



Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association
Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann

ITIA Bulletin

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Editorial

This summer edition of the Bulletin is hopefully relatively sunny in tenor although there are a few clouds on the horizon - Brexit being one, and the EU ruling removing the need for certified translations, something which will have serious repercussions for many of our qualified Certified Legal Translators. The new rule was adopted by the European Parliament on June 9, 2016 and abolished the obligation for EU citizens to provide in all cases a certified copy and a certified translation of their public documents. Do check out the relevant article in our Worth-A-Click section.

On occasion, when we may be either short of space or may not have permission to reproduce articles, we include such articles in this section so it is worth having a look as you may miss something which could affect you!!

Included in this issue are reports, news and updates on all the goings-on in our translator and interpreter world including the results of the ITIA survey, which many of you very kindly took the time to complete. I believe it gives a comprehensive picture of our association.

And I'll never tire of trying - don't forget to let us know what is happening where you are at itiabulletin@gmail.com

Enjoy!

Anne Larchet, Editor

MEMBERS' CORNER

Irene Meneguzzi, PM and contributor to this issue, has very kindly found time between moving from Ireland to Spain to tell us about her path on the professional road. I hope you enjoy her southern hemisphere story with its differences and similarities to the more recent northern routes related in this column. Happily for us, Irene will continue her membership with the ITIA, albeit residing in a different jurisdiction.

Q: Describe yourself professionally and what it means for you to be a professional.

A: I am a freelance translator working from English into Spanish for the Latin American market. Over the years, I have focused on the translation of web and marketing content (where I can allow myself to be more creative) and of mobile app user interfaces and help content (for which I resort to my technically-oriented alter ego).

To me, being a professional is an attitude - to our work, the people we work with, be they clients or colleagues. It means being dedicated to our profession so that we can keep learning and improving; taking responsibility for our work, identifying and praising our good decisions and learning from the not so good ones; and being reliable, a source of solutions. It also means being respectful: first, to ourselves as professionals (when it comes to saying "no" to degrading rates, unfair contracts and impossible expectations, for instance); second, to our work (to feel proud and confident of what we are able to offer); and third, to our colleagues and clients (I have been shocked by the display of arrogance and

borderline bullying going on in some translators' groups in social media). And finally, I think it is always good to remind ourselves that being professional should not be confused with taking ourselves too seriously.

On being a professional freelancer, I know it differs greatly from the first thing that people (who are not freelancers) think when I pronounce the magic words, "I work from home". Freelancing requires an entire set of extremely varied and crucial skills, from finding (and keeping!) your own clients to managing your own finances, choosing and funding your own professional development, finding motivation in your work, negotiating rates, juggling overlapping projects, keeping tight deadlines, managing your time and workload, and maintaining the quality standards that you set for yourself.

I regularly took part in validation processes, where I could see the translations in action (something freelancers rarely get to see) and the kinds of problems that could arise from inadequate internationalization processes.

Q: When and why did you decide on a career in translating?

A: I am originally from Rosario, Argentina, which means I grew up speaking Spanish. Being an avid reader since I can remember, my first encounter with some of my most beloved stories had been through translation – Alice, Heidi and The Little Prince had all spoken to me in my own language. However, early in life I discovered a passion for the English language, and as soon as I was able to decipher more complex texts I found myself borrowing countless books from the local English school library to devour them later at home. That is how my teenager self came to enjoy some not-so-age-appropriate works like The Godfather in its original language, and a whole new world opened up for me. When the time came to choose a career path, translation seemed like a no-

brainer. I loved writing and reading, and I adored my native and my adopted languages in equal measure. And if it was not for translators, I would have never gotten the chance to meet my Alice and my Little Prince when I did, and my life would not have been the same. After I finished my translation degree in 2002, I decided it was time to get geographically closer to my second language so that I could experience it and use it on an everyday basis. So on a rainy afternoon of April 2005 I set foot in Ireland for the first time in my life and made it my home.

Q: Name the most important thing you did that helped you launch your career as a freelance translator.

