

TRANSLATIO

No. 3, 2020 FIT Newsletter



President's message

Kevin Quirk

Dear FIT Members,

It is with deep sadness that I express my heartfelt sympathies to all FIT members and their loved ones affected by the tragic explosion in Beirut, Lebanon and those who continue to be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and other tragic events around the world. My thoughts and the thoughts of the entire FIT family are with you.

We continue to live in a world that feels unfamiliar for many of us. While things are starting to get back to normal in some places, in others, the crisis is still very real and enduring. I take my hat off to the translators, terminologists and interpreters who continue to work on the front lines of this crisis – putting their health and safety on the line – to communicate vital information to those who need it.

It is especially with these colleagues in mind that we share the results of a recent

survey by FIT Europe on the mental health impacts of the pandemic. It is important that we all take time to care for ourselves and each other during these times. Our other Regional Centres also continue to work to share important information and get together with members remotely through various webinars and virtual continuing education events, many of which are detailed in this issue. Several of our members, including ATA and AUSIT, are planning virtual conferences this fall that will undoubtedly interest many of you, and others still are finding creative ways to connect, such as through APTIC's *Atlas of Translation and Literature*.

The FIT Awards Management Standing Committee is proud to announce a new award in collaboration with TEPIS and ITI honouring our esteemed translation colleague Albin Tybulewicz. As the XXII FIT World Congress has been postponed until 2021, the nomination period for all

FIT awards has been extended, and we are excited to be able to recognise our hardworking colleagues when the time comes for the Congress.

Today, we look toward the future. International Translation Day is right around the corner, and we are thrilled to share the winning poster submission from this year's competition in this issue. We will look forward to sharing all our members' great ITD initiatives and more information about our winning design (and designer) in the weeks to come.

We are by no means out of the coronavirus woods, and so we must stand together, in solidarity, to help each other through them. FIT will continue to do everything we can to help our members weather this storm. Together, we will emerge even stronger.

Happy reading and be well,

Kevin Quirk, president@fit-ift.org

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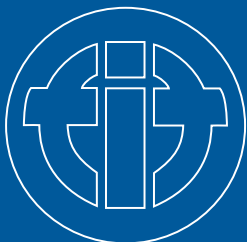
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New FIT Award for 2021

As in years past, FIT will award prizes during the FIT Congress to be held in Varadero, Cuba in December 2021. It gives us great pleasure to announce that a new international prize has been added to the list.

The new prize, the Albin Tybulewicz Prize for Professional Solidarity in the Translation and Interpreting Community, is intended to recognise volunteer work by individual translators and interpreters in their professional organisations. The prize is established under the auspices of the Polish Society of Sworn and Specialised Translators (TEPIS) and the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI).

Albin Tybulewicz: a man of professional dignity and solidarity

Albin Tybulewicz (1929–2014) was a former winner of FIT's Nathorst Prize for scientific and technical translation and a strong supporter of the federation and the profession in both Poland and the UK. He passed away in April 2014 at the age of 85. Born in pre-war Poland, he was deported with his family to the Soviet Union in 1940 before migrating to Iran and then to India, where he lived from 1942 to 1947. In 1948, he moved to Great Britain.

His remarkable life since childhood taught him not only how to survive, but also how to live a simple life characterised by intellectual and professional dignity. Refugee camps were certainly not the best places for teenagers to further their education, but Albin was strong and persistent and made lifelong friends with his young companions.

As a graduate of the English Jesuit High School in Mumbai (then known as Bombay), he entered the University of London, where he obtained a BSc in physics. He then became an editor and translator of scientific journals and books from Russian into English, combining the curiosity of a scientist with his inborn talent of transforming the exotic language of an original work into an easily accessible text through translation. He worked in the editorial office of Physics Abstracts, eventually becoming editor-in-chief. For his outstanding contribution to scientific and technical translation at an international level, he was awarded the FIT Nathorst Prize for Non-Fiction in Belgrade in 1990.

Albin was also a steadfast colleague of Polish translators and interpreters. From 1980 to 1984, as a co-founder and chairman of the Food for Poland Fund, he helped his colleagues in the Association of Polish Translators and Interpreters. After it was founded in 1990, the Polish Society of Sworn and Specialised Translators (TEPIS) enjoyed his kind and substantial support in improving the legal status of the association through his effective work in Poland after the transition.

Albin was not just an excellent translator, he also devoted his time and efforts to his professional community, both in Britain and in Poland. Here is what ITI had to say about his preeminent contribution to the translation profession in the UK: "When the new Institute of Translation and Interpreting was launched in 1986, Albin was at the forefront of the drive to establish it as a national and international authoritative organisation and served



Albin Tybulewicz

for many years as a member of council and as vice chairman. He remained a staunch and steady supporter and, as an individual and corporate member, that support came in the form of words, deeds and money: hours of voluntary endeavour, contributions to networks, advice to newcomers to translation – he was generous and successful, an example to follow."

Nominations

Nominations will open from 1 April to 1 July of next year. We encourage you to review the information already available on the FIT [website](#). For countries where the FIT website is currently blocked, please click [here](#).

Do not miss the opportunity to nominate outstanding colleagues for FIT prizes in recognition of their work as individual translators and interpreters and to showcase the work and accomplishments of your association's members. Please note that associations may only nominate one candidate per prize.

Danuta Kierzkowska,

*TEPIS in collaboration with the FIT Awards Management
Standing Committee*

Finding ways to celebrate in times of crisis

Celebrate International Translation Day (ITD) 2020 with our winning poster design for this year's ITD theme: *Finding the words for a world in crisis*

Our profession has been pivoting rapidly to keep up with changing realities and expectations, and the importance of our work to ensuring clear information reaches everyone and overcoming language barriers – both global and local – has been highlighted in unprecedented ways this year.

