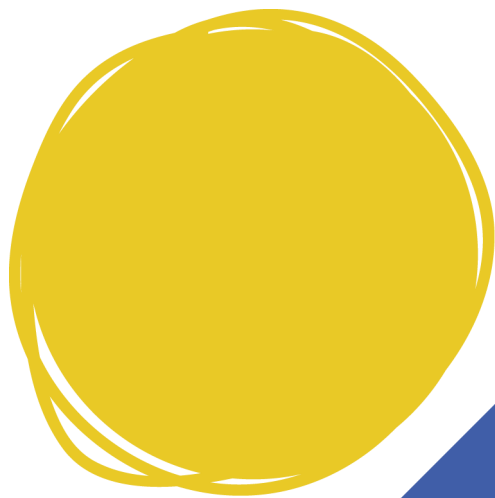


ITIA

Bulletin

2021 / 03

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



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Editorial

The ITIA Ex Comm had a welcome break in August from a year replete with activities for members as well as setting up new initiatives. The pandemic gave rise to a CPD bonanza in 2021 with, to date, 5 CPD sessions, 3 coffee mornings, the launch of the Members' LinkedIn Forum and a new CPD policy. These activities were free of charge with the exception of one organised through and with [FIT Europe](#) and [SFTI](#). So impressed was Penny Eades-Alvarez, Chair of Certified Legal Translator Sub Committee and Executive Committee member, that she has kindly written [an article about the session](#) and the five international speakers for this issue.

The world of interpreting continues to raise all kinds of questions, in particular about standards, and ITIA Chairperson, Mary Phelan, was, yet again, very happy to contribute to [an Irish Times article](#) highlighting both the current difficulties and how, despite many submissions by the ITIA, improvements are slow to come. Mary had previously written an article for TheJournal.ie which appeared in ITIA Bulletin 2021/02 and has made a number of submissions to Irish government departments as well as to the European Commissioner for Justice. It is heartening that the Irish media appears to be interested in focussing on interpreting in this country, and elsewhere, and the ITIA continues to hope and work towards the establishing of professional standards in all areas of interpreting in the state.

The role interpreters play and the consequences for them in the current situation in Afghanistan is a reminder of both the importance and dangers of their role in many circumstances. The European Legal Interpreters and Translators have issued an [open letter](#) in relation to the situation interpreters find themselves in and this appears in our regular column, Snippets.

From Germany, we include [an article for our colleagues in the VdÜ](#) who tell us about the efforts they have made over the years to highlight translators' work, including a boat escapade in front of the Reichstag!

Former ITIA Chair, Máire Nic Mhaoláin, has written a piece for the Bulletin about recent [proposed amendments to the Irish language bill](#) which should

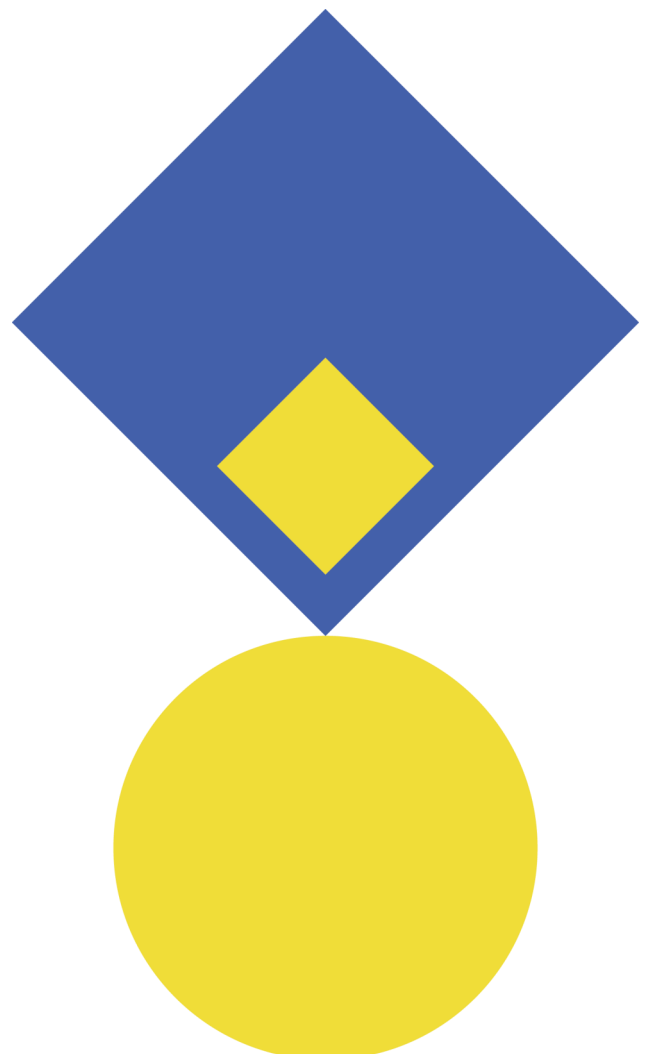
be of interest to members of Cumann Aistritheoirí agus Ateangarí na hÉireann.

