

# 1 2015 TRANSLATIO

## FIT Newsletter



Happy New Year to you all! One of the features of the FIT Family is that celebration never stops. For those of you who celebrate Christmas, I hope it was an enjoyable time spent with family, friends and colleagues. And as we are preparing this issue, our colleagues in East Asia will be getting ready to welcome the Year of the Ram.

Many of our member associations are celebrating important milestones in 2015, like our Danish colleagues in Danske Translatører who are celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is during these celebrations that members reminisce about the past, solidarity and what has been achieved, whilst at the same time looking forward to ensuring that the associations remain relevant to the new generation of members as well as our end-users. Whilst I am not able to attend all of your celebrations across the four corners of the globe, please let me know in advance so I can at least send you a birthday card, so to speak. And after the party, do drop us an article as the readership of Translatio will no doubt be most interested to read about your celebrations. Deadline for articles for the next issue of Translatio is April 10.

2015 marks another important milestone in FIT. It is with immense pleasure that FIT's august peer-reviewed academic journal now has a new honorary editor – Prof Rene Haeseryn, who has been a bastion of academic excellence and integrity. Our new editor – the esteemed Professor Frans de Laet, who needs little introduction, will now ensure that Babel is at the forefront of our profession. In this issue, he will share his vision with you.

In this post-festive issue of Translatio, we will also be celebrating the immense hard work and achievements of some of our most talented colleagues across the globe, by featuring some of the FIT prize winners whom we honoured in Berlin last August. It is hoped that this will highlight and contextualise the importance of our work in society as a whole, as well as inspiring you to make known your own influential colleagues by nominating them in 2017. The list of FIT prize winners over the years reads like the Who's Who of our profession. This is yet another demonstration of the strength and depth of the Federation.

Indeed, one of the new initiatives of this mandate aims at harnessing such diverse expertise within the Federation. The Research Taskforce will be working on contemporary, controversial and/or up-and-coming issues affecting our profession and the wider public. Through authoritative research and the resulting position papers, FIT can assist member associations in their advocacy role. Belonging to FIT means you are never alone.

It is therefore most apt that other themes in this issue are solidarity and collaboration. Feature articles on the Cuba-Canada cooperation agreement, the new FIT Europe committee, and the Greek initiative on shaping our Common Future show how FIT is the forum where regional issues can be tackled. Whereas the eye-opening article from ADÜ brings into focus the importance of FIT's commitment to and ongoing advocacy on behalf of our colleagues working in conflict zones, in conjunction with AIIC and Red T. Speaking of conflict and danger, it is important and imperative that FIT expresses support of and solidarity with our journalistic counterpart – the IFJ and their French members during the recent tragedy. Like conflict-zone translators and interpreters, journalists should not be endangered, threatened, hurt or killed whilst carrying out their professional duties.

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

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## What is the Astrid Lindgren Translation Prize?

One of the most widely recognized functions FIT fulfils for its member associations is the awarding of FIT prizes and awards at FIT World Congresses.

The Astrid Lindgren Prize aims to promote the translation of children's literature, improving its quality, and drawing attention to the role of translators in bringing the peoples of the world closer together. The prize is sponsored by the Astrid Lindgren Fund, made possible by a generous donation from the author herself.

Being selected by an international jury to receive a FIT prize or award signifies recognition as the 'best of the best' by one's peers around the globe.

This year, the prize was awarded to the Cuban translator, Julia Lydia Calzadilla Nuñez. Julia was nominated by the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI). The members of the jury were: Peter Bush (GB), Lois Feuerle (USA), Maria Galetta (Italy/USA), Graciela Steinberg (Argentina) and Torstein BuggeHøverstad (Norway), chair.

When giving their decision the Jury mentioned: *The 2014 winner is a poet, author, translator, interpreter, editor, lecturer, reviewer, plus lots of other things. She translates from Portuguese, English, French and Italian into Spanish. She has translated 16 C&J books, and authored*

*some 20 of her own. Her biographical and professional notes describe a long career intimately involved in most aspects of C&B literature, during which she has received a staggering number of awards and distinctions, both as a writer and translator.*

*The jury's choice is unanimous: The 2014 recipient of the Astrid Lindgren Prize is JULIA LYDIA CALZADILLA NUNEZ of Cuba.*

We congratulate Julia on receiving this prize, and invite you to read an interview with her conducted by the journalist Enrique Pérez Díaz from the "La Jiribilla" periodical. We thank Gloria Rivas for the translation into English of this interview. Enjoy it!

## Interview with Julia Calzadilla From Astrid Lindgren to Julia Calzadilla

The Cuban translator Julia Calzadilla, nominated by the Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters (ACTI), received the Astrid Lindgren Prize for the Translation of Children's Literature.

The jury's decision was based on Julia Calzadilla's vast literary output; she has dedicated her life to writing and translating books for children and young people of Cuba and the world.

We discussed with Julia the fine yet difficult art of bringing faithfully to many people the underlying meaning of words said or written by others...

***You are a multifaceted woman: translator, interpreter of four languages, narrator, poet, researcher, Egyptologist and editor, but what place does translation occupy within all these professions?***

I have always said that all those facets of my endeavour have a common foundation: communication with my fellows. In the case of translation, the responsibility is even greater, since it is not a case of transmitting what we, as authors, would like to say, but to convey to the readers what another author has said, his or her message... Moreover, this message has to reach them with the same precision (not to be confused with "literalness"!), but with the same elegance and the true spirit with which it was written in the original language. It is, truly, an enormous

responsibility, and we are aware of this as we take on each assignment, hoping to do our bit to contribute to the eradication of the regrettably widely known notion of "traduttore traditore".

***How do you approach an original text when you are starting a translation?***

As an answer I must quote, above all, our José Martí, when in his letter to María Mantilla (April 1895) he wrote: "A translation must be natural, in such a way that it will seem that the book has been written in the language you are translating into, because that is how you know good translations".

Respect for words involves a knowledge of the culture to which the language belongs, that is to say, the "soul" of the language you are translating; a knowledge



of the life and work of the author that you are going to translate is also necessary.

***Can you mention the main authors you have translated?***

In the field of literary translation, there are, among others, authors from Angola and Mozambique, (Portuguese-Spanish): Fernando Costa Andrade, José Luandino Vieira, Manuel Rui, an anthology of Portuguese traditional stories, an anthology of Mozambican poets (published under the title *Poesía de combate*); from Brazil (Portuguese-Spanish), César Vieira, Bernardo Guimarães, Carlos Nelson Coutinho, Moacyr Scliar, Marcos A. Pellegrini, Guiomar de Grammont, Nelson de Oliveira, Lúcia Helena Vianna, Ángel Leite de Souza, many of the authors who have received prizes from Casa de las Améri-

cas, and also Lygia Bojunga, Nilma Lacerda, Frei Betto, Thiago de Mello, Chico Buarque de Hollanda. From English into Spanish: Herbert E. Dhloho (South Africa, the first translation into Spanish of his book of poems *The Valley of a Thousand Hills*), *The Magical Monkey King* (from the Chinese-American author Ji-li-Jiang). From French into Spanish: Birago Diop (Senegal). From Italian into Spanish: *Antología de cuentos italianos de hoy* (translation of 14 stories), Tommaso Di Ciaula (translation shared with another transla-

tor), Bianca Pitzorno, Anna Lavatelli.

