volunteers to help maintain this positive momentum. More information on the Rete FI is available on the SFT website at https://www.sft.fr/reseau-franco-italien.html.

Image: Alessia Palazzi
Court interpreting is a well-regulated profession in Austria. The country actually has a law that stipulates the rates that legal interpreters receive for their services at hearings, trials, investigative examinations, or asylum proceedings. The rates are indexed – and this is why Austria’s court interpreters had reason to go on strike on 17 September. Although the cost of living index increased by 22.6%, rates have remained the same since the last adjustment in 2007. In fact, general budget cuts in 2014 led to a rate reduction by nearly 60%. With this lack of financial attractiveness, young interpreters have opted for other interpreting careers and cannot be convinced that it is worth sitting for the tough certification test, which must be taken before they can call themselves “Allgemein beiedete und gerichtlich zertifizierte Dolmetscher” (Sworn and Certified Court Interpreters) – a title protected by law in Austria. Consequently, the total number of court interpreters has shrunk from 1,500 a decade ago to a mere 720 this year. The average age of the remaining Austrian court interpreters is over 50 years old. Add to this the flow of migrants that have poured into the country and need language assistance during their asylum and legal proceedings. Hardly any interpreters who are qualified to interpret these less common languages are available.

Budget cuts have also reduced courts’ administrative staff, which means that court interpreters (who are also certified to translate for the courts) must sometimes wait for months or even years to receive their hard-earned money. In light of this dire situation, the ÖVGD (Austrian Association of Court Interpreters) put forward a plan at the last AGM in March 2019 to stage a country-wide strike on 17 September. Its members supported the initiative. The ÖVGD asked the judges’ association for its support by not scheduling hearings or trials where language assistance would be needed on 17 September. It agreed to cooperate as fully as possible. Posters were printed and sent to all courthouses with the request that they be displayed in prominent locations. Flyers were sent to every member of the association, who were asked to distribute them in front of courthouses. The media were alerted and reacted with surprising enthusiasm, featuring interviews with ÖVGD officers on all channels and during primetime broadcasts. A so-called “information meeting” was held at Vienna’s main criminal court, where a former minister of justice and two members of parliament spoke out in support of the claims submitted by Austria’s court interpreters to the minister of justice.

Let’s keep our fingers crossed that this action and solidarity will lead to tangible results – fair pay for Austria’s legal interpreters!

Liese Katschinka
Member of the ÖVGD Board
OTTIAQ: supporting the next generation of translators and terminologists

The Ordre des Traducteurs, Terminologues et Interprètes Agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) is committed to securing its long-term future by making it easier for recent graduates to become certified. To this end, it has just opened its mentorship programme to students on and recent graduates of university courses leading to OTTIAQ-recognised qualifications, which entitle graduates to apply for certified translator or terminologist status.

Many final-year students have already enrolled in the programme, which helps certification candidates learn about OTTIAQ’s standards, tools and professional responsibilities, as well as apply in a professional context what they have learned at university and benefit from the support of their mentor, an experienced OTTIAQ member.

The university mentorship programme is overseen by OTTIAQ and takes place over a six-month period. It is completely free for candidates, who must submit translations (5,000 words) to their mentor for assessment every month. The mentor and the candidate then meet to discuss the outcome of this assessment, as well as various elements of professional practice, as set out in a skills matrix. Candidates develop the skills and knowledge they need to succeed by asking questions, gathering information, observing their mentor and requesting feedback from them.

OTTIAQ would like to thank its mentors in Quebec and beyond who have chosen to support the next generation and benefit from this rewarding professional and personal experience. It hopes that mentorship initiatives will soon be commonplace within FIT members.

To this end, we invite our sister associations to view the documents provided on our website and contact Hélène Gauthier, OTTIAQ’s Professional Affairs Manager, to discuss mentorship best practice.

Photo: Maxime Ross

Translating Europe 2019 in Bratislava

The Slovak Society of Translators of Technical and Scientific Literature (SSPOL) organised a two-day event in Bratislava entitled Translating Europe 2019 – What Millennials Should Know About Market Demands. This event, a first in Slovakia, focused on the future for translators and interpreters, trainers and language service providers and was held on 27 September 2019.

