



ATII

Association of Translators
& Interpreters Ireland

Cumann Aistritheoirí
& Ateangairí na hÉireann

Bulletin

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Editorial

This second Bulletin issue of 2024 is exclusively dedicated to (and hopefully highlights) this year's ATII activities, at home and abroad. The behind-the-scenes work required for a professional association to function efficiently and competently is considerable, to say the very least. Professional exams, organising CPD events and AGMs, collaborating with and advising state bodies, the mentoring programmes, the translation competition, to name but some of our activities, requires copious amounts of time and input.

Most noteworthy is that the work the board members do on behalf of the association is on a voluntary basis. We have been very fortunate to have many talented translators and interpreter members take their place on the board and give freely of their time and expertise. Without them, there would be no ATII – which gives rise to a timely opportunity to thank them all for their work over the nearly forty years since the then ITA was founded!

It is of further note that the four international federations of associations of translators and interpreters - Audio Visual Translators Europe (AVTE), Council of European Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL), European Legal Interpreter and Translator Association (EULITA) and the International Federation of Translators (FIT), of which ATII is a member, are also run by boards who work on a voluntary basis.

The first article features our representatives' attendance at the annual meetings of AVTE, CEATL, EULITA and FIT held in Europe and further afield. These reports reflect the importance of networking and, more importantly, how joining forces with other federations and associations are all of immense benefit to our profession, at a time when working conditions, rates of pay, authors' rights and AI, in particular, are causing increased uncertainty. Read all about the meetings in the reports.

At home, ATII organised a Law and Language conference in DCU in May, which was very well attended by members of the legal profession,

translators, interpreters, state bodies and even some translation and interpreting agencies. ATII Chair, Mary Phelan has written a comprehensive report on the speakers and topics and we also have 'A personal comment' on the conference by EULITA founder, Liese Katschinka. We do hope that the views expressed might bring about improvements, particularly in interpreting services in international protection settings.

Miriam Watchorn, chair of the Mentoring Sub-Committee, has contributed her latest report on the ATII mentoring programme which might encourage more members to participate.

ATII Professional Membership exams took place earlier this year in February and Annette Schiller, Chair of the professional Membership Sub-Committee, has written a report on this year's results. Well done to all the candidates who have demonstrated that perseverance and the pursuit of high standards really does pay off.

Chair of the Certification Sub-Committee, Sarah Jane Aberasturi has also written a report on the results of the CLT exams which took place last December. She speaks of the continuing demand for certified translations and encourages professional members to apply.

Following on from the court report in ATII Bulletin 2024/01 this issue too contains a report from Blanchardstown District and Circuit sessions by Mary Phelan.

Our first CPD session, an introduction to the topic of Plain Language, was given by Dr Antoinique van Staden in April this year and was well attended. The next online session, *The Darker Sides of Translation*, is planned for 21 November.

Another item for your agendas is the ATII Annual General Meeting which will take place, online, on Saturday 12th October at 11am. Do watch out for advance notice of this on the ATII website and we will, as always, advise members.