### ***What is the significance of this Astrid Lindgren translation prize in your life's work?***

The significance is the following: The Astrid Lindgren 2014 prize that the International Federation of Translators (FIT) has awarded me is a Prize of Life! It is the acknowledgement of quiet, constant, tenacious work, done at times with insufficient resources.

I feel deeply honoured to have been chosen to receive this prize, being a

translator and interpreter and a writer of works for children and adolescents who has always admired all aspects of the work and life of Astrid Lindgren.

I thank once again those who have made this dream come true and, sincerely, I make the commitment to go on writing and translating for children and young people, always based on the respect and high esteem that they deserve.

*Silvana Marchetti*  
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## **Professor Xu Yuanchong wins the Aurora Borealis Fiction Award**

Our Aurora Borealis Fiction Award committee, Lynn Hoggard (chair), Alejandra M. Jorge, Jean Anderson, Eleonora Pankratova and Perpetua Uiterwaal, has reached a unanimous decision concerning the person to receive the 2014 FIT award: Professor Xu Yuanchong of China. The decision was not an easy one, requiring several rounds and the evaluation of considerable amounts of data.

As usual, all six nominees seemed highly qualified for the award. We encountered a problem in that we had to evaluate translations from non-English-speaking cultures into English, rather than translations into the translator's native tongue. Should any qualification or consideration be given to such cases? This year's winner, Xu Yuan Zhong, does in fact do

most of his translating into English rather than into Chinese.

Professor Xu Yuanchong (pen name X. Y. Z.) is the only translator in China, and



perhaps in the world, who has translated Chinese classics into English and French and gained international fame. He is especially known for his rhymed translations of more than 2,000 classical Chinese poems into English and French, which enable him to reach a great number of readers worldwide. In addition, he has put forward his theories of triple beauty, of excellence and equivalence, of scenic and lyrical expression, and of creative translation in a number of publications. X.Y.Z.'s peers from all over the world took his achievement in literary publications into consideration before awarding him the highest honour.

*Perpetua Uiterwaal, [felicitas@wxs.nl](mailto:felicitas@wxs.nl)*  
*Photo: cctv.cntv.cn*

## **Aurora borealis: Fireworks for Metella Paterlini of Italy**

A prize for outstanding translation of non fiction literature? This is actually a strange category: defined by exclusion, or even by negation. The book trade likes to make this distinction between fiction and non fiction, but many who work in the field agree that the difficulties are very much the same in both genres—whether you do research for a real subject or for something our authors make up. From helicopter construction terminology or logging industry shop-talk to medical diagnostic jargon, we always have to do our research thoroughly and in detail, be it for a fictional description or “the real thing”.

The Aurora borealis prize jury had a number of highly qualified candidates to consider, but in the end we all agreed

on Metella Paterlini, an extremely worthy member of Associazione Italiana Traduttori Interpreti. Metella graduated in translation from English and German in Milan. She started her career as a scientific-technical freelance translator and



Metella Paterlini receiving the Aurora borealis Prize

worked for publishing houses. From 1996 to 2003 she translated legal medical documents for the European Commission in Brussels and also for the EU translation centre in Luxemburg.

Metella Paterlini has translated more than 30 books from German and English for Italian publishers, on a wild and wide variety of subjects: guidebooks, essays, medical and scientific monographs and treatises, as well as works in the human sciences (archeology and philosophy), and several biographies.

In the profession, she is appreciated for her accurate translations from two different languages which she evidently masters very well. She has repeatedly been praised for “her smooth and well-flowing use of the Italian language”.

and for the jury she embodies the emblematic translator in the non fiction field by her sheer versatility, getting (and accepting!!) assignments covering every walk of life well, no, she told me that the subject of economics might be one walk that she prefers not to take and she is obviously producing highly satisfactory output in all of them.

If you are familiar with the German, you may know the term *Fachidiot* (a rather derogatory term for someone who knows one subject very well but is not a bit interested in anything else). The English is halfway between a *nerd* and a *one-trick pony*. And a very dear colleague in my Austrian association once coined the term *Vielfachidiot* to design our own

translating profession, making us 'many-trick ponies', which is much nicer I think.

And so in this (horse-)sense Metella Paterlini is a most worthy laureate for the 2014 Aurora Borealis Prize for outstanding translation of non fiction literature. Congratulazioni!

Werner Richter, [WernR@TheRichters.at](mailto:WernR@TheRichters.at)

## FIT ACTIVITIES

### FIT Lit Task Force

The theme of the 2014 FIT Congress in Berlin "Man vs. Machine" seems to have deterred the literary translators—they didn't come in great numbers—possibly because many of us like to think of the profession as an old and stable one with hardly any threat of being replaced by the computer.

While this might be justified (at least for the time being), we are certainly not unaffected by technological developments, and we need to address the changing face of literary translation worldwide. This involves issues such as copyright and authors' rights, remuneration, contracts, quality, visibility and recognition

– old issues that need to be discussed in the light of ever faster developments.

The group of literary translators that did come to Berlin made it quite clear that literary translation needs to be put back on the FIT agenda to tackle the challenges that our sector of the translation profession is facing. This can best be done by a task force who would define objectives, work out strategies and provide a roadmap including actions and target dates. Ika Kaminka/Norway and Werner Richter/Austria have taken the lead, and the debate has been opened via a new FITLit mailing list.

The key priorities were already set in Berlin:

- we should look for a more substantial presence of literary translators at the Brisbane congress in 2017, not least by asking the organizers to encourage contributions from the wide field of literature in translation, and of course by prompting our colleagues to apply with such contributions,
- we need to encourage our members to attend FIT congresses,
- we need to put the spotlight on literary translation, ideally by bringing the problems our profession encounters to the attention of the "general public".

Brigitte Rapp  
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### Report from the FIT Standards Committee

The purpose of this report is to inform FIT member associations about four international standards that are currently under development and to invite participation in a survey that will be conducted this year.

**All translators should be aware of the following three standards:**

#### 1. TSP (Translation Service Provider) certification

ISO 17100 is in the final stage of development within Technical Committee 37 of ISO ([www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)) and will soon be published. Its main purpose is to provide a basis for the certification of TSPs (Translation Service Providers) who want to demonstrate that they are able to provide professional human translation meeting the requirements of this stan-

dard. A TSP may be an individual translator working with a colleague who revises the initial translation, but a TSP is typically a translation company larger than one translator. The focus of this standard is on various aspects of the service, such as the selection of human resources (translators, revisers, reviewers, and project managers), records, and applying certain processes.

There has been extensive discussion of the criteria that determine whether a translator is allowed to work on a project that complies with ISO 17100; however, full consensus among all countries still has not been reached.

#### 2. Post-editing

ISO 18587, also from ISO Technical Committee 37, is about post-editing raw machine translation. Its main purpose is to

provide requirements for post-editing and criteria for selecting post-editors who are competent to perform this task. Note that post-editing is outside the scope of the TSP certification standard. In addition, the post-editing standard only applies to full post-editing, which results in output indistinguishable from professional human translation. So-called "light" post-editing has been excluded from the scope of this standard, which is still in the "Working Draft" stage and thus subject to substantive revision based on comments submitted to the team developing this standard.

#### 3. Stakeholder communication

ASTM F2575 is similar to ISO 17100 in some respects, but its purpose is to support effective communication among all stakeholders in a translation project. It is

a guidance standard, rather than a basis for certification. Thus, it allows for various types of translation, so long as both the requester and the provider of the translation service agree on the specifications.