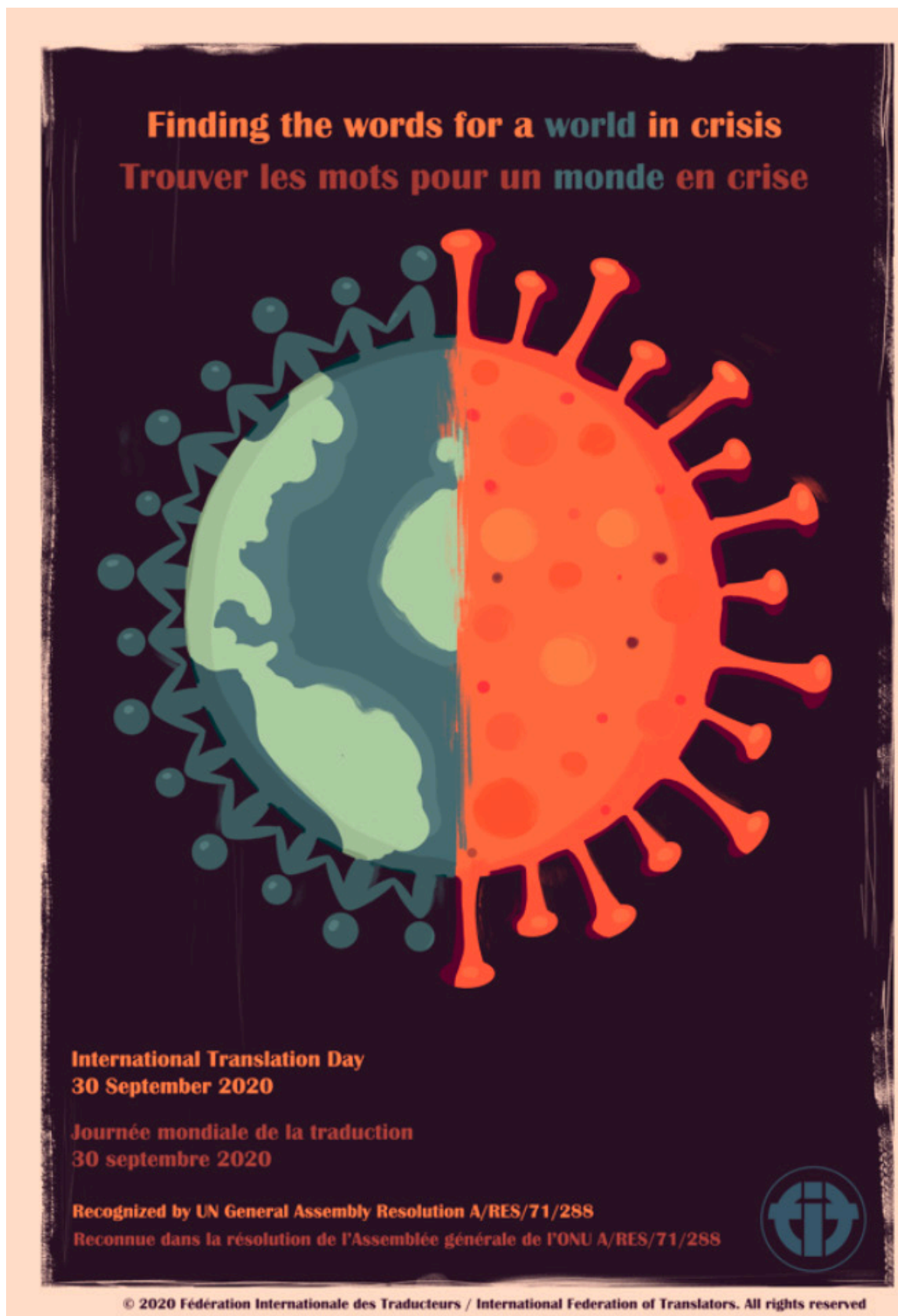
Translators, terminologists and interpreters provide crucial services both on the front line and behind the news in crisis situations, so let's celebrate our contributions amongst ourselves as well as provide the general public with information about our work.

This year's ITD poster competition received a record of 46 entries. The winning design came from Liza Gunenko and captures the importance of unity and solidarity to counterbalance the looming crisis. More information about her is to follow soon on the FIT website and social media.

This year, let us celebrate ITD as never before. Join together, while keeping a safe distance, in whatever way you can. [Download](#) the poster and share it to promote your celebrations.

To all our members, we say, stay safe. Working together, we will overcome the challenges ahead.

2020 International Translation Day poster design by Liza Gunenko



Two AATI initiatives in the spotlight

Translator's copyright campaign

The *Traductores en la Tapa* ("translators on the cover") campaign, recently renamed "On the Cover" (#EnLaTapa), was launched in 2016 by the Translation and Publishing Committee of the Argentine Association of Translators and Interpreters (AATI). Its main goals are to connect translators and publishers and to give visibility to the role of translation in book production. The initiative follows pioneering efforts undertaken by the *Acreditame* campaign launched by the Translators Division of the Collegial Association of Writers of Spain (ACE Traductores).

This campaign aims to raise awareness of the importance of recognizing translators as the authors of a translation and commends publishing houses that have the policy of naming translators on book covers alongside the original authors. How, you ask? By showcasing those publishers' newly published books on AATI's social media.

The idea is to create a domino effect so that the number of publishers that adopt this practice keeps growing. We encourage publishers to send us pictures of book covers displaying translators' names, which are posted together with a caption about the book or the imprint, or a brief comment as to why they believe the translator's name should be on the cover.

The result? At the beginning, only a handful of publishing houses took part in the initiative, but over four years, the number has grown to fifteen and counting. We believe it is equally important and valuable for both publishers and translators to gain visibility and earn respect for their professional work, and we are making a bold statement with our "On the Cover" campaign.



AATI's #EnLaTapa (#OnTheCover) campaign draws a lot of attention on social media

Accessibility webinar

As part of the training activities designed to contribute to professional development and bring us closer together as a community in times of social distancing, AATI organised its first webinar with interpreting in sign language.

The presentation was about "Interpreting for the Deaf Immigrant Community" and was given in Argentine Sign Language by Deaf interpreter and human rights advocate Johanna Katz-Searls from Rochester, USA, and interpreted into Spanish. Intensive preparations to take care of all technical details and interactions led to an interesting and ground-breaking webinar that described the humanitarian efforts of organizations specialised in accessibility, teaching Deaf culture, and breaking down barriers to enable the integration of immigrants with different needs.

The webinar was a joint effort by several teams within AATI: training, interpreting and accessibility. Attendees included interpreters and translators from eleven provinces of Argentina and five different countries. AATI's Sign Language Interpreting Division was established in 2010, and in 2018, the Accessibility Committee was created, led by Interpreter Rosana Famularo, with the support of subject-matter experts.