Translating Europe was organised in response to the global issue of the digitalisation of the language services industry, which has penetrated all markets and impacted employability, business planning, and the future of translators’ projects.

These issues gave the SSPOL the idea to organise an event that would try to respond to these hot issues and current challenges. Translating Europe offered presentations to the predominantly Slovak audience on the current state of translation and interpreting training in Slovakia and continuous professional development for translators of all ages. Translating Europe 2019 sought to provide vision and perspective on professional translation and interpreting and the new skills required by the language industry. Invited speakers included representatives from academia, freelance translators, companies, and associations that presented on a wide range of topics, such as translation tools used by the European Commission, the professional profiles of audio-visual translators in Europe, translator and interpreter training in Slovakia, and the working conditions of freelance translators and interpreters. SSPOL and our partners were pleased with the fruitful discussion, which helped us determine
After the two previous conferences in 2009 and 2012 and the FIT Congress of 2014 held successfully in Berlin, Germany’s Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (BDÜ) will once again organise a three-day international conference from 22–24 November 2019 in Bonn as part of its series “Übersetzen in die Zukunft” (Interpreting the Future).

The motto of this year’s conference is Translating and Interpreting 4.0, New Ways in the Digital Age. The conference will focus on how the digital revolution is altering the way translators and interpreters work, collaboration with clients, and the provision and procurement of language services. These changes are testing many of the existing business models used by freelance translators and interpreters, language service providers, and in-house translation services.

Some of the lectures and discussions will be interpreted simultaneously into German and/or English. Both, interpreters and translators, will be able to take advantage of short seminars and workshops for continuing education about various specialisations they may be considering and for updating their knowledge.

At the accompanying trade fair, attendees will be able to learn about machine translation systems, translation memory systems (CAT), information management tools, the latest reference books and materials, and services for translators and interpreters.

A networking area and job fair will also be organised where interested persons can introduce themselves to well-known firms and institutions and make direct contact with potential clients and colleagues with the same or complementary specialisations.

For more information about the conference and the programme, visit www.interpreting-the-future.com. We look forward to seeing you there.

The Planning Committee

Translating and Interpreting 4.0
3rd International Conference
Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer BDÜ

TRANSLATING AND INTERPRETING 4.0
NEW WAYS IN THE DIGITAL AGE
World Conference Center Bonn, 22–24 November 2019

what translation skills need to be focused on to address the needs of market stakeholders in Slovakia.

Practical workshops were held on the day after the Translating Europe event covering machine translation post-editing techniques and the use of CAT tools. A workshop on testing translation evaluation software was given by two trainers who compared translations by workshop participants into Slovak, their native language, based on criteria that were pre-defined in the evaluation system. The evaluation focused on the external aspects that have an impact on translation output. Workshop participants were asked to translate a text one month before the workshop in a special virtual environment that measured the total time for translation, editing and decision-making during either the translation or post-editing process. The final workshop offered various options for using terminology platforms and parallel corpora systems that allow users to learn how to use search engines (NoSketch Engine) and search tools based on specified attributes (word, lemma, tag, CQL) and by implementing positive/negative filters in those tools.

As an organisation, we strongly believe in cooperating to come up with new models of best practices that can contribute to the exchange of information and better communication channels within FIT and its partners for continuous professional development.

Jozef Štefčík, President of SSPOL
Photo: Jozef Štefčík
Throughout 2017 and 2018, the Mexican College of Conference Interpreters (CMIC) published a monthly interview with a leading interpreter in Le Petit Journal du CMIC, the CMIC’s bulletin. These invaluable first-hand accounts have been compiled in a new book, Entrevistas Breves a Intérpretes de Conferencias en México, offering plenty of inspiration to young people wishing to enter the interpreting profession. The book can be purchased on Amazon and from Autores Editores.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Babel: FIT’s International Journal of Translation
A selection of the latest academic articles in translation, interpreting, and terminology scholarship published over six volumes per year.
For more information and to view the latest articles, click here.