Anne Larchet, Editor



ATII Representation

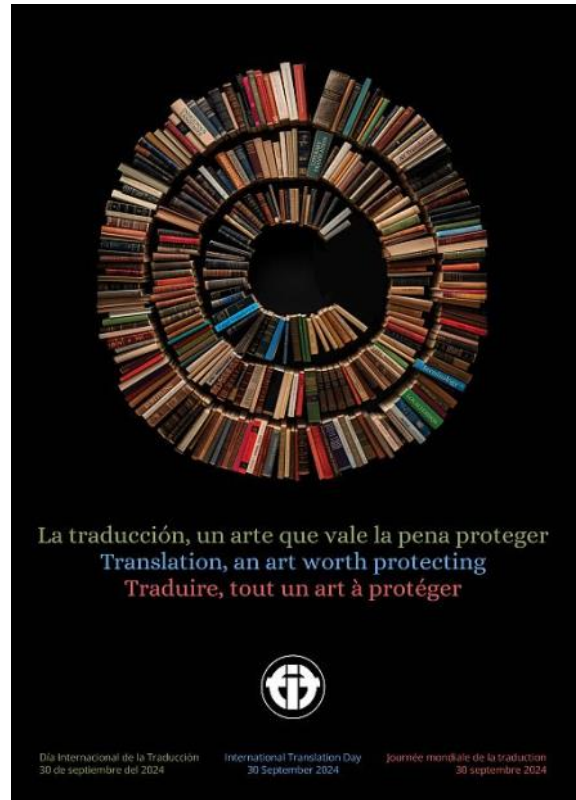
FIT

Annette Schiller, FIT Vice President has had a busy year, attending a number of FIT Executive committee meetings and keeping the ATII in the loop on the latest developments in the world of T & I. She began the year in Kuala Lumpur at the launch of the Regional Centre FIT Asia, hosted by the [Malaysian Translators Association \(MTA\)](#). FIT now has five regional centres – FIT Europe, which is the largest with 33 member countries and 77 associations, FIT Latin America, FIT North America, FIT Africa, which was launched last year and now the fifth, FIT Asia. No doubt this enhanced infrastructure centres will facilitate smooth cooperation and communication for all involved in this worldwide federation of associations.

Annette went to Geneva in July, in preparation for the XIII FIT World Congress which will be held at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) HQ in that Swiss city, 4- 6th September 2025. The theme for the 2025 congress is *Mastering the Machine: shaping an Intelligent future*.

Annette’s next meeting will at the FIT Europe AGM, which will be held in Budapest in October of this year. We will keep Bulletin readers advised of all the news from there.

As translators and interpreters, we work with words. They say a picture, or in this instance, a poster, conveys a thousand words and this year's FIT International Translation Day (ITD) poster doesn't disappoint. Every year FIT commissions a poster to celebrate ITD on 30th September, the feast of St. Jerome, patron saint of translators, and every year they are fantastic.



This year’s poster: *“Inspired by issues surrounding copyright, this year’s theme embraces the recognition of translations as original creative works in their own right, owed the benefit of copyright protection under the Berne Convention. As the creators of derivative works, translators have fought to protect their rights to be credited for their work, control any changes to that work, and receive appropriate remuneration. Protecting these simple things will ensure a sustainable future for translation professionals and the historic art of translation itself.”*

CEATL 2024 AGM Reykjavik

CEATL held its Annual General Meeting in the Icelandic capital from 25 – 27 April under a clear blue sky. The AGM is always an eagerly awaited occasion for an association whose members are scattered across Europe. Each year provides an opportunity to explore the home base of a member association and to familiarise ourselves with the local publishing sector.

In 2024, delegates turned out in force, with thirty-seven attending from twenty-three countries. Many thanks to Guðrún Catherine Emilsdóttir and Þórunn Hafstað, from the Icelandic associations [THOT](#) and [RSÍ](#), for their warm welcome and for organising such a smooth-running event.



The first afternoon was devoted to [Working group](#) meetings, while on Friday and Saturday we discussed the progress of our various initiatives and made plans for the coming year – more about that later on this website. Among the items on the agenda was the [European Conference on Literary Translation](#), which will take place in Strasbourg in October; e-zine [Counterpoint](#); the latest [surveys](#); and the repercussions of the vote on the [European Union's AI Act](#), as well as a few internal organisational matters.

CEATL was delighted to accept (by a unanimous vote) the application of a new member: the Slovakian association [DoSlov](#). Welcome to DoSlov! This brings the total number of member associations to 36, from 28 European countries.

The meeting in Reykjavík provided the opportunity for an introduction to Icelandic literature prepared by Hrefna Haraldsóttir, the Director of the Icelandic Literature Centre, as well as a presentation of the Reykjavík Literary Agency by Stella Jóhannesdóttir, and a roundtable meeting at the House of Icelandic Studies with local authors, translators and publishers, discussing the future of literary translation in Iceland. The latter led to a rich and fruitful discussion, involving both the panel and delegates, on the legal status of translators, concerns about AI, and the problem posed by the uncontrolled exploitation of translations by a certain audiobook platform.

Finally, after the meeting came to a close on Saturday, Guðrún Catherine Emilsdóttir offered an optional punk tour of Reykjavík. There was another optional excursion of the Golden Circle for those delegates who were able to stay on. These events contribute to the cohesion of the association and give a much-needed annual boost to continue with our voluntary work.

Anne Larchet



AVTE 2024 AGM Barcelona

This year [AVTE](#)'s annual meeting was hosted by [ATRAE](#) in Barcelona in May. It was preceded by a one-day conference bringing together a great number of the stakeholders in the world of audio-visual translation – representatives from CMOs (Collective Management Organisations), the EU Intellectual property office, the EU Directorate- General for Translation , IP lawyers, trade unions and even a member of the Congress of Deputies of Spain. It really was a stellar cast and the importance of getting all the players from organisations who are part of the AV world, under one roof, was an extraordinary task. Many congratulations to all those from AVTE who worked hard over many years to achieve this, with a very special mention to Iris Permy of ATRAE for the herculean efforts she made to ensure a smooth conference and AGM. The conference included panel discussions with a variety of topics covering areas from IP rights to cooperation amongst authors.