Marcela Alonso and Marita Propato, AATI



Abrates Afro, continuing education, and more

The Abrates Afro course developed by the Brazilian Association of Translators and Interpreters (ABRATES) in 2018 has announced its first class of graduates. Abrates Afro targets non-white, disadvantaged individuals in the low-income areas of Rio, where the pilot project took place. The goal is to help them develop and hone their translation and interpreting skills. ABRATES' institutional partners in this initiative are UNIPeriferias and Instituto Maria e João Aleixo.

The second edition of this program is on its way. In the meantime, ABRATES was approached by Aliança Translations, a well-known Brazilian LSP, which has provided support by offering paid internships to Abrates Afro graduates.

In 2019, we created Abrates Educação a Distância (EaD). This is ABRATES' own continuing professional development (CPD) programme, which offers webinars twice a month. The program ran on a trial basis at the end of 2019 and was very well received. Our 2020 program was divided into two series in the first half of the year, focusing on CAT tools and on remote simultaneous interpreting, respectively. Our main goal is to provide CPD for our community, especially in the Brazilian market.

ABRATES' international conference was placed on a biennial schedule last year due to administrative issues. That proved to be a blessing, and we are looking forward to our 2021 event. Our keynote speaker will be Uwe Muegge, Head of Terminology in the Global Business Marketing Division of Facebook, and we are currently focusing on sessions for our online event. We are looking at different platforms, focusing on those that allow for interpretation of both spoken and sign languages, a tradition at our



Abrates Afro helps develop T&I skills

events. The pandemic triggered an unexpected reality for us all, making it even more evident that adaptation, flexibility, and an aptitude for learning new skills are essential for our professional survival. This reinforced realization will inform the selection of sessions for the 2021 event.

We would also like to welcome our new Board of Directors that will serve for the 2020–2022 term starting on 1 August. These new directors will be the ones carrying the programs created by the previous boards forward while making their own contributions.

Giovanna Lester, CT, President, ABRATES

Introducing the *Atlas of Translation and Literature*

We are developing an interactive world map with geolocation information for events connected with translation and literature that will interest those working in our industry. The Atlas belongs to all of us! So please send us regular events or ongoing activities from your corner of the globe (including the ones organised by your association!) and pass the link on to organisations in your country or region that organise events connected with literary translation and literature in general.

On the occasion of the annual meeting of FIT Council, to be held in Barcelona in April 2021, the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia (APTIC), FIT's Literary Translation and Copyright Task Force, UNESCO Cities of Literature Network ([Barcelona Office](#)) and the [Ramon Llull Institute](#) are working



ATL Project's logo. Design by @clarajuan

together to develop a new tool called the [Atlas of Translation and Literature](#).

The Atlas is an interactive world map with geolocation information of events connected with translation and literature that will interest those working in our industry. The aim of the map is not to describe the events in detail or to provide exhaustive information about them, but to locate them geographically to offer an overview for professionals looking for information. By linking to the official website or social networks for the event, interested professionals will be able to dig deeper, if they wish.

We very much hope you will be interested in this new tool and encourage you to participate! The Atlas belongs to all of us involved in literary translation! So please complete the [form](#) with regular events or ongoing activities from your corner of the globe (including the ones organised by your association!) and pass on the link to organisations in your country or region that organise events connected with literary translation and literature in general: translation awards, book fairs, regular conferences, residencies for writers and translators, training programmes aimed at the industry and so on.

If you have any queries, please write to secretaria@aptic.cat.

Elionor Guntín, Carlos Mayor, Marta Morros, APTIC

Panamanian association works through virus

As a concession to the coronavirus pandemic, the Panamanian Association of Translators and Interpreters (APTI) has replaced our usual face-to-face seminars with a series of webinars. Our Education Committee organised 15 webinars, offered between April and August, to keep members informed about topics relevant to the profession. These webinars have covered such topics as proper Spanish grammar, ISO standards for translation and interpretation, and how to set competitive rates in today's market. In one webinar, an association member whose interpretation career spans more than three decades talked about booth etiquette, how to deal with direct clients and interpreting agencies, quoting, getting paid, fees, as well as differences between working locally versus working abroad.

We have also held webinars in close collaboration with other associations in the region that we have partnerships and agreements with.

On 18 May, we issued a statement urging the government to "take the necessary steps to relieve the economic burden" our members are facing as result of the lockdown in Panama. We sent the statement to numerous unions, private business associations, and government offices, and it was also published on the websites of Panama's leading newspapers.

In an effort to increase our online visibility



APTI Board of Directors 2020-2021

and outreach, our Public Relations Committee created an Instagram account, [@apti_panama](#). The PR Committee also launched a video campaign using the hashtag #quedateencasa (#stayhome in English) with announcements in Spanish, English, French and Italian urging members and followers to stay home during the COVID-19 health crisis.

On 27 June, we organised our first online general assembly, which was attended by a record 83 members. During the assembly, the board and committee coordinators summarised activities that have already taken place this year and described

the programmes we have planned for the remainder of the year.

Our Legal Affairs Committee is currently drafting a bill that explains the scope and effect of the translation and language interpretation professions. If enacted into law, the draft will set guidelines for potential certification candidates.

APTI is confident that our members will be able to return to business as usual once the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and the lockdown is lifted. Although there are many challenges ahead, we are positive that our profession will thrive once again.

Miguel Ramirez, President of APTI

ATPP provides continued support during pandemic

Only a few hours after the Peruvian authorities ordered the country's lockdown on 15 March 2020, the Peruvian Association of Professional Translators (ATPP) took action to devise a plan to assist its members through this difficult period: a simple – and, to begin with, not very ambitious – plan that would later evolve into a more complex, long-term scheme that continues to provide support for translators and interpreters worldwide.

Little did we know at that time that these measures would have such a wide impact

on society at large and, in particular, on the translator and interpreter community. To say the least, we were far from knowing that Peru would be in quarantine for over 100 days or that the crisis would hit translators and interpreters as hard as it did, both in Peru and abroad.

So far and as the health emergency still unfolds, the ATPP has hosted two webinars and three videoconferences, both free and well-attended, connecting speakers and audiences from across the globe, most of which are being uploaded onto our [YouTube](#)

channel. These efforts were primarily intended to shed light on how colleagues all over the world were – and still are – coping with the health crisis, but they also aimed to help others with their insights.