A: I think that my previous work experiences really helped. Before I decided to become a full-time freelance translator in Ireland, I worked in a translation agency, initially as linguistic coordinator and later as project coordinator. A few years and an M. Phil. in literary translation at TCD later, I joined the in-house translation team of a software company. Thanks to these experiences I was able to get insights into the different roles and steps involved in the localisation process, of which actual translation is only a fraction. I learned about the job from the point of view of the translation agency and the things project managers have to deal with on a daily basis, as well as the pressure. I am also more aware of the value that translation agencies bring to the table (let's not dwell here on the unethical or bullying practices of a lot of translation agencies and just focus on the "middle-man" function that agencies are meant to fulfil), namely the search for clients and their ability to offer them a wider range of services and end-to-end support, which an individual working alone cannot do, (I am thinking of the more technical aspects of localisation, such as DTP, engineering, etc.). As for my role as an in-house translator, not only did I learn a great deal about software translation and localisation, but also I was able to see the process from the other end: the perspective of the client who is the consumer of this type of translations. I worked more closely with developers, architects and engineers, and I regularly took part in validation processes, where

I could see the translations in action (something freelancers rarely get to see) and the kinds of problems that could arise from inadequate internationalization processes. Last but not least, these previous experiences allowed me to meet fellow translators and people working in my industry, which provided me with invaluable contacts when it came to searching for freelance work.

All of this helped me launch my freelance career with good contacts, a good understanding of the localisation process as a whole, and an awareness of the needs of each player and the frustrations they encounter on a daily basis when those needs are not understood. It was only a matter of me knowing how to capitalize on this knowledge!

Q: How important are training and qualifications for a career in translating?

A: Official training and qualifications are definitely important and cannot be underestimated, especially because they can help regulate the industry against people who pose as translators without having any sort of formal preparation or required skills. However, a person can become a wonderful translator without having any official qualifications, and a person with official qualifications is not guaranteed to be a good translator. Being a good translator requires a certain type of sensitivity to the languages you work with, which is not necessarily taught in degree courses. In my personal experience, going for a third level degree in translation gave me wonderful tools, put me in touch with amazing teachers, gave structure to my learning, and gave me access to information that I might not have arrived at on my own, among other things. I would say "Go for it!" to anybody with an interest in translation who is considering getting a degree, but I would also recommend doing proper research to make sure that it will serve their purpose and meet their expectations, especially considering the huge amount of options available nowadays and the costs involved.

Q: Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

A: I believe that if you stay in this profession long enough, a certain degree of specialisation is

inevitable. Most of us are generalists when we start up in our careers—exceptions may be people who get into translation at a later stage, having first acquired a degree and/or work experience in a different area. But if you go into translation fresh from college, chances are you will not be highly specialised in any specific area. Over time, however, you will probably find that you prefer certain topics over others, that you want to actively stay away from certain types of text (the way I avoid legal and financial ones like the plague), or that you end up getting involved in certain types of projects a lot more regularly than others, and inevitably you will have acquired a certain level of specialisation in that area, after years of doing research and reading related content to produce your translations. Alternatively, you may consciously decide to specialise by going for a second (or third, or fourth!) degree course in a completely different area from translation. If you do your research right, you could identify a specific area that interests you and presents a market for translation. Then you will be able to offer a very niche service and charge accordingly. Personally, I prefer to diversify more. Every now and then I like to take translation assignments in a subject that is completely different from what I usually translate. I think I would become bored if I did not have enough variety in my work.

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Q: What is your favourite type of text/assignment?

A: I enjoy translating texts that challenge me creatively and are well-written. It may sound odd, but these texts seem to be getting more and more difficult to find in the areas that I translate. For example, good marketing content can be extremely challenging and exciting to translate

when it makes use of rhythm, emphasis, imagery, play on words, idiomatic expressions, and other resources in order to convey meaning and purpose. However, a lot of times this type of content displays an overabundance of empty corporate-speak, repetitions and poor grammar. Then again, even these types of texts present challenges, because you can be faced with the task of making sense of the nonsensical!

Q: What is the best/worst thing about being a freelance translator?