This standard was first published in 2006 by ASTM International ([www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)). Then section 8, which deals with developing structured translation specifications, was updated, and the new version was published in 2014. It is now being updated from beginning to end by ASTM Technical Committee F43.

### All interpreters should be aware of the following standard:

ISO 18841 is about interpreting services. Its main purpose is to provide the basis for certification of ISPs (Interpreting Service Providers) who want to want to demonstrate that they are capable of providing high-end interpreting ser-

vices. It can also serve as a starting point for the requirements to certify an interpreter as a person.

This draft standard has three parts: a general overview and definitions, a part for interpreters, and a part for ISPs. Part 2 is focused on the interpreter as a person; Part 3 is focused on an ISP as an organization that engages the services of interpreters; much of the same information is included in both of these parts (such as qualifications and working conditions), but from two different perspectives.

The current draft of the standard states (in Part 1, Section 2.2): "ISPs can be independent self-employed interpreters, language companies, government services that provide interpreters, hospital interpreting departments, not-for-profit interpreter services, community language banks, employee language banks or any other organization or department that provides interpreting services."

This standard is at the Committee Draft stage, which is further along than the Working Draft stage, but not yet ready for publication.

### Survey

In addition to tracking the development of standards such as the four described above, the FIT Standards Committee is planning to conduct a survey to gather information about professional standards relating to interpreters, translators, and terminologists. These professional standards could take the form of:

- codes of ethics,
- certifications, or
- laws

in various FIT member associations and countries around the world.

Comments on this article are welcome. Please contact me with "FIT Standards Committee" in the subject line.

Alan Melby, [alan.melby@fit-ift.org](mailto:alan.melby@fit-ift.org)

## Making FIT's Position Clear

One of the main priorities of the new Council in office since last August is to place greater emphasis on FIT communications, both internally and externally. For this reason, a Research Task Force has been set up, mandated to draft position papers on specific subjects in the world of translation, interpreting and terminology work. This obviously requires extensive research, and experts will be consulted on the relevant issues.

FIT member associations are given an opportunity to comment on and modify draft papers before they are finalised and sent out to key stakeholders. They will also be posted on the FIT website. Henry Liu had already prepared a position paper on crowdsourcing during the Council's last term of office. Some of the themes now being considered are machine translation, post-editing, the relationship between translation, locali-

sation and transcreation, the benefits of standards, and FIT's fundamental role.

The current members of the Research Task Force are Reina de Bettendorf, Alan Melby and Reiner Heard. If you wish to join us to help spread the workload, you would like to suggest further subjects, please do not hesitate to send me an email. We look forward to your input.

Reiner Heard  
[Reiner.Heard\\_VP@fit-ift.org](mailto:Reiner.Heard_VP@fit-ift.org)

## COUCIL NEWS

### What's been happening at Council since November?

**Council Meetings:** The next Council meeting will be held in Baku (Azerbaijan) on 29 and 30 March, at the invitation of our colleagues from the association *Young Translators of Azerbaijan*.

Our members' representatives are invited as observers.

**Executive Meeting:** The meeting will be held at the same time as the XIth International Forum of Translation and Interpretation co-organised by the FIT

Committee for Legal Translation and Interpretation and the *Colegio de Traductores del Perú* (CTP) in Lima (Peru) in October 2015.

**Finance:** The Budget for 2015 which was prepared by the Treasury after consultation with all parties and the Executive has been approved by the Council.

**The new discussion group** is operational from the end of December. There is only one address per associ-

ation to facilitate subsequent management. But we urge our association members to send the messages on to their committees and to use the discussion group to ask all the questions that they have always wanted answers to. The members also have access to the survey module!

Sabine Colombe  
[secretarygeneral@fit-ift.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@fit-ift.org)

## Introducing... webmaster Eva and Alfie

Eva Malkki is a new member of the FIT Council and one of the Federation's new webmasters. She lives in Finland, and represents SKTL, the Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters, where she also sits on the Board.

Although she was born in Finland, Eva was brought up in Madrid, Spain, bilingually in Spanish and English. She went on to study English Language and Literature and, later, translation, in the UK. Since 2001 she has been a translator, working from Finnish, Swedish and Spanish into English. She runs her own limited company and translates all kinds of non-fiction texts, ranging in subject from business, finance and marketing to tourism, history and art, for a variety of clients around the world. She also spe-

cialises in translating operas, which in Finland are uniquely subtitled trilingually (in Finnish, Swedish and English).

Lately Eva's life has been transformed, not only by joining the FIT Council, but also by the birth of her son Alfie, now three months old. Being born into a bilingual (Finnish and English) family and living in a bilingual (Finnish and Swedish) area, who knows what linguistic careers lie ahead of him? Perhaps we will see him in FIT some day.

When Eva is not caring for her son, she is working as the FIT webmaster on updating and modernising the FIT website ([www.fit-ift.org](http://www.fit-ift.org)). If you have any requests or suggestions for improvements to the website, please contact her at [eva.malkki@sktl.fi](mailto:eva.malkki@sktl.fi).



Eva Malkki and her son Alfie

## BABEL

### Interview: New Editor Appointed for BABEL

At the end of last year Frans De Laet was appointed editor of FIT's academic journal *Babel* by the Council of the International Federation of Translators. He succeeds Dr René Haeseryn, who will continue as assistant editor after 50 years of distinguished service to FIT.

Born in Boom (near Antwerp, Belgium), Frans De Laet is a professional linguist and translation & interpreting trainer. He was formerly director of the Institut supérieur de traducteurs et interprètes (ISTI) in Brussels and also served for more than 16 years as Dutch-language teacher for linguists of the Council of Ministers of the European Union. He then helped establish the Graduate Institute of Multilingual Translation and Interpreting (GIMTI) – Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages in Kaohsiung (Taiwan), where he served as the first dean. He later became a visiting professor at various universities in Beijing and Xi'an and concluded his career as a full professor at the Beijing Foreign Studies University. He was also secretary-general of CIUTI (2003-2006) and FIT (2008–2011).

Frans De Laet is the author of more than 30 scholarly publications and has given more than 100 talks in the field of translation and interpretation at symposia and conferences around the world.

We asked him about the approach that he intends to take in editing the publication. An extract of our conversation follows.

***You are a good deal younger than Dr. Haeseryn, your predecessor. How would you describe yourself?***

I have never been able to live with a 9-to-5 routine. I work long hours, often into the night, and I strive to be flexible. I have tried to adapt to changes in our field, particularly in the realm of tech-

nology. I am blessed, or cursed, by an incurable curiosity. I am curious about the ins and outs of our profession, about the cultures that I have been exposed to, and about human life itself. This curiosity took me to Taiwan, where I lived and worked for four years, and then to China, where I stayed three years. My ex-

periences abroad enhanced my commitment to service and internationalism. I also like to think that I have a better than average sense of humour. Humour is the best and strongest medicine to relieve fatigue, stress, and monotony. It also stimulates the memory.

***Can you tell us a bit about the publication that you are going to be editing?***

*Babel* is the first, and today the oldest, international journal of translation. The creation of an academic journal for translators was approved at the first Statutory Congress of FIT in Paris in 1954. With considerable support from European members and UNESCO, the first issue of *Babel* appeared the following year. The journal, a quarterly, was planned as a scholarly publication devoted to developments and research in the fields of translation and interpretation. Although some objected to the name of the publication at the outset, finding *Babel* insufficiently serious, the name has stuck.

