



# 4<sup>2016</sup> TRANSLATIO

## FIT Newsletter

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One wintry August evening, I received a call from Vice-President Terry Oliver telling me that he was admitted into a hospice in Germany and that he wished to withdraw from his post. He has never stopped working for FIT even under the influence of side effects of chemotherapy. Always in good spirit, a perfect gentleman and a scholar, this very personal conversation was not going to be an exception. I had the privilege of knowing him during the Shanghai Congress of 2008, when he was tied for the 14<sup>th</sup> place in the Council election and he most graciously withdrew in favour of a sitting Council Member. This exemplifies his selflessness and devotion to the profession, which he thoroughly loved and for which he worked hard in the only way he knew how, in the United Kingdom – the country of his birth –, in Germany – his adopted country – and in wider Europe and the world. On 13 September, peacefully, in no pain or suffering, Terry left us. You can read a much abridged version of his obituary in this issue, adopted from the longer version penned by ADÜ Nord. I will compile the tributes I have received from all around the Federation, and pass them onto his widow Ellen Oliver.

Without a doubt, Terry would like us to carry on making our profession more visible, more accountable, bringing more benefit to our society. Indeed, the FIT he left us in guardianship is more international, and more recognised than ever before, as you can see in this issue, with FIT playing a prominent role in the Translation Forum Russia in Astrakhan, thanks to Council Member Olga Egorova, and with our member associations in Colombia and in South Africa celebrating important anniversaries.

This summer also marked an end of another era with the departure of our long serving Executive Director Jeannette Ørsted. Whilst difficult to replace, especially with the knowledge and history that she has of FIT, we are looking for a new and dynamic Executive Secretary. You can find the call for nominations in this issue.

One feature of our profession is it never stands still. In this issue, you will find the excellent regional centre initiative of a state-of-the-art e-Learning platform for Latin America, and news of Council Member Alan Melby's panel in the upcoming AsLing Conference, where FIT will also showcase our collaboration with DFKI.

Collaboration is indeed one of the strengths of FIT – FIT brings people together. You see this in Central America, with the initiative led by our Treasurer Reina de Bettendorf and her Panamanian Association, and in Spain, where FIT supports all the professional associations in seeking an accountable Criminal Proceedings service for those who do not speak Spanish, in compliance with the EU Directive.

FIT is also about celebration. Every three years, we celebrate the best of our profession during our World Congresses. You will find the call for FIT Prizes nominations in this issue. We will also be celebrating International Translation Day; importantly, this year's celebration will mark a new collaboration with the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI), the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), and the European Commission. There is much more than these pages can contain. So you will have to read about the recent visibility efforts in the Nordic countries and the collaboration with translation studies scholars at EST in Aarhus in future issues. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook, and subscribe to our e-group to get the latest and to tell us about your news. Because this is what Terry would want us to remember him by. #UnitedWeStand.

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

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### CONTENTS

Page 2

FIT Translation Prizes and Awards

Page 3

Jeannette Ørsted leaves FIT at the end of September

Page 4

FIT Request for Proposals: Executive Secretary

ITD 2016 – Connecting Worlds!

Page 6

Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings in Spain: State-of-Play

Page 8

Translation Forum Russia

Page 9

The Campaign in the City

Page 10

The EU Public Documents Regulation 2016/1191

## FIT Translation Prizes and Awards

One of the most important and widely recognized functions FIT fulfils for its member associations is the awarding of FIT prizes and awards at FIT World Congresses. Being selected by an international jury to receive a FIT prize or award signifies recognition of the 'best of the best' by one's peers around the globe. Please take this opportunity to nominate outstanding members of your association for the FIT prizes as recognition of their work and accomplishments. Associations are entitled to nominate one candidate per prize.

You may download the necessary documents from the FIT website under the heading FIT Prizes and Awards. The deadline is 10 January 2017.

*[Sabine Colombe, Secretarygeneral@fit-ift.org](mailto:Sabine.Colombe,Secretarygeneral@fit-ift.org)*

Here is a list of the FIT prizes that will be awarded at the 2017 FIT Congress in Brisbane:

- Astrid Lindgren Prize
- Aurora Borealis Prize for Outstanding Translation of Fiction Literature
- Aurora Borealis Prize for Outstanding Translation of Non-fiction Literature
- Karel Čapek Medal for Translation from a Language of Limited Diffusion
- FIT Prize for Excellence in Scientific and Technical Translation
- FIT Prize for Interpreting Excellence
- FIT Prize for Best Periodical
- FIT Prize for Best Website
- Pierre-François Caillé Memorial Medal

## Report from the BABEL Task Force for Translatio

Since the last issue of *Translatio*, the *BABEL* Journal has taken several steps towards achieving its goals.

Through the excellent work of its editor-in-chief Frans de Laet, the publishing schedule has been brought up to date. His contacts with *BABEL* publisher Benjamins have also made it possible to increase the number of issues per year from four to six, increasing its academic impact and outreach.

Task Force members María Eugenia Cazenave from Argentina and Jonathan Downie from Great Britain have initiated

work using Facebook and Twitter to expand the informational flow, as a first step to communicating with a growing circle of possible subscribers and authors.