The following day the AVTE AGM itself took place. The board reported on their work over the year and members also reported back on their activities.

Of the many issues discussed, those that stood out were:

- . Collective bargaining
- . Communication with main industry stakeholders – Netflix, DreamWorks, BBC
- . Video game translation
- . Authors' rights
- . Visibility
- . AI and audiovisual translation

So many of the above-mentioned topics are shared concerns with all translators, whatever their field of specialisation. In that light, the importance of cooperation and solidarity is clear and was greatly improved with AVTE's signing of an MoU with CEATL in 2023 and also with FIT Europe in 2022. AVTE became a member of the [International Confederation of Societies of Authors and Composers \(CISAC\)](#) in 2023, further widening the network of collaboration.

This will be consolidated at the CEATL conference in Strasbourg in October, when Amali Foss, AVTE President, will give a talk on translating for the audiovisual sector.

The 2025 AVTE AGM has been planned for Lisbon.

Anne Larchet



EULITA conference and general assembly Athens

I attended the [European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association](#) (EULITA) conference and general assembly in Athens in April 2024 on behalf of the ATII. The conference was organised by EULITA and the Panhellenic Association of Professional Translators Graduates of the Ionian University and took place in the Acropolis Museum.



I gave a paper at the conference where I discussed the Court of Appeal judgement in [DPP v H.M. and B.O.](#) where the three judges found that the interpreting provided at trial was inadequate and a retrial was ordered. There was a lot of interest in the fact that audio recordings are made of all court cases in Ireland and video recordings of serious garda station cases, which means that the recordings can be checked to establish whether or not the interpreting was competent. I was informed that the example of recordings in Irish courts had been mentioned recently in the German national parliament.

The conference lasted a day and a half with papers on revisiting the profile of the legal translator, training the modern legal translator / interpreter, synergies in training legal translators and interpreters, presentations on an online master course in legal translation in Norway, the CPD programme of the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Slovenia, and the situation in France. John O'Shea, chairperson of [FIT Europe](#), spoke about legal translation and liability, Petra Kameníková outlined the bizarre proposal of the Czech Minister of the Interior to use 'certified technical devices' for interpreting and the response of the Czech Interpreters and Translators Association, and Alexandra Papoutsi gave a very interesting paper on AI-generated translation: legal risks and opportunities. As expected, the conference was a good opportunity to learn about what is happening in other countries and to meet other people who are interested in legal translation and interpreting.

Mary Phelan



Language and the Law conference



The ATII, in association with the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies (CTTS) research centre at Dublin City University (DCU), held a conference entitled Language and the Law: Interpreting and Translation in Legal Settings in DCU on 24th May 2024. The purpose of the conference was to highlight our longstanding concerns about the lack of regulation in the area and to bring together interpreters, translators, translation companies, and organisations and professionals who work with interpreters and translators.

To begin with, we compiled a list of organisations in Ireland that could be interested and contacted them by email and in some cases by letter. We also sent reminders. The conference was well attended, with people from all around Ireland and some from abroad. There was a mix of ATII members, solicitors, a High Court judge, representatives from UNHCR, the Courts Service (Irish language section), and the Legal Aid Board, translation companies, and postgrad students.

ATII chair Mary Phelan and Senior Counsel James MacGuill, who has played a key role in pursuing instances of poor interpreting in garda stations and the courts, opened the conference. Barbara Rován, President of the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA), went through the legislation that provides for free interpreting in criminal proceedings for defendants who are not proficient in the language of the court. She shared the example of a recent Czechia draft Foreigners Act which includes a mention of 'a technical advice to interpret during proceedings instead of an interpreter recorded in the register of court interpreters and court translators'. Barbara queried who will be liable for machine-generated and AI-generated translation.

Mary Phelan is director of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies at Dublin City University and chairperson of the Association of Translators and Interpreters Ireland.