We started out on 4 and 11 April with Online Learning during COVID-19, a [webinar](#) given by Monica Vanthoff from Sydney, Australia, followed on 25 April by the videoconference *Translators and Interpreters in Times of COVID-19: How to Adapt to the Present and Prepare for What is Yet to Come*, delivered by well-versed colleagues Gino Lee and

Verónica Gutiérrez from Mexico City, ATPP member Fabio Salsi, and ATPP Board President María Rosario Ocampo from Lima, Peru.

Shortly afterwards, on 7 May, our board president joined household name Mike Lemay, zooming in from Montreal and streaming live through Facebook and Instagram, to discuss an interesting, yet controversial topic: remote simultaneous interpreting. And last but not least, on 21 May, we listened to seasoned Argentinean lawyer and sworn translator, Mariano Vitetta, in a live Q&A session, featuring sign language interpreting, on the present and future of the legal translation services market.

Even though our events attracted a significant number of participants from the outset, audiences rocketed on 10 June, when the ATPP and FIT LatAm co-hosted *Fundamentals of Contract Translation: What You Need to Know to Succeed in this Field*, a [webinar](#) presented by María Rosario Ocampo. It reached -through Zoom and FIT LatAm's YouTube channel- a live audience of more than 300 colleagues and close to 900 registrants from 26 countries.

More free videoconferences and training sessions are being prepared as we try to boost a sense of camaraderie among translators and interpreters in an effort to help us all emerge from this crisis better equipped for what has been dubbed the "new normal". Stay tuned and stay safe!

María Rosario Ocampo Cayo, Board President ATPP



Thank-you flyer for attendees to one of our videoconferences

The importance of lobbying – before and during the coronavirus crisis

At the general assembly of FIT Europe in Vienna last October, the German Association of Interpreters and Translators (BDÜ) reported on our experience of active political lobbying. Political developments influence our professional lives as translators and interpreters, be it the legal framework for court interpreters, the rules applicable to sole traders in general, or the requirements governing artificial intelligence. Everywhere, rules and regulations are set by politicians.

As a professional association, we must take an active interest in what happens at the political level and exert influence on political decisions relevant for our industry. Based on BDÜ's experience, there are three important factors to successful political lobbying: a professional and transparent approach to political lobbying, endurance, and teamwork. For a professional and transparent approach, BDÜ looked for a consultant who both identified with the goals of a freelance translator and interpreter association and was well connected with the parliamentary groups relevant for our industry. To succeed over

the long run, you need people within the association who are willing to learn from the consultant, see opportunities when they arise, and advocate strongly for translators and interpreters in discussions and conversations with politicians and other stakeholders. However, to really get things rolling, you need to team up with other similar groups. For freelance interpreters and translators, this means associations representing other freelance professions. Recognising that translators and interpreters are entrepreneurs, associations for other small- and medium sized enterprises become natural partners.

This worked relatively well before the coronavirus crisis hit. Now – being in the midst of the crisis – the experience gained and the contacts made have turned out to be invaluable. In Germany, the government is spending billions of euros on support programmes, yet the freelance working model does not fit into them and therefore, most of our colleagues are not in a position to apply for government aid. Thanks to our political lobbying experience and our teamwork with

other freelance associations, we still see a chance that our voices will be heard and our colleagues will get as much government aid as employees do.

Political lobbying does not pay off immediately, and it comes at a cost. However, after several years of active political lobbying, we can say that our cause is being heard by politicians, who ask BDÜ for advice, and members are encouraged to talk to their local politicians on behalf of our professions. Transparency within the association (discussing the political demands of the association with members, together with reporting during meetings, and presenting [results](#)), transparency with respect to the association's demands to the public (regularly publishing political [position papers](#) and participating in public discussions), as well as a lot of commitment by board members are key to the success of the political lobbying for an association like ours.

Norma Keßler – BDÜ President,

Ralf Lemster – BDÜ Vice President Public Affairs

ATA annual conference to be held virtually

As the number of COVID-19 cases in the United States continues to climb, the American Translators Association (ATA) Board of Directors has decided to shift from a “hybrid” (in-person and virtual) model to a fully virtual conference model this year for its 61st annual conference. The health and well-being of our colleagues and attendees remain our top priority.

Attendees can expect 100+ educational sessions, a Job Fair, an Exhibit Hall, a new and exciting Awards Ceremony and more. And while you may not be able to hug your old friends and shake hands with new ones this year, there will be plenty of opportunities to network and socialize during the virtual conference. Registration is expected to open in early August. Please watch for more information on the ATA [website](#) in the coming weeks and months.



Navigating the storm (with a steady hand at the helm)

The Brazilian Association of Sworn Translators in São Paulo State, Brazil (ATPIESP) has spared no effort to continue helping our members with several initiatives during these uncertain times.

This year, our calendar of events started with the second edition of our digital signatures workshop for sworn translators. As we try to keep up with new technology, it is important to consider all the implications it will bring to our work, not only from a technical perspective, but from a legal one as well.

As the pandemic called for social distancing measures, a fully online version of the same workshop was offered in May. Luckily, our annual meeting was held early in March before the lockdown, and members were able to participate and vote in person. We have been adapting to our new circumstances since April with our staff working from home, which has allowed us to continue providing our services without interruption. Members and non-members have been able to contact us and get the help they need. Throughout this crisis, we've never stopped communicating with our members or the public.

We have prepared a special series of newsletters on various topics of interest, including digital signatures, new pandemic



ATPIESP's annual meeting was held early in March, before the lockdown

terminology, and remote simultaneous interpreting for court interpreters, in addition to our regular publications on new legislation, notices, reminders, and relevant information. Two other events, previously scheduled for May and June, were changed to a virtual format and rescheduled for July and August. We also revamped our website to include new features, such as tutorials, and updated our information.

We truly believe that hard times bring new opportunities. They help us find new ways to do the same things as before, but with more advanced tools and in line with our members' expectations, enabling them to meet the changing needs of the translation industry. Now, more than ever, adaptation, flexibility and innovation are must-have qualities, and ATPIESP is ready to help.