ITIA administration is currently working on the task of contacting the 8 winners, out of a total of 191 entries, of the [ITIA Annual Translation Competition](#) as well as their teachers and schools. The winners hailed from around the country - Dublin, Limerick, Meath, Tipperary and Westmeath.

We do hope all our members will join us for the 35th [ITIA Annual General Meeting](#), our second online, on Saturday 16th October from 11am – 1pm.

Anne Larchet

Editor



Corporate Social Responsibility



Penelope Eades Alvarez is Chair of the ITIA Certification Sub-Committee. She is an ITIA CLT, free-lance translator and language consultant (ES & FR > EN).

With its stellar line-up of speakers, the web conference 'Translation: Specializing in Corporate Social Responsibility' on June 4, organised by the ITIA in conjunction with [SFT](#) and [FIT Europe](#), promised to be a very special online event for translators, whatever their level of experience.

Compered by the savvy and vivacious veteran free-lance translator (FR-EN), Chris Durban, herself a specialist in providing financial texts to demanding clients, we were guided through the different aspects of what sustainability means to the business sector today and introduced to the reality of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investment practices by some key figures in this exciting and increasingly specialised environment. Over the course of two hours, the 140 or so attendees were provided with an absorbing and fascinating insight into the different aspects of this fast-moving market in which translators have a key role to play.

'Translators with the right skill-set will be rewarded'

Kimberly Stewart, currently head of Investor Relations and Sustainability for the Elixor Group began with the big picture. In a field awash with acronyms, she waltzed us through the maze of global reporting initiatives (GRI), socially responsible investment (SRI) and risk management and identified what we as

translators need to know. In an ever-changing global business environment, where extra-financial criteria are clearly becoming more important, translators with the right skill-set will be rewarded. Being prepared to specialise is fundamental when it comes to getting to grips with the key messages emanating from companies worldwide, whether in their financial reporting, communications with investors, press releases, or CEO statements. Indeed, for those not familiar with high-end corporate business, it was interesting to learn, for example, that a Chairperson's Statement can often run to upwards of 30 versions, with every word and every nuance carefully analysed and reanalysed before the final copy is produced. It goes without saying that when it comes to translating such texts, only translators on top of their brief need apply!

Seismic changes in approach

Dominique Jonkers, a Dutch freelance financial translator (EN-FR & DU-FR) has become a reference in the field of financial and corporate translation. In the wake of the all too familiar scandals of Evron, Volkswagen and the Lehman Brothers, to name but a few, Jonkers explained the seismic changes in approach over the past five years in the global business community where ethical corporate behaviour has become pivotal. Continuing with the concept of specialisation, the former banker underlined how translators must be on their toes, keeping abreast of developments and familiarising themselves with the terminology, style, and usages of their fields of speciality 'to ensure that everyone is speaking the same language to describe the same situations and realities.'