A: The best thing is being your own boss and the worst thing is... being your own boss! Being a freelance translator means you are (for the most part) in control of your business - the direction you want to go in, the specialisation you want to pursue, the clients you want to work with, the rates you want to charge, the number of hours per week you are willing to work, the time you want to take for holidays - the list goes on and on. And this is all wonderful because it gives you a great sense of ownership. Being a freelancer, there is no blaming the boss or complaining about your colleagues. You are responsible for the product you deliver, and that can be very rewarding. (Note that “for the most part” refers to aspects of the business that are also dictated by other factors such as the market, as in the case of rates.) But of course, being a freelancer also has its downsides - you can be left in a vulnerable position when it comes to non-payers, you have to deal with a lot of admin work, do your own accounts, try to be available for your clients as much as possible, and make a conscious effort to draw a line between work hours and leisure hours (especially if you work from home). Of course, a lot can be added to both lists of pros and cons, and it is up to you to determine which one is longer!

Q: Is it possible for a freelance translator to have a good standard of living?

A: I think there cannot be a single answer to this question, as there are many influencing factors – namely, your working languages and your country of residence. For instance, I translate into Spanish for Latin America and am based in Ireland, a country with a high cost of living. What is considered a standard salary here can be

regarded as a very good salary in other countries, even within Western Europe (take Italy, Spain or Portugal). My target language, however, is far from ranking among the best-paid languages: I compete with a gigantic market with weaker currencies and economies. This has certainly made things more challenging for me, but I have been able to gradually bring my rates up. In order to do so, I had to be prepared to do three things. Firstly, I had to be ready to lose the clients who would not accept my rate increase. I convinced myself to do this by understanding that a client who refuses to pay me a decent rate is not worth having, as I will not be able to make a living with them anyway. Secondly, I had to be prepared to negotiate – I did not want to appear inflexible or unreasonable. Thirdly, I had to be able to identify what it was that I could personally bring to the job and that no one else could, something unique that would differentiate me from my competitors and would justify the rate increase in the eyes of the client. A very practical example - working in the European time zone gives me an advantage when it comes to urgent jobs from Europe - or Asia-based clients. I am in a position to deliver these jobs earlier than a competitor based in the Americas, and these type of jobs are a big part of my income. Another, less matter-of-fact advantage that I can offer to my clients is the quality of my work and my professional approach – reasonable clients who care about their product will be willing to pay more if they see the value in your service.

What I described above will not shock anyone for its novelty – I certainly didn't invent the wheel here – but having a clear idea in my head in terms of what clients I was willing to lose, how much I was willing to negotiate, and what set me apart from my competitors gave me the confidence to approach clients and made the whole process a lot easier and I was able to get results.

Q: What advice would you give someone thinking of embarking on a career as a translator?

A: Read, read and read! Read as much as you can and as widely as you can, in all your working languages in equal measure. Read anything you

come across that has letters on it! Only by reading will you develop the skill that is truly crucial for all translators: a sensitivity to the nuances of the languages they work with and an excellent command of their different registers, tones, styles, and genres, their structure and flexibility, the things that make them unique, their levels of meaning, their figures of speech. I once read that translators are readers equipped with a microscope[i]. The microscope, I believe, is precisely our knowledge of the internal mechanisms of language, and it becomes sharper and sharper the more we read.

[i] Pablo Ingberg, "Traducir es leer con el microscopio" in El Trujamán. Revista Diaria de Traducción (Centro Virtual Cervantes). Online reference: http://cvc.cervantes.es/trujaman/antteriores/julio_16/01072016.htm?utm_content=buffer49193&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer

CEATL AGM Barcelona 1 - 3 June 2016

CEATL (Conseil Européen de Associations de Traducteurs Littéraires) held their 3-day AGM in Barcelona. There were 35 member associations from 29 countries across Europe representing some 10,000 authors. Countries included were Iceland, Norway and Turkey as well as two new members, Romania and Macedonia.

Seated in a semi circle in a renovated factory space, each representative gave a brief description of their association: some were exclusively literary translator associations, some were general, some were just established, others were celebrating birthdays (the Irish and Portuguese both celebrated their 30th birthday this year). Some receive national funding, some have high membership fees and some have very limited income. Some were very small - Macedonia has 50 members - and some very large - the UK Translators Association, which is

part of the Society of Authors, a trade union, has 600 members. In short, all shapes and sizes were represented which made for a very interesting and diverse group. Many of the representatives were well established literary translators - in fascinating language combinations - Czech to Catalan, French to Finnish and Turkish to Dutch. The representative of the Turkish Association is the translator of Orhan Pamuk into Dutch, Hanneke van der Heijden.