Ana Lucinda T. Laranjinha
ATPIESP Board Member

CMIC diving deep into remote interpretation

In late April, the chair of the Mexican Association of Conference Interpreters (CMIC) summoned eight members, herself included, to join an Ad Hoc Committee on Remote Simultaneous Interpretation (RSI). The committee's mandate: urgently generate knowledge about the most important aspects of RSI.

Opinions Matter

As the committee started working, we launched a 12-question survey to learn how much our members already knew about RSI. The results provided the committee with a framework for working on what appeared to be the most pressing issue: half of those surveyed had not worked in an RSI environment. Our second action was therefore to publish a report showing the results of the survey, while providing some recommendations based on those results, and to share the results with FIT-NA.

Spreading the News

The report was shared with several organisations and on social media. The committee also produced and posted a video explaining it in Spanish, with Portuguese and French subtitles forthcoming. Also in the area of online training, we created free talks and two webinars on technology, including hearing and vision health in the times of RSI, and the committee acquired a Zoom account with the interpretation module to provide free practice to our members.

Deep diving in the sea of RSI

To continue providing useful information, an RSI Bulletin is in the works, with submissions written by colleagues with an interest in these issues, as is another survey on general health and listening habits and an FAQ based on what respondents asked during the first survey. Our next presentation will be a webinar on the legal issues surrounding RSI.

The committee has also held discussions with Hub Companies to present the way they work to individuals who do not know them. Several local companies have made presentations before the committee, and one of them was open to the general public. This action is ongoing.

Participation, acceptance, next steps

The entire committee has repeatedly met for a total of 14 hours via the web and even more in chat groups. Member response, meanwhile, has been encouraging! Workshop participation exceeded expectations, so that in many cases, more than one committee member had to serve as a training organiser. Webinar participation has also exceeded expectations.

Many more ideas are in the pipeline, including a paper and a video on recommendations for speakers, articles on technology, and more. As the committee is ad hoc, it will dissolve at the next election unless it is re-ratified. Nevertheless, we believe it has had a good run and will continue into the future.

Ernesto Zavala (CMIC)

Peruvian association launches digital certified translation

In this "new normal", virtual, remote-working era, digital has become unavoidable and the Peruvian Association of Professional Licensed Translators (CTP) had to rise to the occasion.

Until now, certified translations by certified translators of the association were done on paper, stamped, and manually signed by the translator and, if necessary, legalised by the association's president. Now CTP has its own Virtual Digital Signature Platform that provides its members with the possibility of issuing, with great ease, certified translations that are secure, in digital format, with the required presentation, digitally sealed, signed and legalised.

CTP's digital platform has been designed and developed exclusively for the association by a specialised certification company authorised by the Peruvian government to issue digital certificates that comply with the requirements of the main international regulations in the

field. The procedure is simple: the translation and the original documents are loaded into the system, embedded into a single document together with the regulatory cover page. The document is then digitally signed by the certified translator and by the representative of the association. This double digital signature system secures and legalises the entire document, making it unalterable.

Major organisations that require translation services, such as universities, registry offices, the judiciary, consular and immigration services, have already started to issue official documents in secure digital format with digital signatures. Digital certified translation is therefore a natural solution to facilitate administrative procedures and international exchanges.

CTP's digital platform is the result of a project started in May 2018 by the association's



newly elected National Council. It is now taking shape in the context of the pandemic to provide certified translators and their clients with access to a totally secure electronic document that is as legally valid as a certified translation in paper format. Both formats are valid and in force as of today. As the system involves significant investment for the association and for translators, as a sign of solidarity, its implementation will be partially subsidised for the certified members of the [CTP](#).

Hedwig Spitzer de Lugaro, CTP

Unity in the time of the pandemic

How the Greek translators association is helping members pull through

The COVID-19 pandemic hit us all like a tonne of bricks, affecting each and every one of us on a personal, social and professional level. The initial numbness and confusion, though, soon gave way to thoughts about the day after and the urge to act.

The Panhellenic Association of Translators (PEM) decided to start taking matters into our own hands and focus on the future. In early March, a group of members got together to create the COVID-19 Crisis Management Centre (CMC). Our aim was to ensure the business continuity of the PEM office and the uninterrupted provision of services to our members. The CMC worked tirelessly to set up a Help Desk, with a dedicated email to deal with the cascade of questions and concerns from PEM members, but also language professionals across Greece. We created a new webpage, [PEM stands by you during the COVID-19 crisis](#), with information on the coronavirus crisis and business-related issues. We compiled a brief [coronavirus glossary](#) in Greek

and English, which our members kindly translated into Albanian, Italian, Dutch, Russian and Spanish. We launched a large social media campaign on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#), posting pandemic-related articles, useful business tips and information for translators and interpreters. And finally, we made our [continuing professional development](#) webinars available to all PEM members free of charge.

In early April, we posted a practical guide for the [provision of government assistance](#) online for the general public. We collected questions from members through the Help Desk and social media and, with the help of our accountant, compiled a detailed guide on how to claim government assistance.

On 10 April, we held an online teleconference on "Coronavirus: The Day After" with two leading experts as speakers. Around one in four of our members joined in for a live discussion on the future of our industry following the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the end of April, we sent a questionnaire to our members to get stats on how the pandemic was affecting their workload and what measures they had adopted to curb the effects of the crisis. We are planning to run a second questionnaire in the next couple of months to get an overview of the more long-term impact of the pandemic.

On 31 May 2020, we held our first [digital annual general meeting](#). Rather than postpone the GM, originally scheduled for the end of March, we decided to hold it exclusively online, complete with elections for new management bodies. Members were sent detailed instructions well in advance on how to join in and cast their votes, and turnout was higher than usual! PEM pledges to continue standing by our members with targeted actions whenever the need arises.

Vicky Ghionis, Vice-President, PEM

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PEM stands by you during the COVID-19 crisis

[Find out more](#)

[Ask the PEM HelpDesk](#)

Every cloud has a silver lining

The COVID-19 pandemic took the whole world by surprise. Suddenly, authorities were organising more press conferences and serious lockdown restrictions were being introduced. Some translators and interpreters were surprised by the increase in work due to the crisis, while others saw their work dwindle down to nothing in a very short time due to the direct and indirect effects of lockdown restrictions.

The Finnish Association of Translators and Interpreters (SKTL) was quick to identify the information most relevant to our members from official sources and used all available channels to provide them with information about public support measures.