The Task Force's recommendation that the Council restructure the *BABEL* Task Force as a Standing Committee was approved at the latest Executive Committee meeting in Xian, China. *BABEL*'s Management Committee should reflect the journal's role as a representation of FIT's continuing concerns by providing administrative support for the editorial

staff and liaising with the Council. Another aspect of the restructuring process involves increasing the editorial staff by appointing a second editor-in-chief, also approved by the Executive Committee for action by the Council.

If the Council agree that the current Task Force should be wound up, with a call for nominations to the new Standing Committee, we hope that some of the current members will apply and continue working on the programme they have helped to initiate.

*Sven H.E. Borei (Sweden),  
Task Force Chairman*

## Professional Translation in a Pre-Singularity World

Ray Kurzweil defines the Singularity as the point in time when machines become more intelligent than humans in every way. Will this ever happen? No one knows. So how can those who believe in the Singularity and those who don't all participate in a serious discussion?

FIT Council member Alan Melby is organising a panel at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Translating and the Computer Conference that will allow such a discussion.

If the Singularity ever arrives, translators will no longer be needed. But neither

will attorneys or scientists or other professionals be needed. However, we live in a pre-Singularity world.

In our world, (a) machines are not as intelligent as humans, (b) raw (i.e. unedited) machine translation is not suitable for all translation needs, and (c) professional translators are essential.

An important question is which types of translation requirements, if any, can only be met by professional translators in a pre-Singularity world. This is the question to the members of the panel discussion

that will take place in London in November. Alan Melby will take the position that some types of translation will never be satisfied by machines unless the Singularity actually happens.

If you want to help him by sharing examples of highly challenging translation problems, you can contact him via email ([alan.melby@fit-ift.org](mailto:alan.melby@fit-ift.org)).

If you want to attend the conference in London, please see the conference website (<http://www.asling.org/tc38/>).

*Alan Melby, [akmtrg@byu.edu](mailto:akmtrg@byu.edu)*

## The summer months are no holiday for the Council and the FIT Executive Committee

Member associations have received four documents in which FIT sets out its position on some hot topics: automatic translation, crowdsourcing, the future for professional translators, and internships for students. These positions were broadly standardised among member associations, which on 6 September were invited to comment on the projects. The Research Task Force led by Reiner Heard worked long and hard to draft these documents, and then integrate the comments received. Once ready, the preliminary versions and the final versions will be available on the FIT site under the Task Forces/Research section.

Two new Task Forces have just been set up: the first will identify needs for associations' development that can be financed with the surplus from the Solidarity Fund. This concerns Africa in particular, and Eleanor Cornelius visited

Nairobi at the beginning of September to give a presentation about FIT at the conference of the Association for Translation Studies (ATSA). The second Task Force, in partnership with the Research Task Force, needs to collect as much information as possible on the European Commission's "Connecting Europe Facility" project. Both are led by Reiner Heard, and must work swiftly, as the results are to be presented in less than six months. This is also the case for the twenty-odd Task Forces and Standing Committees of FIT.

The future of the translator in the face of technological change will be at the heart of the themes at the ASLING conference in London next November (<http://www.asling.org/tc38>). Henry Liu will be one of the two main speakers, and Eleanor will present the QT21 project, in which FIT is cooperating with the Fraunhofer Ger-

man Institute for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), with prospects to sign a second partial contract.

FIT will also be present at the Cuba-Quebec Symposium in December in Varadero, where ACTI has invited FIT Executive Committee for its last meeting of the year. The Council will meet in Ottawa in March 2017.

A major change is coming to the FIT Secretariat: Jeannette Ørsted left her post at the end of September. A call for nominations is in progress during the production of this article. Jeannette has carried out the work of the Secretariat for many years with much personal commitment, kindness, and a dedication way beyond her obligations. A big thank you to Jeannette and our best wishes for her future professional life.

*Sabine Colombe,  
secretarygeneral@fit-ift.org*

## Jeannette Ørsted leaves FIT at the end of September

Since 2010, the activities of the FIT Secretariat have been expertly and professionally undertaken from Basel with Jeannette Ørsted at the rudder. During that period, she was instrumental in transforming the secretariat from a traditional brick-and-mortar office to a state-of-the-art virtual office of a global Federation open 24/7.

Jeannette was also a key driving force in the e-groups - a vital link between members through the yahoo and google groups which are open to members. Along with all the traditional and essential administrative tasks like keeping track of members, old, new and candidates, the Secretariat played key roles in two Statutory Congresses, in San Francisco (2011) and Berlin (2014), at EC-meetings during the 2010–2014 mandate, and attended Council meetings as an ex-officio member throughout her tenure. Jeannette Ørsted joined FIT in 1995 when she was elected the first chairperson of the Regional Centre Europe (RCE) which subsequently become FIT Regional Centre for Europe (commonly known as FIT Europe). She held the chair until 2001 and was a driver in the first projects of the RCE in co-operation with the EU within the framework of the European Translation Platform and the POSI Project (PraxisOrientierte-Studien-Inhalte).

During this period she was elected as a FIT Council member. Jeannette Ørsted has a Master of Translation and a Master of



Council Meeting in Baku (Jeannette Ørsted on the right)

Public Administration from the Copenhagen Business School, where she also taught part of the Master of Language Administration programme. FIT wishes to thank Jeannette Ørsted for everything she has done in her many capacities in FIT since 1995. She has contributed much to the Federation and to the wider profession. FIT regrets her decision to leave; nevertheless wishes her well in her future endeavours. Mange tak!