Presenting a more granular view, David Jemielity, head of translations at Banque Cantonale Vaudoise (BCV) in Switzerland, and a tenured lecturer of financial/business translation at the University of Geneva, provided us with a case study of ‘what’s happening right now at your average Swiss Bank’. From his perspective as head of an in-house team of translators, Jemielity described how sustainability reporting is crucial nowadays, with high-level communications experts becoming increasingly involved. Nowadays, he explained, senior management cares about what translators do and will look at every word of the content in the translations of financial reports. ‘Sustainability themes that didn’t enter our heads five years ago have become really important, really fast.’ The message to translators is crystal clear, indicates Jemielity, ‘it’s an opportunity for translators not just to get business, but to step out of that “invisible translator role” and really function as field-specific, multilingual communications consultants’.

‘It’s an opportunity to step out of that “invisible translator role”’

The final presentation was given by Lilian Clementi, an ATA-certified translator (FR-EN) based near Washington, DC, with vast experience in high-end corporate communications and marketing material. How to translate better? Knowing the end client and their

business, argues Clementi, is indispensable in the sector. Reading financial reports, becoming familiar with those magic buzz words that need close attention and understanding ever-changing market trends are all indispensable activities for the translator who wants to produce effective text. In a presentation titled simply Nuts and Bolts, and using concrete examples, she took us to the heart of the matter, showing us how the translator’s role includes improving the original text where possible and providing the client with important added value in the final translated text.

A tour de force

‘This is the way to go!’ said ITIA organiser of the event and chair of FIT Europe, Annette Schiller, at the conclusion of the presentation, echoing the sentiments of many who recorded their overall satisfaction in the onscreen chat and later borne out by the results of an online survey. I noted with interest that of the 27 respondents to the question ‘Do you plan to start working in the field of corporate social responsibility?’ 81.5% answered yes. ‘Inspiring’, ‘relevant’ and ‘useful’ were, unsurprisingly, terms used in the comments section in which the presenters’ high level of expertise was applauded. All in all, this was a *tour de force* offering a unique glimpse behind the scenes in a field where translators have an important role to play if they truly understand the corporate culture involved. The way to go, indeed...

Penny Eades-Alvarez



Lost for words

Sorcha Pollak is an Irish Times reporter with a particular interest in news concerning immigrant communities living in Ireland

Ali* had never worked as an interpreter when he applied for a job with one of the State's leading interpreting and translation companies in 2019. He was surprised when the company immediately requested that he come in for an interview.

"The man talked to me for maybe two minutes and then said I'm going to print out a contract. To be honest there was no interview, they just knew I was in college. Half an hour later they called me asking that I go to a hospital for my first job."

With no experience as an interpreter, Ali felt very nervous as he approached Dublin's Coombe. "It felt very awkward being there. The wife didn't speak English and her husband didn't want me to be there. He had come to translate for his wife but the hospital said they needed an interpreter. Some men don't like that."

Despite being a competent English-Arabic speaker Ali says he never received formal training. He continued working in hospitals and also attended interviews with asylum seekers applying for international protection. A refugee himself, he had experienced at first hand the anxiety and fear of being interviewed by the International Protection Office.

'There is no minimum qualification or competency requirement'

"When I came to Ireland I saw the interpreter as someone with power or influence. It was a very strange feeling being in that position. Some people I interpret for, they don't read or write and their Arabic is totally different to mine. You need to learn how to explain in their way; it's not translation word for word.

Ali is one of the many thousands of foreign nationals working for translation and interpreting companies in Irish hospitals, Garda stations, courts and with asylum seekers. However, poor regulation of the sector and inadequate training for interpreters by some providers is seriously impacting people's lives, according to Mary

Phelan, chairwoman of the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA).

Interpreting is highly skilled and requires proficiency in both languages combined with an understanding of "confidentiality, impartiality and accuracy". But most people in Ireland believe anyone who speaks English and another language can interpret, Phelan says.

Without proper skills, the experiences of asylum seekers applying for international protection may be misconstrued by immigration officials while in Garda stations, the account of a suspect, witness or victim of a crime may be distorted, she says. In court, a defendant may not understand the evidence against them and in a hospital, the patient risks misunderstanding the severity of their illness or what medication they need to take.

Untrained interpreters also risk inadvertently taking sides or offering advice during a conversation, adds Phelan. She also has concerns that some interpreting firms used by the State do not test competency of staff who say they are qualified.