Spring is usually a very busy time at SKTL, and president Sirpa Alkunen emphasised the importance of being continuously visible for our members and the public, taking an active role and offering virtual peer support during times of social distancing. We quickly decided to organise a virtual ceremony for our annual awards, and partner contacts and organisations joined in with speeches and technical support. Some seminars and training sessions planned for the spring were held online while others had to be postponed, so a few lectures and a panel discussion were provided virtually on their original dates. Interaction using new software was successful but did require a designated person to manage requests from the audience.

However, the most important thing we did past spring was provide special coronavirus support grants. In order to assess the need for these grants, we conducted a survey on the effects of COVID-19 on the



Helene Bützow

finances of our members. The response rate was very high, and more than half of the respondents confirmed that they had experienced a moderate or significant drop in their workload. One of SKTL's tasks is to distribute collective funds to compensate members for the use of copyrighted texts, and this is done by providing grants to copyright holders of translations. Last spring, the board decided to increase the total amount of funds to be distributed and to offer not just strictly copyrighted published translators, but all of its members who were in dire straits due to COVID-19, the possibility of applying for a grant. The board received a record number of applications, so it had clearly made an important decision.

The lockdown measures showed the benefits of online solutions, and feedback on virtual events was very positive. This has encouraged us to continue to develop our resources, both human and technical, for arranging different kinds of virtual meetings and events to be able to provide an even better service to our members in the future.

*Kristiina Antinjuuti, Executive Director, SKTL
Translated by Pia von Essen, SKTL*

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the winners of SKTL's annual Mikael Agricola and J. A. Hollo translation prizes were announced online and celebrated in a virtual event. This year's Mikael Agricola Prize winner, Helene Bützow (pictured here), gave her acceptance speech from home.

Exploring the human cost of COVID-19

In its "Take 3" Survey exploring the financial ramifications of the COVID-19 crisis on translators and interpreters in Europe conducted in late May–early June 2020, FIT Europe also began to explore how lockdown and changed workflows have psychologically impacted freelancers. In other words, it began to look beyond the financial cost to investigate the human cost of the crisis on our professions.

Three months into the crisis, 60% of Take 3 survey respondents reported they did not feel their mental health had been affected.

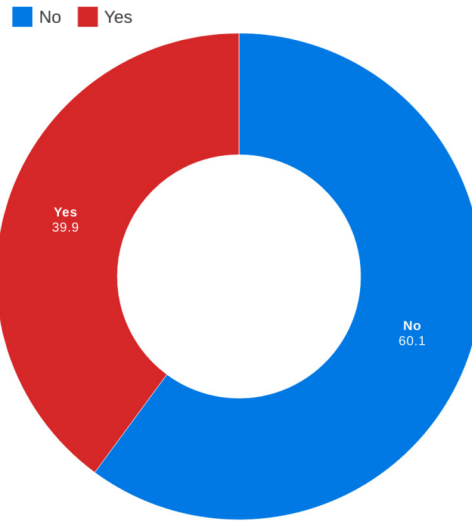
While we interpret this to mean that freelancers are resilient and relatively used to working in isolation, the result also indicates that a worrying proportion of respondents (2/5 of the total) did feel their mental health had been impacted.

The Take 3 survey also allowed respondents to express their concerns and explain how they were being impacted. Delving deeper into the data, a large number of respondents revealed that they were concerned about the future and that the impacts on their work would be long-lasting. Although the headline trend is towards recovery, their concern is that recovery will be slow.

Another common theme in the responses was that childcare and home schooling had become major stressors. The 2020 European Language Industry Survey (ELIS), in which FIT Europe is a partner, had already revealed that coping with childcare was an issue pre-COVID; the pandemic has exacerbated it. These concerns were particularly intense for working mothers who had not seen their business particularly affected by the crisis. Some older translators also reported more work because younger colleagues with young children could not take on jobs because of childcare/home schooling responsibilities.

One respondent said, *“This crisis is particularly hard for freelancers since we are the least protected: you work at home, so you can look after the children, you get less work than usual and/or cannot manage as much as usual since you have to look after the*

Pandemic impacting mental health



Source: FIT Europe COVID surveys • Created with Datawrapper
children, and everybody is suffering from the crisis, but still you earn too much money to be eligible for aid ... you feel the effect

of a triple punishment compared to employees”. Other respondents echoed this sentiment.

Another common theme was the unevenness of government support for people in their situation. As with all things COVID-related, support measures for working parents varied dramatically from country to country in Europe.

The follow-up survey in a couple of months will continue to track the more human impacts of the pandemic. In addition, Annette Schiller, Chair of FIT Europe, urges *“member associations to look to the aspect of mental health in relation to their members, as surveys show that the sense of belonging and community acquired through membership in a professional association can have hugely positive benefits for the overall well-being of freelance linguists”.*

FIT Europe www.fit-europe-rc.org

Argentina welcomes new university degree for certified translators



The Translators Association of the Province of Santa Fe (CTPSF) announces the creation of a new university degree for certified translators in Argentina. The course will be delivered by the Universidad Nacional del Litoral (UNL) in Santa Fe, an academic institution whose history goes back over one hundred years. The initiative originated in a proposal from our Association to UNL and we are therefore grateful to them for making our request a reality.

We feel very proud to have contributed to the achievement of this academic milestone in our province. Furthermore, we understand that the course of study will provide quality training to candidates who already have a degree in other fields of translation, not only from the province of Santa Fe, but also from other Argentine jurisdictions, who are interested in gaining a university degree as certified translators.

The course aims to provide a qualification for English, French, Italian, Portuguese and German translators (although minimum quotas of students will be established for a class group to be created for each language). It will last two and a half



Universidad Nacional del Litoral

years, and is designed to be delivered face to face or through distance learning.

It should be noted that our Board of Directors were actively involved in the creation process: they attended meetings with university authorities, provided them with provincial and national academic data, informed them about the laws that regulate our profession throughout the

country, and participated in devising the curriculum.

We hope that the course of study will achieve an international status and will be made available in other Spanish-speaking countries, either directly to individual translators or through agreements with other universities or professional translators associations.

Silvia Bacco, CTPSF

OTTIAQ goes virtual

In response to the current pandemic, OTTIAQ, the Quebec translators, terminologists and interpreters association, decided to redesign our events, not only to comply with health standards, but also to improve our reach among the language professionals of Quebec.