## FIT Request for Proposals: Executive Secretary

Following the resignation of Jeannette Ørsted as FIT secretary, FIT is seeking a new service provider to perform secretarial tasks from 1 October onwards. The skills and competences needed are detailed in a Request for Proposals that anyone interested can obtain by contacting [secretariat@FIT-IFT.org](mailto:secretariat@FIT-IFT.org). Please distribute this announcement widely.

### Basic requirements

- The service provider has to be a trained executive secretary or have the equivalent competences to run the virtual secretariat of an international association, including accounting knowledge. If the service provider is a company, this request relates to one or more staff members assigned to the FIT virtual secretariat.
- The FIT executive secretary should be a native French or English-speaking person and have a strong command of the other language.
- The FIT executive secretary must be proficient in Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook and Adobe Acrobat.

- The service has to be rendered throughout the year. In the case of absence due to holidays or illness, the service provider will ensure that another person can handle the secretarial tasks.

- Experience in association management would be an advantage.

All service details and the remuneration are subject to negotiation.

*Sabine Colombe, FIT Secretary General*

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

## ITD 2016 – Connecting Worlds!

The International Federation of Translators (FIT) is proud to announce the chosen theme for International Translation Day 2016 'Connecting Worlds', proposed by our long-standing member and strong supporter, the American Translators Association (ATA).

The professions of translator, interpreter and terminologist, all represented by FIT, are dedicated to one common goal - facilitating high quality, impartial communication between people. As the world becomes more integrated, and societies and professionals more interconnected, fostering understanding between the multitude of interlocutors – speakers, writers, thinkers, researchers and policy-makers – has become more critical than ever. Whether it is in writing, in speech, or in the many facets of multimedia, translators, interpreters and terminologists are at the point of contact impacting on the development of business, science, medicine, technology, international law, politics - practically in all areas of human endeavour.

Translators, interpreters and terminologists provide the professional means for each of these worlds to learn from the other, to the benefit of society as a whole. Their role is to open up the whole world to all of us.

This year, we are not just celebrating International Translation Day (ITD), we are also celebrating the first anniversary of the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) and FIT. Continuing a long tradition cel-

ebrating translators, interpreters and terminologists connecting worlds, this MOU connects the different fields of our profession and brings closer together individual sign and spoken language translators, interpreters and terminologists as well as their professional associations. Connecting people of different cultures, languages, beliefs and perspectives more closely is a shared aim.

The Deaf and hearing translators, interpreters, terminologists of many signed and spoken languages around the world unite in the goal of connecting communities through our professional dedication, skills and services.

This marks a new beginning where ASLI and FIT will be jointly celebrating ITD, spreading our common message and increasing the visibility of both signed and spoken language translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world. Thanks to our ever stronger relationship with WASLI, FIT is delighted to announce that the World Federation of the Deaf



**WASLI**  
World Association of  
Sign Language Interpreters

(WFD) will also be promoting ITD which coincides exactly with the International Week of the Deaf (IWD). This tradition, which dates back to 1958, takes place annually in the last week of September: this year's theme, "With Sign Language, I am Equal", aims to heighten awareness of the International Deaf Community.

This year's IWD celebrations will also commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and acknowledge the recent adoption of the 2030 Agenda of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). WASLI and FIT will be highlighting the central role that professional translators, interpreters and terminologists play in the implementation of the CRPD and SDGs (see separate Press Release).

We are very excited to celebrate the important role translators, interpreters and terminologists play – connecting worlds – at this year's International Translation Day, especially now with its very own Twitter account @ITD\_JMT. Let us overwhelm the Twittersphere around 30 September with hashtag #ITD-JMT16!



Logo of IWD 16

## Passing of Terence Oliver

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our colleague Terence Oliver in mid-September. Terence was a member of the FIT Council from 2014.

As well as his work as a technical translator at Unilever and subsequently as an independent translator, Terence worked for thirty years for the translating community: first in the ADÜ Nord association, where he was president from 2001 to 2005, then in the FIT Europe Regional Centre Board, where he sat from 2002 to 2008.

His struggle with illness did not stop him from courageously continuing his role at the FIT Council, nor from doggedly participating in all the meetings and discussions, in person or on line when he could not be physically present. His drive was proof of his great sense of duty.

The whole Council bids him adieu and sends their condolences to his family and friends.



Terence Olivier

## FROM OUR MEMBERS

### Luxembourg –Translation and Interpreting Day

The Luxembourg Association of Translators and Interpreters (ALTI) is celebrating the fifth anniversary of its creation with the first translation and interpretation day in Luxembourg. To celebrate the occasion, the professions of translation and interpreting will be showcased by high profile speakers.

ALTI did not choose 30 September by chance. This is Saint Jerome Day, commemorating the translator of the Bible into Latin and patron saint of translators. In recent times, 30 September is also the International Translation Day, celebrated by translators and interpreters worldwide.

The celebration will take place at the National Centre of Literature at Mersch, and the translation, interpretation and terminology professions will be featured. Various expert presenters will take the lectern from 10am for lectures on numerous facets of the profession.