The CEATL Executive Committee gave their members a full account of all the work they carried out over the previous year, which was very extensive indeed - liaising, lobbying and making representations on all our behalf, with a large number of partners - IAF (International Authors' Forum), WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organisation), the EWC (European Writers Council and FEP (Federation of European Publishers) as well EU and EC institutions, in particular the DG (General Directorate) for copyright, digitalisation and mass media .

The 3 working groups then reported back on their specific areas: Group 1 on Working conditions and Visibility, Group 2 on Best Practices, Training and Education and the final framework from PETRA E and Group 3 on Copyright, Authors' Rights in the EU, EU digital agenda. These and other topics were discussed by all.

Petra E aims to set up a European infrastructure for the education and training of literary translators. The first step is to develop a framework for Literary Translation, based on the experiences of trainers and translators. CEATL was a partner, with other networks, organisations, institutions, universities etc. in developing and producing the framework, now available online at www.petra-educationframework.eu

All members were put through our paces on the second day when we were split into small working groups of six where we compared and contrasted the SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (!?)) of our associations. This was the result of a request after the Milan AGM 2015 for more in-depth presentation of individual associations and a

closer exchange between delegates. ITIA was with the Basque, Danish, Croatian, Hungarian and Romanian association representatives where much was learnt by all.

The meeting rounded up the third and final day with a discussion of future projects, including the application for EU Network grants, amongst others. It is worth noting that, as with the majority of the associations attending the AGM, everyone's time is voluntary and deserving of much recognition. Our hosts, AELC (Associació d'Escriptors en Llengua Catalana), ACEC (Associació Col·legial d'Escriptors de Catalunya) and ACE Traductores (Sección Autónoma de Traductores de Libros de la Asociación Colegial de Escritores) organised a fantastic AGM, with public and private events, talks and tours and much more. They deserve a lot of praise for a lot of work.

For me, the best part of the AGM was the wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with so many other associations and to learn how they function in their particular national circumstances. It also underlined how important it is that the ITIA sit at the table with the other associations at international meetings - not only CEATL but also FIT and EULITA - if not they'll never know we are here!

Check out www.ceatl.eu

Anne Larchet

As a post script to both the AGM and the Brexit referendum, Shaun Whiteside, TA (UK) Rep kindly gave permission to reproduce his visceral reaction to the result:

Dear CEATL,

I can't tell you how shocked and saddened I am by the result of yesterday's referendum. The United Kingdom will be a smaller, meaner, poorer place as a result. Please know that many of us still feel as European as ever, even if we are no longer part of the EU, and that the community of translators

more than anyone will continue to build bridges with our colleagues on the continent. I am ashamed of my country today.

Shaun

Our Chairperson, Mary Phelan, has picked out some recent Irish newspaper articles on a topic we cover regularly in the Bulletin - court interpreting, both sign and spoken languages.

Sign Language Interpreter Shortage in Donegal

The right to an interpreter in criminal proceedings is included in the European Convention on Human Rights, Human Rights Act 2003 and more recently in European Directive 2010/64/EU which was transposed into Irish law by Statutory Instruments 564/2013 for the Garda and 565/2013 for the Courts.

Greg Harkin reported for the Irish Independent recently on two cases in Donegal where there was no sign language interpreter for deaf defendants. The first case (7th May 2016) involved a successful appeal at Letterkenny Circuit Court against a conviction for drink driving on the grounds that no sign language interpreter was available for the Garda investigation. The Garda had communicated with the defendant in writing but the man was not cautioned.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/courts/drinkdrive-deaf-man-wins-appeal-over-lack-of-interpreter-34692680.html>

The second report, also by Greg Harkin, (Irish Independent, 18th May 2016) was on a case heard at Falcarragh District Court in Letterkenny, Donegal, where a deaf man had previously pleaded guilty to charges of harassment and was ordered to stay away from a neighbouring family. It was alleged that the defendant had not respected this order and as a result the judge

ordered him to leave Donegal and stay with his daughter in Dublin. There was no sign language interpreter in court.