We saw the first results of this redesign on 11 June, when we held the second edition of *Mentorat Express*, our networking event for language professionals and students, entirely online.

Hosted on the highly user-friendly platform Hopin between 6:00 and 8:00 pm, the evening of virtual networking was attended by no less than a hundred young language professionals, students, entrepreneurs and experts, as well as a number of industry representatives in both translation and business. Participants were put into small groups to meet their “mentors,” who led discussions on a variety of topics, including certification, entrepreneurship, job searching, working in a firm, networking and more.

The virtual *Mentorat Express* was initiated



Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec

by OTTIAQ's Youth Committee. Made up of ten volunteer members, the committee is tasked with garnering interest among language professionals 35 and under to attract new members to the Order and ensure its long-term durability. Our sincere thanks go to the whole committee and particularly its chair, Meaghan Girard, Certified Translator and First Vice President of OTTIAQ.

As the first of our virtual events, *Mentorat Express* broke new ground, and we could not be more pleased.

On the heels of this success, OTTIAQ will be holding another virtual event on 30 September to celebrate International Translation Day. This year, FIT has proposed the very topical theme of “Finding the words for a world in crisis.” In the spirit of unity and in solidarity with all

our fellow language professionals, OTTIAQ is planning award presentations, networking events and a special lecture by our president, Donald Barabé. Details of this free event will be available soon.

Lastly, OTTIAQ would like to take this opportunity to announce our first entirely online annual conference and continuing education day, which will take place on 5 and 6 November. The programme will be unveiled officially in mid-August. We are anticipating a sophisticated mix of rich content relevant to all language professionals – particularly those in the French-speaking world – multiple networking opportunities, and exciting surprises.

Follow us on social media for updates!

OTTIAQ

SYDISE advocates for members and offers RSI training

Thanks to the mobilisation and coordinated action of the Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (SYDISE), in cooperation with the Greece and Cyprus Region of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), the Greek tax code number for translation and interpreting activities was included amongst the professional categories affected by the COVID-19 crisis. Thanks to these efforts, professional interpreters and translators in Greece were granted a special COVID-19 subsidy allocated by the government in March and April 2020. On May 14, we issued a new press release because we noticed the tax code was not included in the professional categories that would receive the May subsidy. SYDISE addressed our concerns to all relevant departments of the Hellenic Government ministries, requesting this omission be rectified. Despite our best efforts, the

Greek government unfortunately continues to turn a blind eye to the claims of conference interpreters, who have not received further subsidies.

SYDISE has long been a pioneer in the field of remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI). As early as May 2019, Article 15 of SYDISE Code of Practice set out the terms and conditions that must be met for RSI, such as setting the maximum work time for a conference interpreter (full day) working remotely at four hours and the requirement that remote interpreters work in pairs at all times. SYDISE firmly believes this example should be followed by all professional conference interpreter associations, especially since interpreters can suffer hearing damage when performing RSI for too long or under poor conditions. Pending the upcoming SYDISE Guidelines for Remote Interpreting, SYDISE also addressed all audiovisual technicians and

conference organisers in May, informing them of proper RSI working conditions in an effort to help them achieve the best possible communication outcomes when working with remote conference interpreters.

Since early March, SYDISE has organized a series of virtual training sessions on various RSI platforms, including hands-on webinars, to keep its members busy and informed during the lockdown and prepare them for a new professional reality. Some of these webinars were also offered for free to sister associations, such as the Greece and Cyprus Region of the AIIC Region and Assointerpreti in Italy. In June, we organised a virtual meeting for our members, where we discussed RSI challenges at length.

Maria Petrocheilou

President of the Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters

Supporting Australian practitioners

In Australia, as elsewhere around the globe, interpreters and translators have been hit hard by the COVID-19 crisis and the related economic lockdown. To support its members throughout the crisis, the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) has adopted a range of initiatives. For example, we have halved our membership fees for the coming year so that members are not forced to let go of their ties to the Institute. As a benefit to renewing members, we also offered a free professional development (PD) webinar and shared links to other opportunities for free online learning.

Since in-person events are on hold for the foreseeable future, we have shifted all our professional development activities online so practitioners can continue to grow in their practice – and also accumulate the points they need for recertification – during lockdown. The Institute offers a broad range of [webinars](#) covering a number of translation and interpreting fields that all FIT association members can access, even if they aren't AUSIT members.

In times such as these, information and communication are critical. We have made use of social media to widely disseminate information about government financial support and job opportunities to our members, and encouraged practitioners to connect as a community to



combat professional isolation, including through a competition on our Instagram channel, [@ausit_australia](#). We also collated COVID-19 terminological resources and shared them with members to help promote the sharing of accurate public health information.

Furthermore, AUSIT joined up with the main union for translators and interpreters and the national association for sign language interpreters to draft a statement reminding law enforcement authorities of the protocols on using telephone interpreting in courts and tribunals to ensure fair working conditions for all interpreters in Australia. In view of the spike in the use of video remote interpreting during the lockdown, we are currently drafting protocols on good practice in this area as well.

Given the current travel restrictions, and not knowing when they will be eased, we soon realised that we would not be able to go ahead as planned with our annual national conference, scheduled

for 20–21 November. Rather than cancel the conference, we decided to move this flagship event online. The choice of the conference theme – Business as Unusual – has been heavily influenced by the exceptional events of 2020 and will cover a diverse range of topics ranging from adaptive business practices and remote interpreting to new translation technologies and business during pandemics. The conference aims to look for positives in the exceptional events of this past year, including Australia's devastating bush fires, and be a forum for discussing how we can harness them as opportunities for driving the industry forward in a positive manner. We hope that the virtual format will make the conference accessible to all Australian practitioners and that we may even be joined by translators and interpreters from abroad. More information on the conference can be found [here](#). Registration is AUD 50 for students, AUD 100 for AUSIT, ASLIA and NZSTI members, and AUD 200 for non-members. Non-members can consider joining AUSIT for only AUD 100, registering for the conference at the member rate and thus receiving all the benefits of AUSIT membership while attending a great conference.

By Elizabeth Ambrose, Communications Officer, AUSIT, communications@ausit.org

Tackling the crisis, together

The coronavirus pandemic and lockdown measures put in place by governments around the world have hit many of our associations' members hard.