During its first 30 years, *Babel* content was divided roughly evenly between discussions of academic topics (essentially cultural issues involved in translation

and interpretation) and articles focusing on more immediate and practical questions of interest to the profession.

FIT launched its newsletter, *Translatio*, in 1982 in acknowledgement of the increase in size of its membership over the years. *Translatio* was designed to convey information of practical and professional importance to members. This permitted *Babel* to increase the amount of space it dedicated to academic studies.

*Translatio* has proven highly successful to the membership. In 2002 coverage was split between the newsletter, which continues as before, and a new publication, *Translatio Bibliography*, which reports on dictionaries, glossaries, data banks, computer-assisted tools, and the like. For its part, *Babel* has become an almost exclusively academic journal.

### **What plans do you have for this publication?**

A bit like a dinosaur, I am old enough to remember the early days of *Babel*. Before turning to the future, I want to recognize and express the deepest appreciation of my generation to those who came before and did so much at the outset to make *Babel* a success. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the stalwarts in FIT's early days: Pierre-François CAILLÉ (France), Erwin Horst BOTHIEN (Germany), Pierre MALINVERNI (France), Walter JUMPELT (Germany), Erich WEIS (Germany), György RADÓ (Hungary), Ewald OSERS (Czechoslovakia), Hans T. SCHWARZ (Germany), Jacques GOETSCHALCKX (Luxemburg), Adolfo GENTILE (Australia) and René HAESERYN (Belgium).

One man in particular, Dr René Haeseryn, has done more than any other to give

shape and form to *Babel* as it evolved. Dr Haeseryn has been involved in editing *Babel* for 50 years. More than anyone else, he has built *Babel* into one of the leading international journals of translation, interpretation, and terminology. We all owe him a considerable debt.

Time does not stand still. As *Babel* moves into its 61st year of publication, it faces a number of new challenges.



Foremost among them is electronic management. In the near term, authors will be able to follow the status of their submitted articles on line.

Faster evaluation of submitted articles is another issue that we must grapple with. Thanks to *Babel*'s excellent international reputation, publication of an article in the journal is often a high point in its author's scientific and academic career. Currently, our Reading and Scientific Advisory Committees have a backlog of about 80 articles awaiting assessment, a total of more than 2,000 pages. I believe that these committees need to be strengthened.

Then there is the question of the languages of publication. FIT is an international association with 121 member associations around the world. Until now, its policy has been to accept publications in English and French, and, exceptionally, in German, Spanish or Russian. I wonder if this limited approach is still appropriate in today's age of globalization. I would like to see support for acceptance of articles in other languages.

Finally, there is the touchy and occasionally controversial issue of "quality". We have seen occasions where the notions of article quality held by members of associations with a long history of translation and interpretation differ from the opinions of quality held by younger associations. This is always awkward. We want to avoid concepts of "hierarchy", but we want to maintain our standards. I believe that we need to give more consideration this question.

Over the past 60 years *Babel* has published more than 3,300 articles, generating in excess of 16,000 pages. To give a sense of perspective, this is a total equal to about half of the number of pages in a complete edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. Beginning this year, our publisher since 1988, John Benjamins Publishing Company, will increase the annual number of pages from 500 to 600.

*Babel* is now a very substantial vessel. As the successor to my countryman, the distinguished Dr. Haeseryn, I pledge to do my best to build upon the outstanding efforts of the past 60 years and maintain the publication as a leader in its field.

Reina de Bettendorf  
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Reviewed by Liu Lisheng

## 2<sup>nd</sup> National Translation Forum in Azerbaijan

On 20 September 2014, the Azerbaijan Youth Translators' Association celebrated both its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary and International Translation Day by holding a meeting attended by over 200 translators, interpreters, linguists and translation students. The main theme of the Forum was Translator Training in Azerbaijan.

In his opening speech, the head of the organization, Mr Ismayil Jabrayilov, welcomed all present before describing the activities carried out by AGTA over the past 3 years. He then talked about the AGTA delegation's participation in the 2014 World Translation Congress and FIT Statutory Congress, when AGTA became a full member of FIT, before going on to talk about this year's theme: problems in the field of translator training in Azerbaijan.

Mr. Sabuhi Abbasov, from the Socio-Political Affairs Department of the Presidential Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan, praised AGTA's past projects, underlining its remarkable role in youth employment. Then Mrs. Eyvor Fogarty, President of FIT Europe, read a letter from FIT President Mr. Henri Liu, who hoped that the participants' discussions would be fruitful.

During the next session, speakers made presentations, followed by discussions. Representatives of Azerbaijan's leading universities, including Azerbaijan University of Languages, Baku Slavic University,



Left to right: Ramil Mammadov (Ministry of Youth and Sport), Sabuhi Rzayev (Office of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan), Ismayil Jabrayilov (Chairman of AGTA) Eyvor Fogarty (President of FIT Europe) and Israfil Khakiyev (Deputy Chairman of AGTA)

Qafqaz University and Khazar University, gave details about the translator training provided in their respective faculties, and answered questions from the floor.

During the following session, professional translators and interpreters from Azerbaijan, as well as FIT Europe President Mrs. Eyvor Fogarty, made presentations about Continuous Professional Development, Lifelong Learning from the professional point of view.

Linguistic issues, linguistic challenges ex-

perienced by local translators, borrowed words in the Azerbaijani language, as well as the establishment of new words, were discussed during the final session.

Another item on the Forum's agenda was an introduction to new projects developed by AGTA, with the Collection of Literary Translations of Youth Translators, published by the AGTA Literary Translation Club, and the Dict.az online dictionary also being presented.

Farrukh Pashazadeh, AGTA  
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## Translation Clinic at the Buenos Aires Literature Festival

As a prequel to the International Translation Day celebration, AATI (Asociación Argentina de traductores e intérpretes) hosted a Translation Clinic at the Buenos Aires Literature Festival, on September 25. Held at the City's Metropolitan Design Centre, in partnership with the Buenos Aires City Government, it was a pioneering event, putting translators in the limelight in the midst of a prominent Literature Festival. The Clinic featured a roundtable discussion including US writer Chris Kraus; the translators of her novel

*Summer of Hate*, Claudio Iglesias and Cecilia Pavón; AATI interpreter Cecilia Lipovsek; and AATI moderators Estela Consigli and Lucila Cordone. A highly engaged audience including translators, editors and copy-editors translated a selection of paragraphs from the novel that had been specifically proposed for the activity, and everybody took part in an exciting debate about teaming in the process of producing a translated book.

On September 30, AATI celebrated International Translation Day jointly with

Translation School IES LV J. R. Fernández and the Permanent Seminar on Translation Studies (SPET), in the city of Buenos Aires. In an event that blended the academic with the professional aspects of the profession, AATI joined the series of conferences called "Celebrating Shakespeare" that pay homage to the great English writer in the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. FIT Vice President Silvana Marchetti and FIT LatAm Secretary Alejandra Jorge attended the celebration.

Translation School Dean Paula López



Cano, School Head of Research and Graduate Studies Claudia Ferradas, and SPET Coordinator Griselda Mársico opened the event. In tune with the motto selected by FIT for this year's commemoration, AATI President Marita Propato talked about the important role played by translators, interpreters and terminologists in raising awareness of linguistic rights as a key driver for integration, diversity and peace in society.