The first session focused on interpreting in international protection. Solicitor Dia Silverstein made seven recommendations:

- a) That interviewers and decision-makers be trained in how to address potential errors made by interpreters.
- b) That quality control be improved at the procurement stage
- c) That the original language questionnaire be reintroduced
- d) That applicants receive a copy of their application immediately
- e) That personal interviews be recorded
- f) That the role of cultural mediators be defined
- g) That the UNHCR Handbook be incorporated into the code of conduct and training

Solicitor Wendy Lyon outlined the Procedures Directive in relation to interpreting and focused in particular on remote interpreting in international protection interviews. She highlighted the lack of regulation in Ireland and queried how interpreters' language levels are established and what training interpreters have received in remote interpreting.

Hassina Kiboua from the Irish Refugee Council drew on her PhD research to consider the role of the interpreter in international protection. She found that confusion abounded among the English-speaking interviewers but also among interpreters themselves.



The second session focused on legal translation. John O'Shea and Juliette Scott gave a joint presentation, with Juliette online, with many examples of how things can go very wrong in legal translation. They were followed by Annette Schiller, chair of the ATII Professional Membership Subcommittee, who gave a presentation on ATII certified legal translators, who are professional members of the association who have passed our examinations to specialise in legal translation.

After lunch, our first speaker was journalist Alice Chambers, who now works for [The Currency](#), and who recently wrote three very well researched articles on interpreting and cultural mediation in international protection, available [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#), explained how organisations like the ATII can approach working with the media to raise concerns about particular issues.

'A recommendation was that personal interviews be recorded in international protection settings'

The third session concentrated on interpreting in garda stations. James MacGuill provided an overview while Sarah Jane Aberasturi discussed the myriad of issues she found in her review of a video of interpreting in a garda station. The most concerning issue related to the way the interpreter decided what to include and what to omit when interpreting. Professor Yvonne Daly (DCU) shared research findings from qualitative interviews with 44 criminal defence solicitors, 15 of whom had experience of working with interpreters and who had concerns about communication through interpreters. The conclusion from this research was that significant changes at a systemic level are required. The full article is available [here](#).

The fourth and final session was about interpreting in the courts. Réidín Murphy outlined her PhD research on how language and cultural barriers are overcome in Ireland's child care law. Liese Katschinka, founder of EULITA, explained that legal/court interpreters should be listed in an official register, should be members of a professional association, and should meet the qualifications described in ISO 20228. Liese, along with Christiane Driesen and Mary Phelan, wrote a report on interpreting that was considered by the Court of Appeal in 2021 (H.M. and B.O. v DPP). Mary shared some examples of how the interpreter confused 'him' and 'her', omitted information, provided incorrect translation of a key term, and altered questions asked by senior counsel. Our last speaker of the day was Professor Lorraine Leeson (TCD) who spoke about sign language interpreting.

We were very pleased that Colm Keena wrote a short [article](#) in The Irish Times on the session about interpreting in international protection.

Many thanks to the ATII executive committee, the attendees, the presenters, and a special word of thanks to our admin person Annette Schiller who looked after all the emails, communicated with speakers, organised badges and presentations and ensured that everything worked seamlessly on the day.

Mary Phelan



The ATII Conference – A personal comment



Liese Katschinka, Vienna, Austria, is a freelance conference and legal interpreter/translator and was both founder and President of EULITA from 2009 to 2016.

The ATII conference “Language and the Law” was a unique event because it primarily addressed an issue that is usually not given much attention: complaints about deficient interpreting in the court room and/or at police stations.

During my term as EULITA President, James Mac Guill contacted me and asked for EULITA’s support in checking on an interpreting assignment (English/French) provided in an Irish court. (A few months later a second case came up – this time concerning an interview at a police station and interpretation from Hungarian to English.) In my experience this was the first time that a solicitor actively objected to deficiencies in the interpreting services provided by a person who had been recruited by an agency which had been under contract with the courts.



While it is generally known that the qualifications of persons interpreting in court who have been recruited by agencies usually fall short of the requirements laid down in the ISO standard on legal interpreting (ISO 20228), it is good news to find out that a solicitor actually takes the trouble of following up on errors and omissions that have occurred in the interpreting provided at a court hearing, or a police interrogation respectively. I cannot think of any other country in the EU where similar proceedings were launched.

This is even more surprising since an EU Directive was adopted in 2019, namely Directive 2010/64 on the right to interpretation and translation in criminal proceedings. It can be supposed that by 2024 it has been transposed in EU Member States. Article 5 calls for “quality of the interpretation and translation” and invites Member States “to take concrete measures that the interpretation and translation provided meets the quality required by Article 2(8) and Article 3(9) of this Directive”.