ALTI is pleased to welcome, amongst others, Mr Rodolfo Maslias, head of the Terminology unit of the European Parliament, Mr Franz Lemaître, head of the French interpreting unit of the European Commission at Brussels, Mr Alexandre Ecker, lexicographer with the Lëtzebueger Online Dictionary, and Ms Natascha Dalügge-Momme, president of the Europe Regional Centre of the International Federation of Translators (FIT).

The event will be the occasion for all to meet and discuss the profession and its constraints, challenges and opportunities, practical aspects and many other subjects. It is expected to gather professionals and all those with an interest in the profession or involved with translation closely or peripherally, including users of translation, interpreting and terminology services. The day will end with a casual dinner.

For more information and for registra-

tion, visit the ALTI website: <http://www.traducteurs-interpretes.lu/journee-translation/>

#### Information about the Luxembourg Association of Translators and Interpreters

ALTI was founded in 2011 in Luxembourg by fifteen professional translators with the goal to address the absence of a professional association in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, a multilingual country that is a big consumer of translation services for administrative purposes. Other consumers include many organisations and European and multinational companies that are operating in the country. Today, ALTI has 75 translator and interpreter members, most of whom are independent and accredited by the Luxembourg High Court of Justice. Twenty-four working languages are covered.

Pascale Pay, [secretariat.alti@gmail.com](mailto:secretariat.alti@gmail.com)

## ACTI reinvents itself on its 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary

In February 2016, ACTI held an extraordinary general meeting to carry out a new bylaw reform that modifies the composition of the executive board. This body now comprises nine people elected for a three-year period, rotating so that each year three of its members reach the end of their term. This en-



Sandra Constantino (member of the Executive Board); Maritza García (president of ACTTI); Carmen Millán and Juan Manuel Espinoza (Director and officer of Instituto Caro y Cuervo)

ures both project continuity and a partial renewal of its members. In another fundamental shift, member categories were expanded, especially the one covering students from related programs to serve as a “seedbed” for new generations. A category for terminologists was added to give recognition for their efforts, which are even more invisible than those of translators. We have also included them in the name of our association and, since February, it is called Asociación Colombiana de Traductores, Terminólogos e Intérpretes, or ACTTI (Colombian Association of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters).

The reform coincided with our 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary (also the legal age in our country), the perfect occasion to give ourselves a new logo that identifies us better with our pre-Columbian footprint. So, surrounded by friends of translation in its widest sense, we celebrated our 18



asociación colombiana de traductores,  
terminólogos e intérpretes

years of existence, receiving greetings from our Medellín members and those who live abroad (Paris, London, Rabat, Quito, Dallas, São Paulo), as well as from our colleagues from around the world. The president of FIT, Henry Liu, gave an inspiring message.

We may be young and still have a lot to learn and set up, but it is precisely youth that will enable us to tackle the huge job we have before us!

*Jeannette Insignares,*  
[jinsigna@traductorescolombia.com](mailto:jinsigna@traductorescolombia.com)

*Translated by Ivanna Castaño*

## Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings in Spain: State-of-Play

The Spanish Government enacted legislation to guarantee compliance with Directive 2010/64/EU nearly two years after the transposition deadline. At this writing, transposition is in fact still incomplete, for the act and regulations governing the official registry of professionals envisaged in the Directive are outstanding.

Nonetheless, Spain's failure to comply with the deadline is not the sole cause of the precarious conditions in which translation and interpretation services are provided in criminal proceedings. This state of affairs has adverse consequences both for the rights of suspects and accused persons unable to understand the language in which such proceedings are conducted and the working conditions for court and police interpreters and translators. For years, the national press has carried news items on suspended trials or serious judicial obstacles arising from incomprehension, for want of specialised professionals.

In Spain, these services have been outsourced for many years; i.e., they are

the object of public tenders, which, in keeping with the specifications, must be awarded to the lowest bidder. The recommended (in effect, ceiling) rates are so low that the consideration paid to translators and interpreters is on the order of, or even lower than, the wage for unskilled labour (from 8 to 12 euros/hour), despite the pre- and in-service training required of language professionals.

Under such circumstances, with qualified professionals fleeing this market segment, the judicial system must fall back on poorly skilled people with scant experience, the only ones willing to accept such meagre remuneration (not to mention the fact that with such low rates it is clearly impossible to comply with self-employment tax and social security obligations).

Translators' and interpreters' associations as well as a nationwide network of such organisations have for some time been calling the attention of political parties, national and regional government bodies, public opinion, and (with the inval-

able backing of FIT) the ombudsman, to the adverse effects this situation, all to little avail to date.

Spain's professional associations in general and Asetrad in particular are demanding the creation of a registry to control the access to translation and interpretation in criminal proceedings on the grounds of qualifications and adherence to a code of professional practice, and subject to successfully passing an objective exam. We also believe that suitable training programmes must be provided for minority languages to ensure that the quality of the service is the same as for any other.

While these requirements go unmet, Spain can hardly be said to have aptly transposed Directive 2010/64 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings, or therefore to be guaranteeing the rights of suspects and accused persons.