The Celebrating Shakespeare panel included three acclaimed Argentine translators specializing in the works of this



Pablo Ingberg, Miguel Ángel Montezanti and Daniel Samoilovich (Photos by: Belén Ferreri)

great author: Pablo Ingberg, Miguel Ángel Montezanti and Daniel Samoilovich.

They shared their thoughts, experiences, and dilemmas translating Shakespeare's plays and sonnets into Spanish, and treated a diverse audience of professionals, academia and students to a fun read-aloud session of abstracts of their work, followed by a debate and a Q&A session. The event closed with a stand-up performance by two student-actresses, who wittily portrayed some of the challenges of translating Shakespeare in a sketch called "To Be or Not To Be from the South."

Marita Propato, [info@aati.org.ar](mailto:info@aati.org.ar)

## Panamanian Association to Hold Second International Congress

Celebration of International Translation Day (ITD) around the world has evolved to become an outstanding opportunity to showcase the contributions that interpreters, translators, and terminologists provide to our community by bridging language and cultural barriers in matters of translation and interpretation. Within the framework of these celebrations, and building on the momentum generated last year by its first international congress, the Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI), will host the II International Congress on Translation and Interpretation later this year. This multidisciplinary event will be held on September 25–26 at the Panama Marriott Hotel in Panama City, Panama.

The theme of the Congress, *At the Technological Forefront of the Profession*, is designed to highlight the importance of translation and interpretation in the current landscape of an increasingly globalized world, where new challenges



Congress's organizing committee members  
Left to right: Annette Duarte, Ana Mootoo, Jose M. Rivera, Reina de Bettendorf, Melida Ferrara

and new technological advances constantly emerge to challenge the quality and practice of the profession. The event is expected to attract the participation of renowned national and international subject-matter language experts, translators, interpreters, linguists, terminologists, academic institutions, techno-

logical development organizations, and industry-related service providers that will offer specialized exhibits. The Congress will offer participants a significant range of educational sessions, informative panels, plenary lectures, interactive workshops and round-table discussion groups.

With the continuing growth of interest in emerging markets and a particularly high current demand for language professionals, the Congress's organizing committee members are working to produce an event of the highest calibre, to serve once again as an international forum for the exploration of theoretical and practical issues related to the advancement of the profession.

For more information, please visit the APTI website at <http://aptipanama.org>

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Reina de Bettendorf, [reinabettendorf@hotmail.com](mailto:reinabettendorf@hotmail.com)

## Shaping our Common Future

FIT Europe's General Meeting was held in Athens for the first time in 2014. The Panhellenic Association of Professional Translators Graduates of the Ionian University (PEEMPIP) organised an event called "Shaping our Common Future" when.

The event started with a series of morning workshops for registered attendees, touching upon the following issues: translation tools and processes used by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, an overview

of the most popular CAT tools in the market, advertising methods, visibility for professional translators and the use of social media, and a discussion on pricing.

The second part of the event in the afternoon was open to the public. The issues discussed were mostly the problems translators are faced with in various European countries and the steps taken by translators' associations or representative organisations in response to them. Geoffrey Buckingham, President

of APCI (Association of Police and Court Interpreters) in the United Kingdom described the problems caused by the outsourcing of court interpreting services to a single company in the UK. Robert Ensor, President of NGTV (Netherlands Association of Interpreters and Translators) discussed the possibility of a collective agreement for translators. Finally Anastasia Pilottou, President of PANUTI (Pan-cyprian Union of Graduate Translators and Interpreters), described the long and painful dispute between the Union

and the Cypriot state regarding the recognition of fundamental professional rights for its members. The evening came to a close with an extremely interesting speech by Chris Durban on a completely different subject: specialisation as the secret to professional success. You may view videos of the speeches and relevant materials on PEEMPIP's blog in <http://blog.peempip.gr/inside-shaping-our-common-future/>



PEEMPIP's Administrative Board

Perhaps the most crucial message of the event was that together we can reach goals we could never hope to achieve individually. By participating in unions and associations, not only do we gain visibility and enhance our reliability, but we also join our voices to those of our colleagues who are facing similar problems. We can be stronger together!

*Marina Spanou*  
[yourtranslator@gmail.com](mailto:yourtranslator@gmail.com)

## New FIT member: ASKOT

### Prehistory

In the bad old times, communist law in Czechoslovakia did not know people but only "working people", defined as wage earners. The professions which could not be squeezed into the rules of employment could survive by setting up professional associations, but, alas, interpreters had none. The attempt to found one during the Prague spring of 1968 was short-lived; the bureaucrats then turned a blind eye to our self-employed situation, but we had no way of protecting our interests, let alone make demands. We had to wait for the collapse of the system.

### History

The Association of Conference Interpreters (ASKOT) was founded in January 1990, and the broader-based Union of Interpreters and Translators (JTP) followed. ASKOT waged a successful campaign for decent pay, better working conditions and a measure of respect. ASKOT became known as a selective association, its membership based on experience, professional skills and ethical standards.

### Recent

The last decade saw turbulence in the market. The economy suffered, clients were increasingly reluctant to pay as usual, and as the enlarged EU absorbed many experienced colleagues into its services, interpreting agencies were able to

recruit younger service providers, willing to work more for less. It has again become difficult for us to defend our status.

### Present

Faced with this situation, we need to raise awareness in our ranks, mobilize our members, and find allies both at home and abroad. That is what we have been doing in the last year, and that is why we joined FIT last August. We should not have waited so long.

*Michal Staša*, [michal.stasa@volny.cz](mailto:michal.stasa@volny.cz)



ASKOT committee in session (l to r): Gábina Babulíková, Silvie Ginterová, Alena Hanusová, Michal Staša. Absent: Hana Kostohryzová.

## New FIT member: ACOTIP

The Costa Rican Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (ACOTIP) was established on 1 November 2003 through the initiative of a group of students and alumni of the Translation Programme at the National University of Costa Rica. ACOTIP has since been working to strengthen the profession, to achieve social recognition for translators and interpreters, and to encourage cooperation with other organisations (domestic and foreign) with similar aims. The association, consisting of 58 active members, aims to contribute to the development of translation and interpretation at the na-



Left to right, front row: Alegría Lores (Secretary), Karen Arguedas (Committee member), Margie Díaz (Treasurer), Cindy Martínez (Committee member), back row: Vanessa Durán (Committee member), Carlos Mora (Committee member), Helmuth Angulo (President), LaBonnie Smith (Vice-President)

tional level, to promote the professional development of member translators and interpreters, to promote ethics, professional awareness, communication between ACOTIP members and translators and interpreters in general, and recognition of translators and interpreters as professionals.

*H. Angulo*, [acotip@yahoo.es](mailto:acotip@yahoo.es)

## In the wake of the FIT resolution

Three months after the FIT Congress in Berlin had endorsed the FIT resolution on interpreters in conflict zones, the regular meeting of Hamburg-based association ADÜ Nord took on an exotic note with the presence of four interpreters who had worked for the German armed forces in Afghanistan. Contact with Aliullah Nazary and Khairullah Waliullah Marzban had been established with the help of the German army, and they brought along their colleagues Abdul Muqim Taron and Abdul Samay Azizi.

All four had come to Germany at the beginning of 2014 after several years as interpreters working between Pashtu or Dari and English. The first surprise was how well they introduced themselves in German after only five months of a crash course financed by the employment authorities. In fact the entire evening was conducted in German, with only occasional excursions into English when the need arose.