<http://www.independent.ie/irish-news/courts/deaf-man-stood-naked-on-front-lawn-and-threw-nails-onto-doctors-driveway-34727404.html>

No interpreter at Tralee District Court

Anne Lucey reported on a case heard at Tralee district court involving a Romanian woman who pleaded guilty to shoplifting items to the value of €110 (Irish Times, 31st May 2016). The woman's solicitor requested an interpreter, whereupon the Judge accused the defendant of 'bleeding the system'. He later told the defendant that she understood English 'very well'. While he did agree to defer the case for an interpreter, he commented again that her English 'is not that bad at all'. <http://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/courts/district-court/woman-with-bundles-of-cash-in-court-accused-of-bleeding-system-1.2667384>

Another story by Liam Heylin (Irish Examiner, 4th May 2016) featured a Polish interpreter called Jakub Olearski who was waiting for a case to be heard when he saw a woman who was about to throw herself off a nearby balcony. The interpreter stopped her climbing onto the balustrade and called a security man for help.

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/ireland/interpreter-saves-woman-about-to-jump-from-balcony-397437.html>

ITIA Survey Results

ITIA General Survey of Members 2016

The ITIA executive committee carried out an

online survey of our members in spring 2016. The purpose of the survey was to gather information on our members and to find out more about what our members want from the association, particularly in relation to our planned new website and to professional development.

We were very pleased with the response rate of 133 and we would like to thank all those who completed the questionnaire. Of the 133 respondents, 67 (50%) were professional members, 62 (46%) were associate members and 4 (3%) were affiliate members. The majority, 105 respondents (79%), live in Ireland. Those who live outside Ireland are mainly based in Europe with some living further afield in for example Mexico, Mongolia and Argentina. Fifty-one (38%) respondents had been ITIA members for more than ten years, 27 (20%) for between five and ten years, 37 (28%) between two and five years and 18 (13%) for less than two years.

Unfortunately, 42 respondents skipped the question about qualifications. Of those who did answer this question, 29 (32%) held an undergraduate translation or interpreting degree; 51 (56%) held a postgrad translation or interpreting degree, and 20 (22%) held the Diploma in Translation from the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL) in London. Some respondents held more than one qualification. Many also held other qualifications such as PhDs, diploma in legal studies, degrees in law, languages, linguistics, economics or science.

It was interesting to find out that 36 respondents (27%) were also members of other associations such as the International Conference Interpreters Association (AIIIC), the Spanish association ASETRAD, the American Translators Association (ATA), the German association BDÜ, the French association SFT, the International Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters (IAPTI), the Chartered Institute of Linguists (CIOL), the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) and the Translators' Association in the UK.

A number of respondents had been working in translation/interpreting for 35 to 40 years, which

was really interesting. Some had worked in the field, then stopped for a while and then returned. Others had been working in the area for a shorter period of time.

The majority of respondents were freelance, and of these 84 (63%) were translators, 8 (6%) interpreters and 38 (28%) translators and interpreters. A mere four (3%) were staff translators and one person (0.75%) was a staff interpreter and another (0.75%) was a staff translator and interpreter. The remaining 13 respondents worked in agencies, quality assurance and proofreading, research, project coordination, teaching or lecturing, and a range of other employment.

Translators

A section of the questionnaire was specific to translators. We asked translators how frequently they worked with direct clients and agencies in Ireland and elsewhere. This table summarises the 127 responses to this question and the results indicate that agencies outside Ireland are a significant source of work for the respondents. Individual translators' language combinations probably have a bearing on these results.

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Direct clients in Ireland	16	20	23	33	17
Direct clients outside Ireland	14	25	28	33	13
Agencies in Ireland	3	31	23	34	19
Agencies outside Ireland	20	43	14	17	15

As regards translation memory, the total number of respondents to this question was 119. SDL Trados was the most popular with 67 respondents saying that they used the software. Next were agency-specific tools with 38 respondents, then MemoQ and WordFast tying with 31 respondents each. Second last was Star with ten users and last was Déjà Vu with eight users. More detailed information is provided in this chart, where it is clear that SDL Trados is the

most used software by respondents:

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
SDL Trados	24	22	12	9	40
MemoQ	4	10	10	7	57
Déjà Vu	2	1	1	4	71
Star	0	3	1	6	71
Agency-specific tools	2	6	15	15	51
WordFast	5	5	7	14	59

Some respondents told us that they use other CAT (Computer Assisted Translation) tools such as MateCat, Idiom Worldserver, Passolo, Catalyst, XTM, OmegaT, MemSource and Fluency.