Article 2 (5) of the Directive then calls upon Member States to make it possible for “suspected or accused persons to have the possibility to complain that the quality of the interpretation is not sufficient to safeguard the fairness of the proceedings”. So, while there is a sound legal basis on which to act when there are deficiencies in interpretation, only very few cases are known – outside of Ireland – where solicitors have challenged the quality of an interpretation service.

It certainly helps that police interviews are video-recorded and that court hearings are audio-recorded in Ireland. Again, this feature is not common throughout the EU but should definitely be introduced by judicial and police authorities for the benefit of all stakeholders involved.

In my opinion, one reason why solicitors but also interpreters in Ireland look so closely at possible errors and flaws in the interpretation provided at police stations and/or in courts may be the absence of a national register of professional legal interpreters.

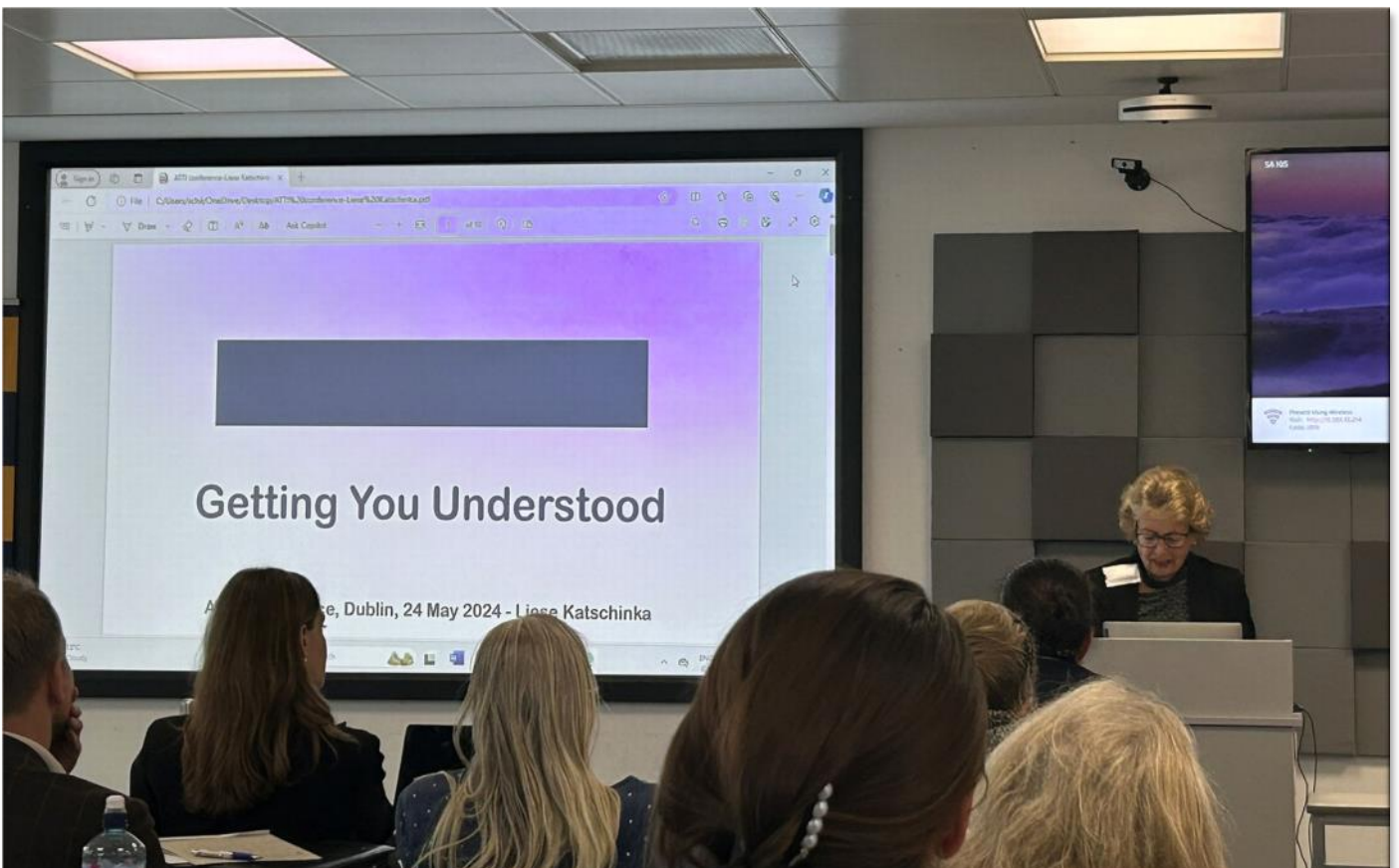
In countries like Poland, the Czech Republic, Austria or Germany, for example, where registers exist, qualifications have been defined that candidates have to satisfy if they want to be listed in these registers. In the absence of a register, no standard quality level can be expected from those performing interpretation in court hearings or at police stations. Of course, this does not mean that NO register is better than A register if the intention is to review interpreter performances in court or at police stations. Nor does it mean that we live in the best of all worlds if a country has a register of professional legal interpreters.