While NUI Galway runs a master's degree in conference interpreting, this does not prepare people for interpreting in community settings, says Phelan, who ran a graduate certificate in community interpreting at Dublin City University between 2004 and 2009. But the DCU graduates often found they were not prioritised for work and were placed on a par with those without formal training, she says.

No minimum qualification

"There's no training course in Ireland, that's the key problem. Most people without training haven't learned note-taking techniques, which is very important. They just rely on their memory but notes are needed for names, places and dates." There is no minimum qualification or competency requirement in Ireland for translation services.

In a 2019 submission to the government, the ITIA described Ireland's interpreter provisions as "very problematic". While the State spends significant amounts on interpreting services, it has "no guarantees whatever as to the quality of the work", it wrote.

In March of this year, the ITIA wrote to the European Commissioner for Justice, warning interpreting standards in Ireland were “wholly unsatisfactory”. Training and testing of interpreters and translators is essential to reduce the “risk of a miscarriage of justice”, said the ITIA.

In February, the Department of Children and Equality said in its White Paper to End Direct Provision that it would introduce an interpreters’ code of conduct, training for interpreters working with international protection applications, and independent inspections. This month a spokesman for the department said the implementation of the White Paper was still “in the early stages with the new model to be fully in place by the end of 2024”.

Legalistic language

Phelan has also called for international protection interviews to be recorded so that the interpretation of an asylum seeker’s story can be double checked. “Interpreting is crucially important for international protection officers trying to understand a person’s story. With no recording of interviews, no system of checks and balances or quality control of interpreting, it’s a huge problem. It’s totally unfair on the asylum seeker.”

Hassina Kiboua, a resettlement officer with the [Irish Refugee Council](#), provides training for interpreters working with asylum seekers. Accurate interpretation during an asylum interview is crucial, she says. “The officer will rely on consistency in accounts and inconsistency can really impact the outcome. The role

of the interpreter is not only to pass on the same information but to keep it in chronological order. You need to give training on boundaries and confidentiality.”

The interpreter must also be able to explain legalistic language to an applicant who may not have attended school or doesn’t understand the terminology being used.

Through her own PhD research, Kiboua has found that Australia has “perfect regulation and training”, while Sweden and the US also have good training systems. In the UK, interpreters working in hospitals or courts must undergo training and asylum interviews are recorded, she adds.

‘Training on boundaries and confidentiality’

A Department of Justice spokesman said he could not discuss its procurement of interpreters as it related “to matters which are currently before the court” and it would be inappropriate to comment on matters which are “sub judice”. Details of the case were not provided.

A spokesman for An Garda Síochána said the force was “satisfied that all of our current operational needs are being met”. All contracts for these services are organised by the Office of Government Procurement, he added.



In hospitals, it's often accepted that friends and family interpret for a patient, a senior HSE nurse (who asked not to be named) told The Irish Times. She has witnessed children explaining a cancer diagnosis for their parents and has been surprised at the lack of interpreting standards in some Irish hospitals.

The nurse, who has worked outside the Republic, says in her previous job "there was an expectation you never assess somebody in a certain level of distress until you get an appropriate translator".

ITIA database

In cases of domestic abuse, friends or community representatives may be reluctant to interpret because they know the abuser, she says. Sometimes a trafficker might be interpreting to the patient and then that person just disappears, she adds.

"Nuances are really important in taking any medical history. If it's coming through a filter, how do you know you're making the right diagnosis? It has such far reaching implications."

A HSE spokesman said it was "developing an appropriate model for the provision of interpreting services" as part of the Government's Migrant Integration Strategy. Interpretation and translation services are currently provided to patients "where it is deemed appropriate" and each community healthcare organisation and hospital makes "local arrangements for these services individually," he said.

The HSE's Emergency Multilingual Aid [including a language identification card and tailored phrase books], is used before an interpreter is called or while waiting for an interpreter to arrive, he added. The HSE's website recommends that healthcare centres refer to the ITIA database when looking for an interpreter.

Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos, an ITIA member, works as an interpreter in hospitals and has trained in medical translations. She has not undergone interpretation training but is experienced in using terminology for diseases and medical procedures.