*Alicia Martorell, [adsum@aliciamartorell.es](mailto:adsum@aliciamartorell.es)*  
*ASETRAD – Commission on Interpretation and Translation in Criminal Proceedings*

# APTI focuses on unifying and strengthening the profession in Panama

The Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) has launched a collaborative effort to reach out and unify membership while providing professional development opportunities. Most recently, the 4<sup>th</sup> general assembly hosted by APTI in the city of Santiago, Veraguas Province, on 23 July exhibited lively discussions, and great attendance by members, academia, students and participants interested in the profession. The event generated a renewed interest in creating regional chapters to carry on the mission to enhance membership, build unity within the profession, and pave the way towards a more robust organization. The Education Committee offered another successful seminar on 20 August, providing attendees with an informational overview and interactive sessions featuring several Computer-Assisted Translation (CAT) Tools in the market and other very useful related tools.

APTI has planned a regional meeting with representatives from the Colombian Association of Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters (ACTTI), the Costa Rican Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (ACOTIP), the National Association of Official Translators and Interpreters (ANTIO), and the Guatemalan Association of Interpreters and Translators (AGIT) to maintain effective relationships, encourage collaborative efforts, and continue the promotion of the profession at a national and international level. The event is scheduled to be held on 1 October, complementing the celebration of International Translation Day, and aims to highlight topics related to resources, ethical practices, challenges facing the profession, sharing expertise, and providing insights to contribute to the professional development of participants.



Attendees to the 4<sup>th</sup> General Meeting hosted by APTI in Santiago, Veraguas Province, accompanied by members, academia, students and participants interested in the profession

The general assembly gathering will follow, to recap 2016 and usher in a new year of opportunities and future planning for the benefit of members. A delicious lunch will close the celebrations, and provide an opportunity for networking with interpreters, translators and terminologists, interacting with colleagues, friends and family at the crossroads of the world – Panama!

*Thelma Gomez-Ferry, APTI Public Relations Coordinator*  
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## SATI: Sixty and going strong

The South African Translators' Institute (SATI) reached the milestone of its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary on 25 August 2016. Members and guests celebrated the occasion on 9 September at a lunch where the meal was preceded by a talk on translators and technology. The point was made that technology is here to stay and practitioners need to embrace it, use it, and contribute to improving it. Before dessert was served, entertainment was provided by well-known South African musician Chris Chameleon, who wowed the audience with his language-tailored performance.

In his toast to the Institute, SATI chair Johan Blaauw pointed to some of the milestones and achievements along the 60 years that SATI is particularly proud of. These include SATI's involvement with FIT. The question of FIT

membership was first raised in 1959, although SATI was only able to join the Federation in 1993. Since 1996, however, SATI has served continuously on the FIT Council.

Other milestones have been SATI's involvement in training issues, its support for statutory recognition, the development of an accreditation system, the establishment of a Development Fund (which, among other things, has provided 115 bursaries over the past 22 years, for a total value of R480 000), and the SATI Awards for Outstanding Translation and Dictionaries, which have recognized achievements in work in the South African indigenous languages since 2000.

*Marion Boers, SATI Executive Director*  
[words@boers.org.za](mailto:words@boers.org.za)



Johan Blaauw delivering the toast to SATI

# Translation Forum Russia

Translation Forum Russia (TFR) 2016 was held 1–3 July in Astrakhan. More than 200 professionals, including translators, interpreters, managers, conference interpreting equipment and translation tool developers, university trainers and LSPs from over 30 Russian regions and abroad were warmly welcomed by the Astrakhan region Governor Alexander Zhilkin at the opening ceremony, which took place at the Arsenal historical museum building in the Astrakhan Kremlin. After the Governor's speech, the participants enjoyed the virtual presence of FIT President Henry Liu, who welcomed TFR from a big screen. FIT was also represented by Council Member Olga Egorova, who spoke as a co-organizer of the 2016 edition of the forum, and by FIT Europe President Natacha Dalügge-Momme, who gave a keynote speech.

The forum geography was broad as always. In addition to the Russian participants, language professionals came from Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, China, Germany, France, Iran, Italy, Moldavia, Switzerland, Ukraine, the UK, and the USA. As usual, the programme included a whole range of dynamic discussions, networking sessions and practical presentations during the three-day working weekend.

This year, conference participants were offered a number of novelties, including language sessions in Farsi, Japanese, Chinese and Italian. The program focused a lot on conference interpreting, and Andrew Falaleev gave an inspiring speech, comparing simultaneous interpreting to martial arts. The Caspian Higher School of Interpreting and Translation offered a training session in simultaneous interpreting before the forum, and "Interpreters' SpecOps" focused on the psychological aspects of work immediately after the forum. These provided a valuable chance to improve skills and multiply the event's inspirational effect.

Another important topic raised at one of the roundtable meetings was the role of professional organisations and associations in lobbying for professional interests and raising awareness of translation professionals on a number of issues, including the professional code of ethics. President of FIT Europe Natacha Dalügge-Momme also shared FIT experience during the roundtable and raised a number of urgent questions facing the European FIT community. Olga Egorova spoke on behalf of FIT Council and the Russian Union of Translators.

During further discussion by Olga Egoro-

va, Natacha Dalügge-Momme and Nikolas Stuyckens (representing the Belgian Chamber of Translators and Interpreters), it was agreed to create a network of translators and interpreters working with French, Dutch and Russian, with a web-portal that will bring language professionals working in different countries closer to each other. This project will unite the Belgian, French, Russian and Dutch translators' associations and could later become a FIT project.