‘In the absence of a register no standard quality level can be expected from interpreters ’

Article 5 (2) of the Directive states that “... Member States shall endeavour to establish a register or registers of independent translators and interpreters who are appropriately qualified ... in order to promote the adequacy of interpretation and efficient access thereto.”

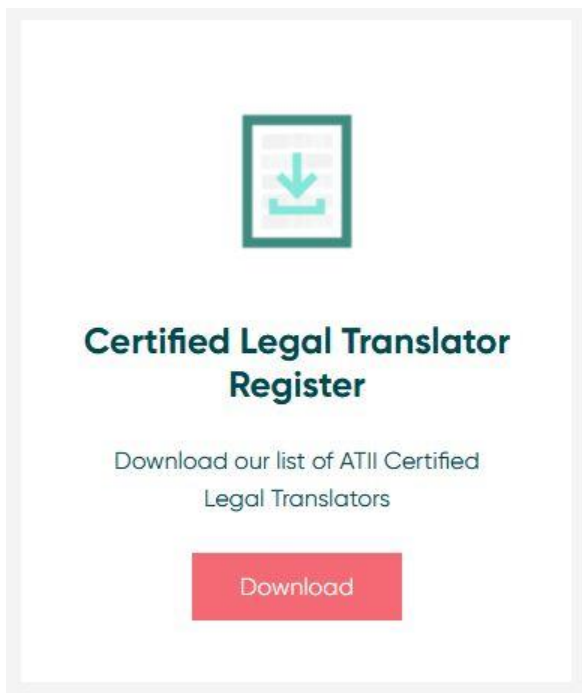
The Directive goes on to recommend that “once established, such register or registers shall, where appropriate, be made available to legal counsel and relevant authorities.” Very little information is available concerning the different EU Member States as to how the training of lawyers in communicating with and through legal interpreters is taught. To my mind this is an issue where professional associations could take the initiative and offer podcasts, video recordings, etc. explaining the salient points of the performance of a legal interpreter and how to interact with her/him.

The presentations delivered at the ATII conference gave an excellent overview of the many research projects conducted in Ireland, where the performance of legal interpreters was scrutinized. I would hope that other EU Member States would engage in similar initiatives .



ATII Certified Legal Translation and Exams 2024

There is an increasing demand in Ireland for the certified translation of legal and official documentation from a range of agencies, including the passport office, National Driver Licence Service, government departments, various professional authorities, insurance companies, etc.



In response to this demand, the ATII has run annual examinations since 2006 leading to the professional qualification of ATII Certified Legal Translator. This examination is open to *professional members* only, in the language combinations for which they have obtained professional membership.

Applicants typically have at least five years' professional translation experience and considerable experience in the translation of legal and state documentation. Those who meet the criteria undertake a stringent exam involving the translation of a short document (e.g. birth cert) and an A4 page of continuous text (e.g. Articles of Association). The scripts are assessed by experts in the field in line with best practice and are graded either as Pass or Fail.

Three candidates sat the CLT exams in four language combinations in 2023, and two were successful, so we now have two new ATII Certified Legal Translators, one working from Italian to English and one from Belarussian to English and English to Belarussian.

We encourage all professional members with the right profile to consider applying to take the CLT examination. Successful candidates will receive their own ATII stamp and seal for certifying their translations and must abide by ATII guidelines in respect of certified translation.

This year's deadline for applications from CLT candidates is 5pm on Friday, 4 October. Applications will be accepted by email only. The corresponding webinar, which is mandatory for all CLT exam applicants and open to all existing CLTs, is scheduled for Tuesday, 15 October (time TBC), with the exams taking place on Thursday, 7 November and Friday, 8 November.

Further detailed information, including application forms, can be found on our [website](#) and members will receive notification over the coming weeks.