We then asked translators what areas they worked in. This table summarises the answers provided by 106 respondents:

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Technical	12	27	29	17	5
Legal	14	44	24	11	10
Medical/Scientific	6	26	28	23	10
Business/Finance	5	45	38	10	6
IT/Localisation	9	18	22	19	17
Websites	6	30	31	18	9
Marketing	6	38	30	18	7
Cultural/Tourism	7	38	35	17	6

This table tells us that the respondents work across a wide range of fields. If we look at the two categories always and frequently, the legal field is the most mentioned, followed by business/finance, and cultural/tourism. A number of respondents also translated literature, academic articles and books, news items, social sciences, and texts to do with sport and food.

Interpreters

Forty-eight respondents replied to the questions focusing on interpreters. Of these, 35 had worked for direct clients in Ireland and 15 for direct clients outside Ireland. Thirty-five had worked for agencies in Ireland and 17 for agencies outside Ireland. This is the more detailed information:

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Direct clients in Ireland	1	15	13	6	8
Direct clients outside Ireland	0	4	6	5	21
Agencies in Ireland	6	16	10	3	9
Agencies outside Ireland	1	6	4	6	22

This indicates that interpreters were working mainly for direct clients and agencies in Ireland rather than abroad, which makes sense because only conference interpreters would be likely to work for direct clients and agencies outside Ireland. The next question focused on where interpreters work. If we take conference interpreting (including business interpreting)

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Business meetings	1	11	13	8	11
Conferences in Ireland	1	8	9	2	20
Conferences outside Ireland	1	5	3	1	26

Moving on to community or public service interpreting, we offered eight options and received the following responses from 49 respondents:

	Always	Frequently	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Garda stations	2	6	12	7	14
Courts	3	6	14	10	9
Solicitors	2	10	10	4	13
Asylum process (ORAC and RAT)	0	2	3	5	27
Hospitals	2	15	10	5	11
Doctors' surgeries	3	8	10	4	13
SafePass courses	0	4	5	5	23
Social Welfare	0	10	8	7	15
Non Governmental Organisations	0	7	11	10	12

The information in this table is interesting. The courts and the police have the largest contracts for interpreter provision, but the respondents were not so frequently employed in those settings. The Office of the Refugee Applications Commissioner (ORAC) and the Refugee Appeals Tribunal (RAT) need interpreters in a wide range of languages, but often in languages that are not covered by the ITIA. In 2015, for example, according to the ORAC Annual Report, the five main countries of origin of asylum seekers were Pakistan, Bangladesh, Albania, Nigeria and India. It was encouraging to find that interpreters are being called to work in hospitals, doctors' surgeries and social welfare. Some interpreters also worked with non-governmental organisations.

Marketing for Translators and Interpreters

We wanted to find out how our members let prospective clients know that they are available for work. We found that of 116 respondents, a large proportion, 50 (43%) had their own website; 3 (2%) had their own blog; 11 (9%) had a Twitter account, 22 (19%) used FaceBook, 69 (60%) were on LinkedIn and 48 (41%) used proz.com, Viadeo, Translators Cafe, Xing, yellow pages, and other associations. A number of respondents relied on word of mouth and their ITIA membership.

When it comes to networking and communicating with colleagues, the most popular mode was email which was used by 92% of 125 respondents, LinkedIn by 59 (35%), online fora by 44 (35%), Facebook by 42 (34%), and Twitter by 10 (8%). Respondents also used Skype, FaceBook groups, Viadeo, Xing, and Proz for networking.