Moderating the discussion, Heike Vosberg asked a number of questions that centred round how they had come to work for the German army in the first place and what their work had involved. All four reported how they had started, what their work in Afghanistan had involved, and what safety problems they had experienced during their assignments, especially after the German army's gradual withdrawal from its bases. They had been at school or working, and had then been approached by German army personnel or had contacted the German bases themselves. They not only had to pass a written test, but also went through an application session and a "security interview". After that, they were given work assignments, mainly in Kundus, Mazar-el-Sharif and Faisabad. Sometimes their work involved providing an interface between a German training and advisory team and the Afghan army, but on occasion they also accompanied military operations outside the bases, and one of them was actually equipped with a weapon for self-defence. The life of the four interpreters changed considerably while they were working for the German army. They were close-



The four Afghan interpreters together with ADÜ board members Jörg Schmidt on the left (court and police interpreting matters), and Judit Fazekas (Vice Chair) and Michael Friebe (Treasurer) on the right

ly integrated in the military structures, which meant restrictions on their freedom of movement. But it was the Taliban who effectively imposed major restrictions, branding them as "spies" and "traitors", and applying increasing pressure as time went on. The interpreters told of extortion attempts and death threats. An explosive device was even hidden in one of the men's houses. But the worst thing for all of them was that these Taliban activities extended to their families as well.

The German army tried to help, partly by transferring the men to other bases, but could not solve the basic problem. Life became especially difficult as the German forces reduced their troops and finally withdrew almost entirely from Afghanistan. The interpreters not only lost their source of income, but were increasingly exposed to the repressions and reprisals of the Taliban. And a week after the Germans' withdrawal from Kundus, a colleague was found murdered in the boot of a car.

By persisting in their appeals to the base commanders and the media, the men succeeded in getting their cases heard in Berlin and in the end they were lucky enough to be included in a contingent of 182 persons who were issued with entry papers and allowed to settle in

various German cities. However, there are still many former interpreters in Afghanistan who have yet to be allowed into Germany, and who are even today in the uncertain position of not knowing whether it will ever be possible.

The men are particularly worried about their extended families, who are still receiving threats and are under pressure not only from the Taliban, but also from the civil authorities. "If we had known beforehand that we would end up alone in Hamburg without our families, we might not have started working for the German army in the first place." But now they are trying to make the best of a bad situation and improve their education, in the hope of returning sometime to contribute something positive to their country and its – hopefully – peaceful development.

The evening's meeting continued with lively discussion and was followed by considerable positive feedback for the board of ADÜ Nord. Clearly the members present saw it as an interesting and important encounter that gave a human face to a resolution which until then had been a rather abstract political issue.

Terence Oliver, [olitrans@aol.com](mailto:olitrans@aol.com)

Courtesy of ADÜ-Nord Infoblatt (freely adapted from a longer German article)

## CIUTI Forum 2015

Pillars of communication in times of uncertainty: Correctness of language, confidentiality, and credibility, University of Geneva, 15–16 January 2015

CIUTI FORUM, as the name implies, is an open discussion platform for all parties involved in translation and interpreting. During an annual conference, usually in Geneva, stakeholders in T&I training, research, and practice are invited to discuss T&I-related problems and solutions, current trends, and anticipated developments. Recent topics were the role of languages in a changing global market, market-oriented T&I training, and trans-

lation quality issues.

The 2015 Forum's title reflects a role of language professionals in the times of uncertainty. Subjects discussed during sessions were compelling – from the breakthrough to be made in interdisciplinary research in interface with T & I to the role of supranational bodies and institutions, from transnational private-public partnerships to deterritorialization of translation services.

The FIT Council was represented by three members: Olga Egorova, who gave a presentation entitled “Persian and Turkish as Pillars of the Silk Road Economic Belt

– a Challenge for T & I Training”, Gangyi Wang, who spoke during the opening ceremony, and Ismayil Jabrayilov.

In his official letter to the Forum organizers, FIT President Henry Liu said that FIT is proud of its long association with CIUTI. “This year's theme aptly captures the environment in which the world, in particular its translators and interpreters, operates. It is therefore all the more important that cross-cultural, inter- and intra-linguistic communications are appropriate and nuanced - hence the need for specialised professional translators and interpreters”.

*Olga Egorova, [egorovs.mail@gmail.com](mailto:egorovs.mail@gmail.com)*

## Cuba – Quebec – Canada

Ninth Symposium on Translation, Terminology and Interpretation, Havana, 9, 10 and 11 December, 2014

Promotion as a remedy for many ills was the theme of the ninth symposium. Papers presented stimulated high quality debate. The symposium covered questions of social value, responsibility, knowledge, practical training and organizational dynamics, for obtaining a socially responsible profession. Participants were involved in three days of intense work, with thorough analysis and productive debates covering issues such as legal translation, training, new translation technologies, translator and interpreter certification, computer-assisted

translation, expert translators, translation projects, and translation and interpretation ethics.

Debate was extremely rigorous. Participants enjoyed the pleasant fraternal discussions between colleagues from Cuba, Canada, South Africa, Belgium, Mexico, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Panama, Austria, Poland, USA, and Catalonia.

In addition, ACTI-OTTIAQ-CTTIC concluded a cooperation agreement, providing for regular exchange of publications and newsletters, as well as participation in their respective events, such as congress, general meetings, seminars, and workshops.

Five workshops were held: on Spanish-French translation, translation project

management, Spanish-English translation, new technologies to aid translation, and legal interpretation. They were active and stimulating, giving us all new ideas and approaches for our work.

It was also announced that two of our colleagues had just won the José Rodríguez Feo literary translation prize awarded by the National Union of Writers and Artists of Cuba: Jesus Irzula D.Sc. and Mrs. Julia Calzadilla - both members of ACTI. We said goodbye to this event, undertaking to start the preparation of the tenth Symposium, to be held in 2016.

*Silvana Marchetti*  
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## Working on EU translation projects as a freelance translator for DGT contractors

The European Commission's Directorate General for Translation is one of the largest translation buyers worldwide, awarding many coveted multimillion euro contracts to external translation agencies. Nonetheless, freelance translators working for such contractors are left to fend for themselves when things go sour and the working relationship collapses, sometimes before it even begins. Rates below subsistence level, refusal of payment and subsequent entanglement with court proceedings, misappropriation of CVs, irregular replacement of initial transla-

tors for cheaper options not included in the technical competence file, all these are frequent occurrences.

The current system is hostile to external translators from the beginning. Just think, in order to prove experience in a certain field, according to procurement guidelines, translators are required to reveal who they work for to agencies that are essentially the competitors of these clients, even when they are bound by confidentiality agreements. In other words, translators are encouraged to reveal trade secrets and breach contractual obligations for the promise of work.

Even the requirement of supplying reference letters is a challenge considering that no agency is willing to provide materials for the benefit of a competitor. Another trend is agencies asking translators to sign pre-agreements that they will not work for or allow another agency to use their CVs in their own bids, thus demanding exclusivity but in reality harming the translator's business prospects. Not to mention forcing translators to sign declarations that they are willing to work with a particular agency, without even receiving any assurances about work contracts or rates.