"I can't really imagine a person without training working in a hospital," says Alves Passos, who interprets between Portuguese and English. "There are names of diseases or parts of the body like internal organs that most people don't know how to say in their native language, let alone their second language."

She often spends hours with a patient, joining them for blood tests, examinations and procedures. "I've been in situations where I've had to deliver really bad news to a person. If that information is not provided clearly the patient will feel even more anxious."

Bad pay and poor regulation

Alves Passos also works in social services where she says good communication skills are key. "We have to rely on our own soft skills, there's no training for that. This work can be a very happy thing to do but you can also be shocked by the bad news you have to interpret. You must make sure not to fall apart yourself."

Recently, Alves Passos worked as an interpreter for contact tracing during the pandemic. "Most of the doctors I worked with had never used an interpreter before, it took much longer than normal tracing calls. But doctors realised this was necessary, otherwise people wouldn't know what to do about Covid."

She knows many interpreters who have left the industry because of bad pay and poor regulation. When companies rely on the worker with basic English to speak to other staff rather than hiring an interpreter she says it "undervalues the study people go through to make a living from that work".

Phelan agrees that low pay acts as a disincentive for those who are qualified to take up this work. Most people working as interpreters in Ireland are highly qualified in other areas, with many holding master's degrees and even PhDs, she says. However, without the requisite training, they risk causing more harm than good, she says.

"Training is essential but we need buy-in from the Government. We need it to say this has gone on far too long."

Sorcha Pollack

*Name changed to protect his identity

[This article](#) first appeared in the Irish Times Weekend Review in August 2021.

Lore from our literary colleagues in Germany

At 67, the German Literary Translators' Association, [VdÜ](#), founded in 1954, is far from retiring. Its official name is almost as long as its history, though most of the 1,400 members would have difficulty reciting it in full. Luckily, most of them are young and have better ideas about what to do for the guild than memorizing that name: Verband deutschsprachiger Übersetzer/innen literarischer und wissenschaftlicher Werke / Bundessparte Übersetzer/innen im Verband deutscher Schriftstellerinnen und Schriftsteller within the United Services Trade Union ver.di*.

To become a member of the VdÜ, translators have to present at least one published literary translation or an equivalent work. For the last 15 years we have offered candidate status to aspiring translators - they have access to the same information as members as well as individual mentoring for up to two years. However, the German translators' industry is neither a closed shop nor is a special diploma required to translate literature. As a result, there are no exact figures on how many people form that army of "nameless samurai" (Marcus Ingendaay), but there are about 10,200 books translated every year.

'A landmark feature of the VdÜ has always been CPD'

The first and foremost goal for the VdÜ as a professional association and as part of a labour union, is to implement a fair remuneration policy for all literary translators, as well as representing translators' interests whenever necessary. One example of recent achievements was when a new Copyright Act was being discussed in 2001, VdÜ members 'landed' near the Reichstag with a boat full of translated books for every deputy and handed them over to Wolfgang Thierse, the then President of Parliament. The new law was passed but did not include the option for collective lawsuits. Thus, some courageous colleagues took individual legal action against their publishers to enforce this law. Up until now, the option for collective lawsuits

is also missing in the current national implementation of the European Directive on Copyright in the Digital Single Market, an issue that has been keeping our boards busy for some years.

In 2014, after several years of negotiation, a joint agreement on fees and royalties for literary translations was signed with a particular group of publishers. However, the hoped-for knock-on effect with other publishers did not materialize. In 2020, the VdÜ board and its negotiating committee agreed a new standard contract with the publishers' association which recommended best practices such as naming translators and reconfirming the standard page norm (of 30 lines max. with 60 characters max.). The new standard contract does not specify any fees though neither did the 1982 contract. Translators have to rely on their individual negotiating skills. Remuneration remains a delicate issue.

Knowledge is power

Even though financial malaise is alleviated by the Artists' Social Insurance Scheme, established in the early 80s, which our Writers' Union fought for, the average income of literary translators in Germany is presently 19,000 euros a year. Since 2017, the VdÜ has offered its members contract advice, both from experienced colleagues and from a specialised lawyer. Any changes in income are monitored very closely using regular surveys.