We asked a question about professional development because we are always looking for ideas that will be of interest to our members. Again, we suggested some topics and also asked for suggestions. Of the themes we suggested, the largest number of supporters was 71 (54%) in

favour of specialised translation; next was marketing translation and interpreting services with 66 (55%), followed closely by translation tools with 65 (54%) in favour, then taxation (38 or 32%), note taking for interpreters (18 or 15%) and starting out as a translator with 14 (12%). Respondents suggested other topics such as literary translation, specialised medical interpreting, localisation, how to deal with agencies, negotiating contracts, post machine editing, work-life balance, time management, bookkeeping, terminology, speech technology, data protection, editing, English style, legal translation, running a business and marketing. Some interesting ideas also appeared in reply to a later question - these were patent translation, transcreation/copywriting and SEO specific translation. The fact that workshops are held in Dublin was an issue for some respondents, who suggested that they be held elsewhere (for example in Cork) or that webinars be made available so anyone interested could watch from home without having to travel.

The next question focused on the most useful aspects of ITIA membership for respondents. A large number, 106 (81%) felt that it was important to be a member of a national association. For 88 (67%) respondents, it was important for potential clients to be able to find them on the ITIA website. For 56 (43%) the association is important for networking opportunities. Another useful aspect is emails about job and work opportunities, which was important for 50 (38%). Meanwhile, 47 (36%) said that professional development was important. Again, respondents could suggest other reasons; some mentioned the ITIA Bulletin while others mentioned the VHI health insurance group rate for members.

We next asked respondents if there are areas of ITIA activities that they think can be improved. This question was entirely open and 49 respondents took the time to offer ideas. They would like:

- more support for translators working in the Irish language

- a revamped website
- a more visible association to include marketing
- more lobbying and greater media presence
- a conference
- mentoring
- less focus on literary translation
- social events where translators can meet up
- more professional development

Two respondents suggested that information on rates would be helpful. The executive committee is planning to do a rates survey in September 2016. This will be based on the recent BDÜ survey and we would like to thank the German association for permission to use their questionnaire.

We are currently working on a new website and we asked respondents what, in their opinion, were the most important potential features. There was a lot of interest in this topic, with 62 suggestions. The searchable database was seen as very important and there was a suggestion that both professional and associate members be included on it. A number of respondents favoured the idea of a members' forum and one suggested that it include language combination-specific groups. Another respondent suggested the inclusion of member profile pages where translators and interpreters could present themselves and provide information on their languages and areas of expertise. Some respondents were concerned that they were not entitled to apply for professional membership of the association, presumably because they had not built up the required amount of experience. One respondent suggested that the association organise examinations for interpreters.

The questionnaire ended with an open question where respondents could add any points that had not been covered in the previous questions. Some respondents were kind enough to thank the executive committee for their work. Most returned to the topics of professional development and the new website and their answers have been incorporated into those sections.

Announcements

SLAM! 2016

PROMOTING PROFESSIONALISM IN A CHANGING MARKET

WHAT SLAM! IS ALL ABOUT

As language service providers, how do we adapt to changing market conditions? What can we do to promote professionalism on the individual, Scandinavian and global level?

For the first time ever, eight language associations from Scandinavian countries are organising a conference for language professionals from Scandinavia and all over the world.

Join us Saturday, 24 September, in Malmo for a Grand SLAM! that will prepare you to tackle the challenges of today's market with confidence.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Chris Durban will set the tone by discussing how to escape the 'Barbarians at the Gate' and go upmarket. This will be followed by presentations on collaboration, interpreting and ethical issues and a translation SLAM. Later in the day we'll hear about how EU directives and ISO standards affect the market and our work, along with specifics on the Nordic market from Leena Zaacho of the Nordic Council.

If you are looking for more ways to position yourself on the changing market we have been learning about, check out Ian Hinchliffe's '101 Ways to Convince Your Client' and Tess Whitty's 'Is your Business Ready for the Future?'. The day is rounded off by a fascinating session called 'How to Make your Translations Sing' by Ros Schwartz.

Visit www.slamconf.com for the preliminary programme and to register for the conference. The early bird registration deadline is 11 July 2016, and the final registration deadline is 9 September 2016.

HIGH-IMPACT MASTERCLASSES

Don't miss the opportunity to take a masterclass with Chris Durban or Ros Schwartz before you head home. The two masterclasses will be held in parallel on Sunday 25 September. Go to www.slamconf.com for more details and registration. SLAM! attendees will be offered a discount on either of the masterclasses.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Why wait until Saturday to start networking and catch up with old friends? Join us on Friday 23 September, for a nice relaxing welcome reception. Attendees arriving in Copenhagen on Friday are also invited to kick off the day with a bus tour of Copenhagen from Copenhagen airport/Central station. The tour ends at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Malmo in time for the welcome reception in the evening.