PEEMPIP's translators have suffered particularly severely from this situation in the past. We would be happy to enter into discussions with DGT on how to ensure decent and responsible working conditions for external translators in the future. This could be done, for example, by:

- including criteria providing adequate monitoring of contractors' employment practices and fair remuneration of external freelance suppliers,
- defining and implementing measures that will allow translator joint ventures (or similar forms of co-operation) to participate actively in DGT competitions by setting realistic requirements for the translators involved,
- establishing an indicative range of fair translation and editing rates, which could be agreed upon through discussion with local and international translators' asso-

ciations, so that freelance translators receive a decent wage for their work.

- introducing uniform evaluation weights for bids, favouring technical quality (70%) versus price (30%),
- determining maximum allowable profit margins for contractors, and ensuring a fair allocation of the contract value between the agency managing the work and the translator performing the actual translation,
- setting up a mechanism for receiving and investigating expeditiously complaints about contractor malpractice reported by external freelance suppliers, including provisions for immediate contract termination once it has been established that the contractors are violating working rights,
- implementing a points system, a Best Practice Guide, Standards, a Code of Eth-

ics or any other policies and equivalent guidelines that would promote ethical and professional behaviour by contractors and subcontractors in all their dealings, demonstrating some level of social responsibility,

- setting up agreements with national/trans-national professional associations of translators in order to obtain a realistic, non-academic but professional view of the translation industry at a European and local level, current translation rates and malpractices,
- providing a safer work environment for e-workers,
- investigating and clarifying the situation with respect to copyright and translation ownership (especially in case of non-payment).

*Dimitra Stafilia, PEEMPIP President*  
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## Legal openings for collective bargaining in the EU

In recent years an increasing amount of translation and interpreting work in the public sector has been put out to public tender.

Far from increasing competition, this has resulted in a greater concentration of translation and interpreting work in the hands of a decreasing number of large agencies. In many countries in the EU, the result has been considerable downward pressure on rates for translation and interpreting in the public sector. Agencies have attempted to maintain their profit margins at the expense of the professional translators and interpreters who do the actual work.

Not only have rates for public sector translation and interpreting tended to fall across the board, but translators and interpreters have also become increasingly dependent on one or two large agencies. In effect, within the public sector, many translators and interpreters may now be

compared to employees who work for temporary employment agencies or other employees with zero-hour and other flexible contracts. However, there are a few important differences. In contrast to employees, freelance interpreters and translators do not receive employer's contributions to a pension, health insurance or disability insurance, nor do they receive paid leave and many other statutory benefits which regular employees enjoy.

Freelance translators and interpreters have always been prevented from taking collective action and participating in collective bargaining due to competition rules. However, a recent ruling of the European Court of Justice has made it possible for translators and interpreters to campaign for and enter into collective labour agreements with large agencies if certain conditions are met, despite their self-employed status. In essence, if the

de facto relationship is one of dependence, if the agency determines when and how the work should be done, and if the commercial risk is not borne by the translator/interpreter, the European Court sees no conflict between EU competition rules and collective agreements on rates and conditions for self-employed freelancers. This situation applies particularly to court interpreters and interpreters for the immigration service and other public services. The commercial risk is borne by the company awarded the contract, the interpreter has to appear in person to do the work at a particular place and at a particular time.

For the full text of the ruling of the European Court of Justice and the Conclusion of the Advocate-General on which the judgement was based, see <http://bit.ly/14mxvDn>.

*Robert Ensor, [j.r.ensor@vertaler.com](mailto:j.r.ensor@vertaler.com)*

## Medical Interpreting Survey

A new 2015 Salary Survey will offer key insight into the medical interpreting profession.

The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) has published several Salary Surveys, and concluded with a 5-year report on trends.

This 2015 survey promises to provide the data needed to see what kind of impact certification has had on salaries, and to be a research tool that interpreters and managers can use to make decisions related to medical interpreter wages.

To view the full press release:

<http://imiaweb.org/press/default.asp> or <http://imiaweb.org/uploads/images/2015SalarySurveyPressRelease-2.pdf>

To participate in the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/IMIASalarySurvey2015>

*Izabel Arocha, [izabeletdvs@gmail.com](mailto:izabeletdvs@gmail.com)*

# FIT Europe – General Meeting in Athens on 1 November 2014

FIT Europe (<http://www.fit-europe.org/en/>), one of the regional branches of FIT, serves as a forum for exchanging information and experience, finding solutions to shared problems and agreeing on measures to heighten public awareness of good professional practice. Its role is to promote the interests of translators and interpreters in Europe, encouraging recognition of the benefits society derives from translation, and coordinating national efforts to achieve formal recognition of the status of Translators and Interpreters. In the European context, where the EU is a strong supranational organisation which, on the one hand, impacts our profession through harmonised legislation and major industry projects and, on the other hand, is itself a key player in the translation industry, with vast numbers of both in-house and freelance translators and interpreters working for it, it is all the more important to be able to speak as one voice.

This is why the General Meeting of FIT Europe convenes every three years to elect a new Board (formerly Steering Committee) that is entrusted with representing the currently 53 member organisations of FIT Europe. In between election years, Annual Meetings provide a forum for the Board to report on its activities and for member organisations to present and discuss topical

issues. The next Annual Meeting is scheduled to take place in Dublin, Ireland, on 26 September 2015. Please save the date.

The members of the newly elected Board are:

Natacha Dalügge-Momme (Germany) – President • Annette Schiller (Ireland) – Vice-President • Michal Staša (Czech Republic) – Vice-President • Dagmar Sanjath (Austria) – Secretary General • Dimitra Stafiliá (Greece) – Treasurer • Max de Brouwer (Belgium) • Eyvor Fogarty (United Kingdom).



From left to right: Dimitra Stafilia, Michal Staša, Annette Schiller, Dagmar Sanjath, Natascha Dalügge-Momme

Hosted by the Greek association PEEMPIP and preceded by an excellently organised Continuing Professional Development (CPD) day covering a broad range of topics, the General Meeting, which took place at a hotel in central Athens, was attended by 24 voting members.

The outgoing Steering Committee presented its report and the accounts, which were accepted by the plenary. Numerous topics that FIT Europe should take on in the future were proposed. Among them, not surprisingly, continued close cooperation with the EU, monitoring and trying to have an influence on standards affecting the profession (ISO, Transcert), a stronger focus on interpreting, especially conference interpreting, and terminology work, as well as new approaches to obtaining funding for FIT Europe in general, maybe by

way of voluntary contributions by members, and for specific projects in particular. A key focal point of activities in the next period will be improving communication with member organisations, in an effort to increase FIT Europe's visibility and provide an easy-access forum for member organisations to share information. Contacts with various stakeholders, such as CIUTI, EUATC, EULITA and others will be continued, as will EU lobbying and monitoring activities.

The new Board, which will hold 'virtual' meetings at regular intervals, thus has a full agenda to tackle over the next three years.

Dagmar Sanjath, [dagmar.sanjath@universitas.org](mailto:dagmar.sanjath@universitas.org)

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

## TransCert Project:

### An Overview by the SFT, member of the Consultative Committee

The certification project for translators launched by the Education and Culture Office of the European Commission (*TransCert – Trans-European Voluntary Certification for Translators*) is part of the European Union's Life Long Learning Programme (LLL).