Translation tool developers competed for the first time at TFR. Each developer had only 5 minutes to introduce one of their software features. SmartCAT (represented by its CEO Ivan Smolnikov) won the "This is the Future!" award, with their product's collaboration feature. The two winners of the "You have convinced me – I'll try!" award were Stanislav Okhvat from TransTools, with his Unbreaker presentation, and Konstantin Dranch from Memsource, with a presentation of its multi-language translation tool.

Event participants emphasized the comfortable, friendly atmosphere of the forum.

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





## The Campaign in the City

The organisation of a strikingly successful publicity campaign despite a very limited budget: this was the ambitious gamble taken by the Quebec Translators' Terminologists' and Interpreters' Society OTTIAQ (*Ordre des Traducteurs, Terminologues et Interprètes Agréés du Québec*) last spring. And in view of the excitement that followed it, the society gambled and won.

After more than 15 years of silence on the promotional front, the Society wanted to build up its reputation so as to encourage public and private sector organisations to make use of its members. So a task force was created to oversee a publicity campaign<sup>1</sup> and Réservoir agency was enlisted to assist in putting a winning strategy in place.

How to accomplish this with a budget of only \$500,000 over two years, when the annual spend on advertising in Quebec was 2.7 million dollars? In order to overcome this obstacle the Society chose

Ça se traduit  
en bénéfices

TRADUCTEURS  
AGRÉÉS  
DU QUÉBEC

to concentrate on only one of the professions that it encompasses (certified translators), on only one public target (businesses in the Montréal city centre) and on one medium – billboards.

So from 7 March to 1 April the business quarter in the heart of Montréal was bombarded with eloquent messages extolling the advantages of investing in the services of an accredited translator: “it translates into productivity”; “it translates into benefits”; “it translates into results”; “it translates into confidence”. These messages, signed by “Accredited translators of Quebec”, were displayed on 40 digital columns, 9 street columns, 2 large format panels, 30 bus shelters and 18 megacolumns. A concentrated impact over one square kilometre.

The effect was immediate: the media answered the call, especially Les Affaires, Infopresse and Yahoo – the advertisement even featured in the awards of the five infos most read on Infopresse that week. The buzz also crossed the Atlantic and earned Réal Paquette, the society's president, an invitation to present the campaign to the General Meeting of Swiss Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters.

The advertising drive also produced excellent results for OTTIAQ members – they who financed it with a special levy. The day of the launch, members were emailed with a presentation of the campaign. They were also encouraged to download email signatures and posters sporting one of four slogans. This has been adopted enthusiastically. In so doing they have embraced a campaign which speaks of their professionalism and they have disseminated it with pride throughout their networks.

The success of this campaign augers well for the next steps. The OTTIAQ task force and Réservoir agency are already pre-

paring the second stage, which will be rolled out in 2017. Stay tuned.

*Silvana Nahman, certified translator (OTTIAQ)*

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<sup>1</sup> Réal Paquette, certified translator, president of OTTIAQ, specialist in advertising adaptation; Sophia Bekkoucha, director of Communications and Customer Service, OTTIAQ; Sofia Bulota, project manager, Communications and Customer Service, OTTIAQ; Silvana Nahman, certified translator, certified editor, specialist in written communication; Claude Dutil, appointed Director, advertising retired

TRADUCTEURS  
AGRÉÉS  
DU QUÉBEC

Ça se  
traduit  
en  
résultats

Ça se  
traduit  
en  
confiance

TRADUCTEURS  
AGRÉÉS  
DU QUÉBEC

## Language Rights, Globally Speaking

This is a proposition for a project that can best be undertaken by FIT, and by FIT only. The essence of the project is to make a database of language rights as vested in international conventions, national legislation, and domain-specific or technical documentation. I have made a couple of attempts to start a collection of texts containing language regulations. You can find the references in laws, in technical specifications, on the internet, in books and folders everywhere. But somehow my collection seems to

disappear in a drawer or mailbox so that I have only fragments left in a pile of files or paper.

My proposal is to create a global database listing all kinds of official and formal regulations on the use of language: global, international, and regional agreements and regulations, e.g. the UN Charter, the European Union language regime, the Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights, linguistic rights in criminal proceedings. It could also cover national legislation on language use, for

instance, in schools, the workplace and the public sector, machine directives, NGOs, health-care interpreting, and the list goes on. One can find regulations everywhere, and some collections exist already. Why don't we collect them in a database! Want to hear more? Jørgen Chr. Wind Nielsen, [wind.nielsen@webspeed.dk](mailto:wind.nielsen@webspeed.dk)

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## NEWS FROM THE REGIONAL CENTERS

### The EU Public Documents Regulation 2016/1191

The new Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012 entered into force on 15 August 2016. Member States are required to adopt all necessary measures for the application of the Regulation two years and a half from that date (i.e. by the end of 2018, beginning of 2019).

The thinking behind the Regulation is that since 'the formalities of legalisation, Apostille, certified copies and certified translations are outdated and disproportionate mechanisms to establish the authenticity of public documents', a horizontal approach is needed in order to simplify the circulation of such European public documents between Member States and to reduce the bureaucracy hindering intra-EU mobility, currently affecting some thirteen million EU citizens.

#### Provisions concerning certified translations

The Regulation provides that translation of public documents from another Member State might not be required if the public documents are (a) in one of the official languages of the Member State where they are presented, or (b) in

another non-official language accepted by this country.