Sarah Jane Aberasturi
CLT Subcommittee
certification@atii.ie



Membership of the ATII in the Professional category

The ATII Professional Membership (PM) category is the top category in the association. Applications for professional membership are accepted once a year in November. Anyone thinking of applying is required to attend a webinar prior to applying. The purpose of the webinar is to ensure that applicants are fully au fait with all aspects and stages of the [application process](#). Attendees also have an opportunity to put questions to the PM Sub-Committee.



The candidate is required to translate one text, about 800 words in length, and from one of four areas of specialisation: legal, medical/pharmaceutical, business/finance and technology/ engineering.

The assessors for the various language pairs and areas of specialisation are not only very experienced in their fields but also have considerable experience of assessing translation. For our panel of assessors, we draw on colleagues not only in Ireland but across Europe and further afield.

The examination for people working as an interpreter only is adapted to suit the field of interpreting, they work in, e.g. community interpreting, business interpreting. Members of AIIC are automatically granted Professional Membership of the ATII.

Statistics for 2023/24:

18 applications, 2 were not accepted. 5 of the remaining 16 were resits.

13 language pairs; 20 papers;

We required the services of 11 assessors this year alone.

The result: We have 7 new PMs this year, in the language pairs: English into French, Spanish into English, Polish into English (x2), Arabic into English and English into Ukrainian, and one new interpreter PM for Spanish/English. And, we have one more interpreter exam to go once the assessor for the language pair indicates that they have the time to sit in on the exam.

These new PMs now have the opportunity to apply to become **ATII Certified Legal Translators**, if they are working in the legal area, and also to add the **ISO 17100:2015 Qualified** badge to their profiles, where they meet the criteria.

The PM examination is a considerable amount of work each year for the (voluntary) members of the PM Sub-Committee. However, given that the number of applicants is increasing year on year, it would suggest that the PM category is deemed to be an important element in the professional life of many translators and interpreters in Ireland.

We would encourage all of our Associate Members to consider applying to take the exam.

Annette Schiller
PM Subcommittee



Becoming a mentor

In 2022, the ATII set up a [mentoring programme](#) for its members, aimed at encouraging interaction between newer and more experienced translators and interpreters. We are now setting up a mentor panel and would like to invite all experienced professionals to consider applying to join it.

The benefits of mentoring for mentees are many: access to knowledge and soft skills about the profession, tips on translation and/or interpreting, advice on how to improve quality and find new customers, practical tips on running a small business and/or working as a sole trader, the list goes on and on.

However, the benefits for mentors are equally rewarding: mentoring gives mentors an opportunity to give something back to the translation and/or interpreting profession and to pass on their skills to another generation of professionals. Mentors also frequently gain fresh insight into their own practices, which can spark ideas about developing their own skills or expanding their offering. Mentoring also provides networking opportunities, important in a career that can often be isolating.

We provide assistance and guidance to mentors and mentees alike to help them get started out in their mentoring relationship. Several members have taken on the role of both mentor and mentee at different stages.

In their own words, here's how the mentoring process helped some of our mentors:

“Improve existing business documentation”

“Improve my communication skills”

“Look from the perspective of someone new to the profession”

“Interesting to have some objectivity”

Mentoring typically involves three to four meetings with a mentee over a three-month period so the time demands are relatively low and it is generally a very rewarding process for both mentee and mentor.

If you want to learn more, check out the mentoring information on the ATII website and fill in the application form. You can also drop us a line if you have any questions. We look forward to hearing from you!

We have just closed our latest round and will be launching the next one in a few months.

Miriam Watchorn
Mentoring Subcommittee
mentoring@atii.ie



A morning in Blanchardstown Court



Blanchardstown District Court is hidden away at the back of the Fingal County Council offices. There are two courtrooms where in addition to District Court cases, some Circuit Court jury trials are held. The ATII Bulletin editor and I spent a morning in July observing interpreted cases in the two courts. The majority of cases heard that day were Garda prosecutions of road traffic offences.

We observed three interpreted cases altogether and all were in person. The most interesting case involved an interpreter who appeared to be very friendly with the defendant. They chatted away together while waiting for the case to be called. When the solicitor spoke to them she addressed her questions to the interpreter rather than to the defendant and instead of interpreting the questions to the defendant, the interpreter responded on his behalf. While this approach may save time it's not the interpreter's job to answer on behalf of anyone.

'There was an interpreter who appeared to be very friendly with the defendant'

When the case was called, the interpreter did not interpret most of what was said by the prosecuting garda and kept answering questions on the defendant's behalf without interpreting for him. As a result, the defendant could not possibly have understood what was being said. None of this was challenged by anyone in court. On completion of the work, the interpreter approached the court registrar but from what we could see and hear, did not seem to request a signature for the payment form.