This feasibility study is managed by the seven-partner consortium which won the bid, comprising three universities (Vienna, ISIT and Lessius), two associations (EUATC and GALA) and two SMEs (ISCN and Intertext). A number of professional organisations, namely FIT Europe,

EULITA, ITI and SFT, have also agreed to participate in a Consultative Committee. As a member of this Consultative Committee, the SFT was able to follow the development of the project closely, and to fulfil its role of protecting and defending the translation profession and promoting its recognition by formulating recommendations. In practical terms the following results have been achieved over the last two years of the study: the introduction of actual translations means that MCQ will no longer be the sole basis for certification; these

translations will be assessed using the PIE (*preselected item evaluation*) method; a complete module on professional conduct has been added, and candidates will no longer be obliged to take on-line training modules in preparation for certification as was originally planned.

The European Commission is expected to make an announcement in the near future on whether to launch a follow-up project or not.

Anne-Marie Robert, SFT,  
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# Pierre-François Caillé Prize: The Woman at 1000° thrills the jury

"If I had had a 30-year career behind me, perhaps I would have been worried!"  
Jean-Christophe Salaün, translator.



Hallgrímur Helgason and Jean-Christophe Salaün (on the right)

On 13 December 2014 the Annual General Meeting of the SFT\* closed with the presentation of the Pierre-François Caillé Prize to Jean-Christophe Salaün for his

2014 translation of *The Woman at 1000 Degrees* the Icelandic novel by Hallgrímur Helgason, published by Presses de la Cité. After a presentation of the works of the four finalists and the announcement of the winner, the editors of Presses de la Cité described the origins of the editorial project and the difficulties that they had had in finding an Icelandic translator available and willing to translate a rich and complex text. This rare pearl was finally unearthed thanks to an ad on ... Twitter!

The author made the journey to Paris especially for the prize giving and he, along with his young, newly qualified translator, was available for questions from the public and members of the jury. The jury had emphasized how tremendously inventive Jean-Christophe Salaün had been in his rendering of the original. The exchanges revealed the sources of inspiration and working methods of both writers, and how they

worked together to resolve various difficulties and agree on the best solution; the result is a remarkable piece of work, which was highly praised by the jury, delighted to encourage a young, enthusiastic and inspiring colleague with a promising future.

The Pierre-François Caillé Prize for translation is awarded every year by the SFT\* and ESIT\*\* to a young translator at the start of his/her career (no more than three translations already published). The competition was first held in 1981 and the winner receives a cheque for €2,000.

*Débora Farji-Haguet,*

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*Sandrine Détienne,* [sdetienne@free.fr](mailto:sdetienne@free.fr)

\*SFT : Société Française des Traducteurs

\*\*ESIT : École Supérieure d'Interprètes et de Traducteurs : Sorbonne Graduate School for Interpreters and Translators

## News from the UK

The current Framework Agreement (FWA) for the provision of language services to the courts and others in the UK came into effect on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012. It has been a calamity for Justice. The contractor has never achieved the required level of service fulfilment, and has had to resort to the use of unqualified, unregistered, and inexperienced "fakes" from the very beginning, since professionals refuse to work under it. Some say that the contractor manipulates statistics in its favour, and even sub-contracts jobs via other suppliers without ensuring compliance with the contract. Contract breaches are rife; publicity is appalling, with stakeholders at all levels of the Criminal Justice System (CJS) recognising that the contract is a disaster. Many judges criticise the contract in open court, often summoning the contractor's representatives to explain their company's failures. The contract has brought expensive shame upon the CJS in the UK.

The profession has come together to meet the challenges of deprofessionalisation and the ensuing drop in standards by way of establishing an umbrella

group with representatives of all main organisations. The group is called Professional Interpreters for Justice (PI4J). The group meets regularly to develop strategy, and has engaged the services of a professional PR company

Parliament has instituted several enquiries, all disastrous for those individuals in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) who have driven the contract. One requirement issued by Parliament in 2012 was an independent assessment as to the quality of service delivery. This was eventually contracted to a company called Matrix Knowledge who after extensive delays eventually published in December 2014. This independent report vindicated everything that we as industry representatives had said and done since 2010 and even before.

On 18 December 2013, I, as Chairman of the Association of Police and Court Interpreters (APCI), met with a senior representative of the Crown Commercial Service (CCS) who had commenced a project of development of a new FWA to replace a number of government language service contracts as they fell due for renewal. There was a frank and robust

yet also friendly exchange of views, and when they held meetings with suppliers in the summer of 2014 the APCI and the National Register of Public Service Interpreters (NRPSI) were included and it was clear that we had been listened to. The latest version (10) of Schedule 2 of the proposed contract includes many amendments at our suggestion. It is not perfect yet, but at least representatives of the profession have been involved.

The reaction of the MoJ to the CCS FWA has been interesting. Some elements in the MoJ clearly favour it, whereas others do not. Some of us wonder if there is a rogue group in the Ministry who have abandoned the basic principles of the administration of justice, preferring to pursue failed and expensive policies. With an election looming and the current FWA expiring shortly, 2015 is set to be an interesting year for LITs in the UK.

More details see: [http://www.apciinterpreters.org.uk/apci\\_interpreters\\_news\\_archive.aspx](http://www.apciinterpreters.org.uk/apci_interpreters_news_archive.aspx) and <http://www.linguist-lounge.org> or follow me on Twitter: @Geoffrey\_M\_B

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## ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The FIT Committee for Legal Translation and Interpretation  
in cooperation with the Colegio de Traductores del Perú (CTP)  
organizes,  
for the first time in the Americas,  
under the auspices of the International Federation of Translators  
and with the support of *Universidad Femenina del Sagrado Corazón, Universidad Ricardo Palma,*  
*Universidad Peruana de Ciencias Aplicadas, and Universidad César Vallejo,*

### THE TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON CHALLENGES, NEW ROLES AND ETHICS ON LEGAL TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING

and is pleased to invite

**translators, interpreters, academics, researchers, and students**  
**to attend the International Forum in Lima, Peru**  
**from October 7 to October 9, 2015**

#### SUGGESTED TOPICS

- ❖ Translation and interpreting ethics, and translator and interpreter ethos
- ❖ Basic and further training and development of legal translators and court interpreters
- ❖ Legal Translation and interpreting
- ❖ Professional, academic, and legal status of translation and interpreting: practices, agents, settings.
- ❖ Legal translation and interpreting in indigenous languages: asymmetries, legislation, and systems of knowledge
- ❖ Legal neologisms and terminology
- ❖ Environmental law and translation
- ❖ CAT Tools and their use in specialized translation and interpreting
- ❖ New topics on legal translation and interpreting and future prospects

#### PAPERS

You are kindly invited to submit a short bio and bibliographical notice, conference topic, abstract and key-words of your paper.

Deadline for sending abstracts: **May 30, 2015**

Length of abstracts: **not more than 500 words**

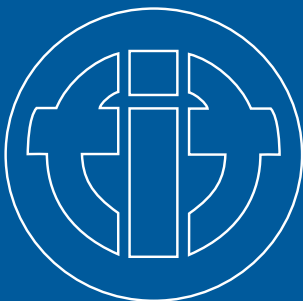
Authors are expected to send their abstracts to: [papersfit@colegiodetraductores.org.pe](mailto:papersfit@colegiodetraductores.org.pe)

Languages: **English and French or English and Spanish**

A notification of acceptance for the submitted abstracts will be sent by **June 30, 2015**.

Registration fees: **€120 (US\$ 160 dollars/S/. 480 soles) till June 1, 2015 - €140 (US\$ 190 dollars/S/. 570 soles) between June 1 and October 1, 2015**

Banking details will be provided on the registration form.



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