What's the best way to cap off an action-packed day? After SLAM! we'll have a magnificent banquet dinner waiting for you on Saturday 24 September, in Malmo's beautiful City Hall. Enjoy a three-course meal and don't forget that some of the strongest business relationships are forged over a nice dinner and a glass of wine!

Register at www.slamconf.com

Scandinavian Language Associations' Meeting (SLAM!) 2016

Sankt Gertrud Lonferens, Ostergatan 9, 211 25 Malmo, Sweden

Organisers: Foreningen Aktoriserade Translators, Sveriges Fackoversattarforening (SFO) < Danske Translators (DT), Finlands Oversatter-och Tolkforbund (SKTL), Norsk fagoversetterforening (NORFAG), Norsk Tolkeforening (NTF), Statsautoriserede Translators Forening (STF) and Translatorsforeningen (TF).

Obituary

Gregory Rabassa 1922 - 2016

Gregory Rabassa is considered one of translation's 'greats' and was especially known as the renderer and transmitter of the magic realism of Gabriel Garcia Marquez to the English-speaking world. He began his Spanish literary translating career with Argentine Julio Cortazar's *Rayuela* - 'Hopscotch' - and continued translating the works of Mario Vargas Llosa, Juan Benet and Luis Rafael Sanchez amongst others. From Portuguese, he translated the work of the Portuguese writer Antonio Lobo Antunes as well as the Brazilian writers - Jorge Amado, Clarice Lispector and Joaquim Maria Machado de Assis. The son of a Cuban father and New York mother, he never intended, as is quite often the case, to be a translator. He edited the *Odyssey Review*, a 1960's literary journal where his English translations came to the attention of the editor of Pantheon Books, who asked him to translate Cortazar's 'Hopscotch'. And the rest is history.

What's hot, what's not

What's HOT...

Of the ten shortlisted authors for the Dublin Literary Award 2016, six works were translations. Of the six judges two were translators. The one hundred and sixty books nominated by library systems in one hundred and eighty major cities throughout the world were written in nineteen languages. Truly a high profile exercise for our profession!

...What's NOT

What's going to happen to the approx 1,200 UK translators working across the EU institutions?

Worth-a-click

European commission just killed eur 100m translation market

<http://tinyurl.com/hpanogx>

£120m Ministry of Justice win for language company thebigword


<http://tinyurl.com/haf74vv>

Germany: The Terrifying Power of Muslim Interpreters

<http://tinyurl.com/zex64nz>

Gregory Rabassa, a Premier Translator of Spanish and Portuguese Fiction, Dies at 94

<http://tinyurl.com/jblfw6b>



ITIA

Joining the ITIA

The *Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association* is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Affiliate
- Institutional
- Student
- Honorary

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

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third level qualification with relevant experience.

Affiliate Membership is generally availed of by people with a professional interest in translation and interpreting, by those with a general interest in these professions or by professionals from other sectors who wish to work in the area of translation or interpreting and do not currently have a specific qualification or experience in the area

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation or interpreting.

New ITIA Members Apr /Jun 2016

Professional Members

Nana Isa

Spanish from English

Marta Starczewska

Polish from English

Associate Members

Giovanna Bosis

English from Italian

Helen Chen

English from Chinese, Cantonese

Daisy Connon

English from French

Margreat Khalil

English to and from Arabic

Vanessa Prazeres

English from Portuguese (Br)

Pontdeme Tiphaine

French from English, Russian

Thomas Stapleton

English from Chinese

Agata Szczyrbowska

English to and from Polish

Affiliate Members

Maya von Throppenstein

Piotr Rosinek

Mariana Preda

Contacting the ITIA

Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association

Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangairí na hÉireann

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Honorary Secretary	Miriam Watchorn
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Chair of Professional Membership Sub-Committee	Annette Schiller
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Chair of Certification Sub-Committee	Miriam Watchorn
Chair of CPD Sub-Committee	Mary Phelan
Chair of Marketing Sub-Committee	Susanne Dirks
	Penelope Eades-Alvarez
	Ilaria Furlan
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