The Regulation also establishes multilingual standard forms to be attached to specific categories of public documents concerning birth, a person being alive, death, marriage (including capacity to marry and marital status), registered partnership (including capacity to enter into a registered partnership and registered partnership status), domicile and/or residence, and absence of a criminal record. These multilingual standard forms should reflect the content of such public documents and should be used as a translation aid, thus eliminating to a certain extent (though not fully) the need for a translation.

It must be stressed that acceptance is subject to whether the authority to which the public document is presented considers that the information included in the multilingual standard form is sufficient for processing the public document.



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The Regulation recognises that for a number of public documents where the content may not be properly reflected in a multilingual standard form (such as certain categories of court decisions), the objective of eliminating the need for translation will not be reasonably achievable.

Most importantly, for the first time it is stipulated that a certified translation carried out by a person qualified to do so under the law of one Member State should be accepted in all Member States. To help achieve this aim, Member States should, by 16 August 2018, communicate, among other things, the lists of persons qualified, in accordance with national law, to carry out certified translations (where such lists exist) as well as information relating to the means by which certified translations can be identified.

#### Legal uncertainty and public authorities

The Regulation gives leeway for the authority to which the public document is

presented to ultimately decide whether the information included in the multilingual standard form is sufficient for the purpose of processing that public document, even though a person who presents a public document accompanied by a multilingual standard form should not be required, in theory, to produce a translation. This means that the authority may exceptionally require that this person also submits a translation or a transliteration of the content of the form.

While this may seemingly contradict the aim of reducing legal uncertainty, costs and lengthy procedures, it is partly compensated by the obligation imposed on Member States to communicate to the Commission the public documents to which multilingual standard forms can be attached as a suitable translation aid, along with the languages accepted (official and non-official) and the lists of acceptable certified translation providers, with a view to making the information available to the public through the European e-Justice Portal.

### Repercussions for translators

The repercussions on actual translation volumes, working methods, quality, confidentiality and security are yet to be assessed. However, the financial repercussions for translators offering official/certified/accredited/sworn translations, who work as freelancers or external government contractors, have been estimated and are going to be considerable. The quantitative results published in the European Commission's relevant Impact Study (CoNE 5/2013) estimate the volume of certified translations to be around 1.6 million documents for 13 types of documents, averaging 3 pages; at an approximate cost per page of 30 euros, the estimated annual cost is 100-200 million euros.

### What's next?

In view of the regulatory requirements and the repercussions on this particular category of translators, the following actions are suggested by FIT Europe:

a) Interested national translation associations should approach the relevant authorities, via the local EC field officer if necessary, to ensure inclusion in the registries of qualified persons, in accor-

dance with national law, to carry out certified translations, thus addressing in due time any issues that might arise before the cut-off date of 16 August 2018.

b) Considering that translators offering exclusively certified translation services may tend to lack certain translation technology skills, market knowledge and marketing skills, associations should investigate whether their business has been affected and determine how to help them re-orient their services via targeted re-training over the next couple of years.

c) Considering the requirement that certified translations carried out by qualified persons under the law of a Member State should be accepted in all Member States, and in view of the multitude of current systems in existence or lack thereof throughout the EU Member States, European associations should lobby for the mutual recognition or even harmonization of official translation systems, given that mere publication on the e-Justice Portal may not offer legal security to public servants dealing with in-scope documents, thus resulting inevitably in the haphazard rejection of official translations between countries. Such rejections may have a negative impact on the credibility and reputation of professionals in this line of work. Moving towards the harmonization and mutual recognition of EU certified translation systems ensures a stable and protective working environment for translators as well as administrative certainty for authorities.

### For more information

1) Regulation (EU) 2016/1191 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 July 2016 on promoting the free movement of citizens by simplifying the requirements for presenting certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32016R1191>

2) Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, Fact sheet: *Certifying your public documents when moving around in the Union? Not for much longer!*, June 2016

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/civil/files/fact\\_sheet\\_public\\_docs\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/civil/files/fact_sheet_public_docs_en.pdf)

3) Harris Kyriakidis, New European Regulation cuts red tape, 28 July 2016

<https://www.harriskyriakides.law/new-european-regulation-cuts-red-tape.htm?id=327>

4) Directorate for Impact Assessment and European Added Value, Cost of Non-Europe Report: Promoting free movement of citizens and businesses by simplifying the acceptance of certain public documents in the EU, CoNE 5/2013

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/document/activities/cont/201401/20140106AT-T76807/20140106ATT76807EN.pdf>

5) Commission Staff Working Document, Executive Summary of The Impact Assessment Accompanying the document Proposal for a Regulation on promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses by simplifying the acceptance of certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012, SWD(2013) 145 final

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52013SC0145&from=EN>

6) Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on promoting the free movement of citizens and businesses by simplifying the acceptance of certain public documents in the European Union and amending Regulation (EU) No 1024/2012, COM(2013) 228 final

[http://ec.europa.eu/justice/civil/files/com\\_2013\\_228\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/justice/civil/files/com_2013_228_en.pdf)

7) European Commission, Green Paper, Less bureaucracy for citizens: promoting free movement of public documents and recognition of the effects of civil status records, COM(2010) 747 final

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2010:0747:FIN:EN:PDF>

8) Directive 2006/123/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 December 2006 on services in the internal market

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:32006L0123&from=EN>

Dimitra Stafilia, FIT Europe Treasurer,  
PEEMPIIP President  
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## FIT Latam has a new logo!