Mary Phelan is director of the Centre for Translation and Textual Studies at Dublin City University and chairperson of the Association of Translators and Interpreters Ireland.

It is possible that this particular interpreter was not provided by a translation company but instead was hired by the defendant or asked to interpret as a favour. Indeed, as the [screenshot](#) below from the Courts Service website indicates, the Courts Service allows people to hire their own interpreter:

Frequently asked questions

English is not my native language, are there interpreters available?

You can hire your own interpreter. You can also ask the court to provide an interpreter for you and a judge will make a decision about this.

It is rather disappointing that people are not informed on the website that they have the right to the *free* assistance of an interpreter in criminal proceedings if they are not competent in English. We can only assume that the Courts Service is hoping to save some money by allowing people to hire their own interpreters. However, in such cases, it may be more difficult for interpreters to maintain neutrality and to be impartial, particularly if the interpreter is untrained. Even if the interpreter in Blanchardstown was hired by the defendant, it is never good practice to answer questions from the solicitor and the judge without interpreting the information for the defendant and without waiting for the defendant to answer the questions.



The second interpreted case involved an interpreter who spent a lot of time nodding his head but provided very little interpreting to the defendant. Again, this was unchallenged. In the final interpreted case, which took place in the other court, we were impressed when the court registrar noticed that the interpreter was silent and instructed her to interpret what was being said by the prosecuting garda. That interpreter appeared very unsure, as if she wasn't used to interpreting in court.

‘People have the right to the *free assistance of an interpreter in criminal proceedings*’

Obviously, court interpreting is not easy. The acoustics are not good, not everyone uses the microphones, a lot of the information is quite detailed and it is not easy to keep up with what is being said. There is a lot going on in court and it's a noisy environment with people going in and out and talking. Obviously, the interpreters would benefit from proper training but the lesson from Blanchardstown is that legal personnel would benefit from basic training in how to work with and what to expect from interpreters.



What's Hot

An amendment to the Official Languages Act will require public bodies to offer at least 20% of their advertising in the Irish language and allocate at least 5% of their advertising budget to be spent in the Irish language on Irish language media. The new rules were discussed at an RTE led webinar attended by some 200 professionals. Hopefully, this will give Irish language translators a great opportunity to develop their transcreation skills!

What's Not

More than 80 translators and interpreters working for an LSP company based in the UK are taking a case against the agency. The company, DA Languages, has total control of job allocation of the full-time workers which, their lawyers argue, mean that they are employees and therefore entitled to holiday pay, national minimum wage etc. DA Languages' clients include NHS Trusts, police forces and local councils. The Bulletin often advises readers of these cases which, on the one hand, show that solidarity and joining forces to fight their rights may help translators and interpreters but on the other hand.... agencies still continue to try their luck in paying as little as possible. Oh dear!

New members

ATII Certified Legal Translator

Liam Farrington
Italian into English

Tatiana Kovalenko
English into Belarusian
Belarusian into English

New Professional Members

Mennatallah Abdel-Aziz Mansy
Arabic into English

Elena Caverio
Spanish <> English

Véronique Eloir
English into French

Lydia McCartney
Spanish into English

Katarzyna Matuszewska
Polish into English

Helen Mykhailyk
English into Ukrainian

Marta Starczewska
Polish into English
English into Polish

New Associate Members

Bayar Azam Sher
English <> Arabic
English <> Kurdish

Monica Mariana Castaneda Veliz
English into Spanish
English into Portuguese (Europe)

Olena Ochychenko
English <> Ukrainian
English <> Russian

Amelia Pérez Conde
English into Spanish
English into Basque

New Student Members

Sara Rahajason

Joining the ATII

The Association of Translators and Interpreters Ireland is pleased to welcome new members to the association.

We currently have the following categories of membership:

- ◆ **Professional**
- ◆ **Associate**
- ◆ **Student**
- ◆ **Honorary**

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ATII based on qualification and level of experience.

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Contact the ATII

Postal Address

c/o Trinity Centre for Literary & Cultural Translation
Trinity College Dublin
Dublin 2
Ireland

Email

info@atii.ie

Website

www.atii.ie

ATII Bulletin

Editor

Anne Larchet
bulletin@atii.ie

Proofreader

Penelope Eades-Alvarez

Design

Róisín Ryan
roryan.com

Layout

Graziano Ciulli

To subscribe to the ATII Bulletin, send an email to atiibulletin+subscribe@groups.io

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