Since the start of the crisis, the Société Française des Traducteurs (SFT) has sought to put the case for its members to the French government, which had completely overlooked translators and interpreters when drawing up its initial legislation. Working with the Association Française des Interprètes de Conférence Indépendants (AFICI) and the French section of the International Association

of Conference Interpreters (AIIC), we succeeded in shifting the government's position, thus ensuring that our members can access the French fonds de solidarité, a financial support scheme for small businesses and the self-employed that pays out up to €1,500 per month for those experiencing hardship.

Given that this state aid only initially covered the period to the end of May, despite the fact that many continue to face challenging times, our latest joint initiative has been to ask our members to write to their local member of parliament, explaining why translators and interpreters should

be included in the support scheme for the events industry. Many members took up the call, and we have received extensive feedback. The French National Assembly tackled this issue when debating the third amended finance bill. The SFT would like to thank all its members for their efforts, which, at the time of writing, appear to be bearing fruit.

One positive outcome of this difficult period is that it has at least strengthened partnerships between associations in a way that benefits us all.

Société Française des Traducteurs
www.sft.fr

What's new with FIT LatAm?

Regional webinar with record attendance

On 10 June, the free webinar *Fundamentals of Contract Translation: What You Need to Know to Succeed in this Field* was delivered on Zoom and YouTube. Organised by the Peruvian Association of Professional Translators (ATPP), as part of the FIT LatAm Regional Webinar series, this on-line event had a record-breaking live audience of 300 participants and some 900 registered attendees for the recording. The webinar featured an excellent presentation by ATPP Board President María Rosario Ocampo Cayo that focused on the fundamentals of English-Spanish contract translation, while sharing useful insights with a problem-solving approach that analysed legal terminology and jargon frequently found in these kinds of texts. Members and non-members of FIT member associations joined from 26 countries and certificates of attendance are currently being produced.

FIT LatAm's Vice Chair Dagmar Ford provided valuable support in organising and delivering this webinar and assisted the ATPP moderator Fabio Salsi with the Q&A session. With extremely positive feedback from the translation community, the webinar is now publicly available on FIT LatAm's YouTube channel (yes, the Regional Centre continues to expand its social media presence!) [here](#). Several associations in the region continue to offer useful training activities to equip members with tools for professional development. As to the FIT LatAm webinars, this successful series on the FIT Zoom platform already has an interesting schedule for the second half of the year, including the very relevant topics of service branding and marketing and, of course, the essentials of remote simultaneous interpreting. Stay tuned!

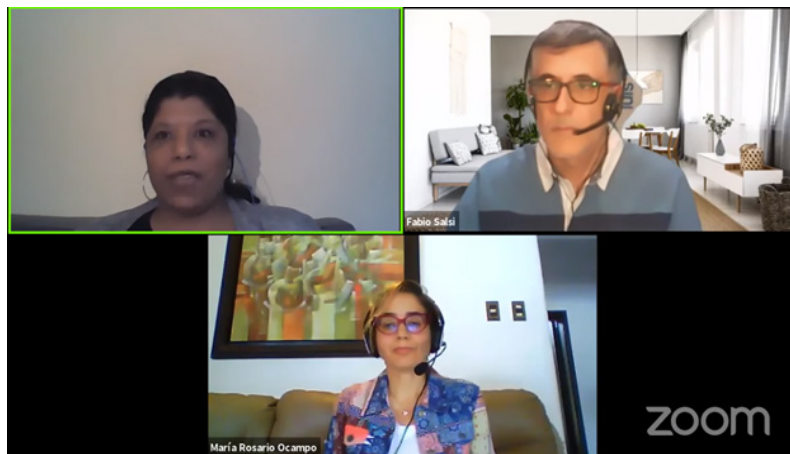
FIT LatAm's anniversary

FIT LatAm celebrated its 17th anniversary on 3 May with a message of solidarity in these challenging times.

The Regional Centre's constant efforts to advocate for the profession and improve the continued education of translators, interpreters and terminologists in Latin America meant that it was well prepared for times of crisis and virtual communications, taking advantage of technology and keeping close to member countries through its presence in social media.

Despite the distance, we feel united sharing our problems and weaknesses, but particularly our strengths and successes. That is why we are happy to celebrate another year of cooperation with in the FIT Family.

FIT LatAm and ATPP



FIT LatAm Webinar Fundamentals of Contract Translation

¡Hoy celebramos nuestro decimoséptimo aniversario!

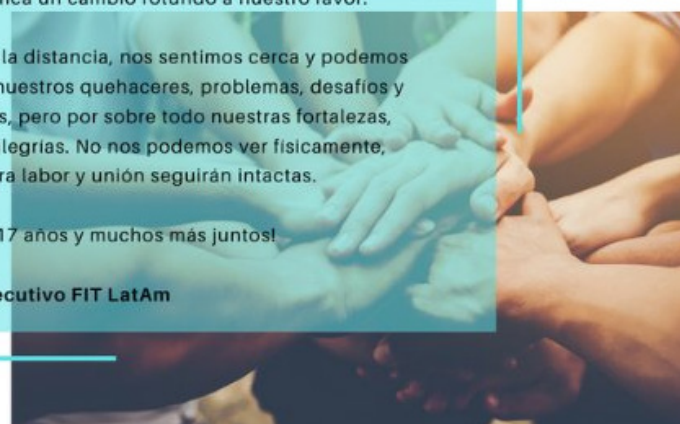
Queremos expresar un mensaje de unión y hermandad en estos momentos difíciles que nos tocan vivir.

FIT LatAm tiene un largo recorrido de trabajo y de esfuerzos en la región. Sin querer, nos fuimos preparando para lo que sería esta pandemia y no cabe duda de que hemos logrado incorporar la tecnología, y ello significa un cambio rotundo a nuestro favor.

A pesar de la distancia, nos sentimos cerca y podemos compartir nuestros quehaceres, problemas, desafíos y debilidades, pero por sobre todo nuestras fortalezas, triunfos y alegrías. No nos podemos ver físicamente, pero nuestra labor y unión seguirán intactas.

¡Por estos 17 años y muchos más juntos!

Comité Ejecutivo FIT LatAm



17th anniversary message from FIT LatAm