With this new logo, FIT Latam aims to strengthen its identity as a FIT Regional Centre as it launches its presence in the social media, and as a platform to promote the activities of member associations and reach out to

the wider community of professionals and users of translation and interpreting services. We thank Betzabeth Ford, Venezuelan graphic designer, for her contribution to the redesign of the FIT Latam logo.



## From Babel to Google translate: Translation and Interpretation – A Bridge between Peoples

*Tenth Cuba-Québec Symposium on Translation, Terminology and Interpretation*

*Varadero, 6 – 8 December 2016*

From the Organisers' Desk: The Symposium is gathering momentum and the Cuban and Canadian organisers are working at top speed. The preliminary program is ready, with a lineup of 72 inspiring presentations, two thought-provoking roundtables (one hosted by FIT Latam members), and three pre- and post-Symposium hands-on workshops. Colleagues from more than 40 countries have already confirmed their attendance, and are getting ready for three full days of conferences on translation, terminology and interpretation in December.

The Symposium will count on the participation of the Executive Committee of FIT, with a keynote address by FIT President Henry Liu. It will be a great opportunity for associations of FIT Latam both to meet and review the work done during the year and to interact with a diverse group of speakers and participants.

Do you have plans to attend this great meeting of the minds, discuss topics of common concern, network with colleagues from all over the world, and meet with FIT Committee members? If you are planning to be part of this one-of-a-kind event (created through the collaboration of the Cuba and Quebec



The Symposium venue, Hotel Iberostar Playa Alameda, Varadero, Cuba

associations and combining great lectures with relaxing on the sunny beaches of Varadero), do register and make sure you book your seat, as places are filling fast. More info is available on <http://ottiaq.org> and <http://www.acti.cu>.

## ABRATES Organises Eighth International Congress

**Sao Paulo, Brazil, 25 – 27 May 2017**

The annual International Congress organised by the Brazilian Association of Translators is a great opportunity to learn, acquire new skills and meet colleagues. Next year, the event will continue to highlight innovation in translation, interpreting and related fields. This includes education and research, with a special focus on the day-to-day issues faced by translators and interpreters, and the proposal of creative strategies to overcome common challenges. The

call for papers is open until 15 November 2016. Proposals presenting innovative topics or innovative approaches to known topics are especially welcome. Suggested topics include: use of translation tools, the interpreting market, translation and interpreting training, legal translation, sign language interpreting, mentoring, audiovisual translation, literary translation, specialty translation, and the client-translator relationship. For updates, please check [abrates.com.br](http://abrates.com.br).

Don't miss this great opportunity to attend a world-class translation and interpreting congress in South America!

Marita Propato  
[maritapropato@gmail.com](mailto:maritapropato@gmail.com)



# An Exciting Professional Training Project: A Common E-learning Platform for FIT Latam Member Associations

Since its inception, FIT Latam members have strived to help all member associations achieve the highest possible standards in terms of training. One of the main pillars sustaining this goal has always been the establishment of a continuous training proposal, with online courses accessible to the entire region.

In the interest of furthering one of the principles stated in the Lima Declaration, "train professionals with an academic level of excellence that meets the needs of the users", and considering the situation in the different member countries, which in some cases lack the necessary technical capabilities, FIT Latam Council reviewed six different e-learning platforms to evaluate the one that would be best equipped to work for all countries.

After much discussion, FIT Latam submitted Zoom (<https://zoom.us>) for consideration to FIT Council members, and we are thrilled to share that the project has been approved.

The choice of platform was made on the basis of the following criteria:

1. Universal nature of the platform: Translators and interpreters from all Latam countries will be able to enroll, in what will truly be the first-ever regional training event. In the format we are proposing, the platform supports up to 100 simultaneous participants, regardless of their location.

2. Simple logistics: Each member association will disseminate the proposal by email, social media or their usual method of communication. A record of participants will be kept by each association, which will also collect the corresponding fees, to simplify the process.

3. Ease of use: no download, log-in or special setup is required by either the course tutor or the participants.

4. High quality features: Excellent quality of video, sound, and screen-sharing capabilities, as tested by a FIT Latam Council member in the demo session. The session can be recorded and stored in the cloud.

Latam Council members have decided to organize a pilot project for next Octo-

ber, 2016, as follows: AATI (Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters) will offer the talk "Freelance Translation: Five Applications, Five Solutions. Practical Tools for a Translator's Computer", in Spanish. The seminar will last 1.5 hours and will entirely be delivered through the Zoom platform.

To support this initiative, FIT Latam will be using part of the money allocated to our Regional Centre, to pay for the platform fee for a trial period of one month. We estimated this will be enough to test its feasibility, both from a logistics and a financial viewpoint. A Participant Satisfaction Survey will be circulated among attendees after the session to obtain the relevant feedback.

Results will be reported to all FIT Latam associations and a decision will be made to either run a second pilot project or analyse other viable options. So, stay tuned!!

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**FIT2017** **DISRUPTION AND  
DIVERSIFICATION**



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FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS  
XXI CONGRÈS MONDIAL FÉDÉRATION  
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