Scientia potentia est – "knowledge is power". This is the reason why the VdÜ keeps their members and non-members up to date on political, professional, and cultural developments. This is achieved through the association's biannual print magazine, [Übersetzen](#) ('Translating'), and the association's publicly accessible website, with daily updates and legal information too. A landmark feature of the association has always been continuous professional development. In fact, VdÜ members themselves have set up independent associations dedicated to particular aspects of translation, the best example being the [Europäische Übersetzer-Kollegium](#), which stands out as the first and largest international centre for translators of literature and non-fiction, inspiring similar institutions all over the world.

Part and parcel of VdÜ's activities are networking and influencing public discourse. Back in 1966, translators founded the *Freundeskreis* ('circle of friends promoting literary translations'), which established the tradition of awards for literary translators in Germany.

The latest brainchild is the *Rebekka* award for translators of light fiction. Unfortunately, light fiction reviews are rarely included in the press or book reviews despite being a major source of revenue for publishers and book stores. Since 2004, the *Übersetzerbarke* ('translators' boat') is awarded to translator-friendly publishers, journalists, booksellers or librarians. Three years later, VdÜ started presenting a wide range of discussions and talks at the Frankfurt and Leipzig book fairs. Our latest contribution was a panel discussion on "Gendering in the European Context" at the virtual Frankfurt Book fair 2020. There is also a network of outreach associations, such as the *Weltlesebühne* ('world reading stage'), founded by VdÜ members in 2008, to bring translators on stage. It ensures that they are paid a decent fee for their performances and increases translators' visibility.

A very special moment for us all was in 1997 when, after several years of intense lobbying, the renowned translator from Russian, Rosemarie Tietze, set up the *Deutscher Übersetzerfonds (dÜf)*. This translators' fund awards several hundred thousands of euros in subsidies and offers residencies every year. The *dÜf* model recently inspired Italian colleagues in *Strade* to ask for a similar fund. Furthermore, the *dÜf* developed

an Academy of the Art of Translation with a wide range of seminars and workshops, e.g. the 'vice-versa' seminars which bring together translators from one pair of languages. Further training and qualifications remain a vital component to strengthening our professionalism. For more than 50 years, VdÜ has been organising an annual meeting for up to 250 participants. Since 2004, we have been meeting in Wolfenbüttel for three days of workshops, readings, and parties.

In almost seven decades, our association has made numerous improvements for literary translators. We have come a long way from being those unknown and almost invisible ghosts, hardly receiving a mention in publications, to becoming self-confident co-authors claiming their rights to being named on the cover, or at the very least on the inner front page. Active members have helped transform solitary freelancers into a strong association and a negotiating partner with publishers and politicians.

Andreas G. Förster and Claudia Steinitz

* Association of German-Language Translators of Literary and Scientific Works / Federal Branch, Translators' within the Association of German Authors within the United Services Trade Union



Andreas G. Förster is literary translator of political and historical books, and a union member. He has been VdÜ's online editor since 2019 and was appointed to the VdÜ Board in 2021.

Photo: María Porciel Crosa



Claudia Steinitz has been translating literature from French to German for 30 years. She was one of the founders of *Weltlesebühne e.V.* She was awarded the Jane-Scatcherd-Prize for translation in 2020. She is the CEATL delegate of the German association *VdÜ*.

Photo: Guido Notermans

Leasuithe Ceadaithe do Bhille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003



Ar an 8ú Iúil i mbliana d'fhógair Príomh-Aoire an Rialtais agus an tAire Stáit don Ghaeltacht agus don Spóirt, Jack Chambers T.D. agus an tAire Turasóireachta, Cultúir, Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán, Catherine Martin T.D. go bhfuil ceanteidil 32 leasú ceadaithe ag an Rialtas chun Bille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) a neartú.

Baineann cuid de na leasuithe le cúrsaí riaracháin agus le Limistéar Pleanála Gaeltachta go sonrach, ach tá cuid acu a mbeadh spéis ag aistritheoirí agus ateangairí agus pobal na Gaeilge go ginearálta iontu.

Mar shampla, de réir Leasuithe 2, 3, 4, agus 5, eiseofar treoirleáir faoi trí mhí de achtú an bhille le cabhrú le comhlachtaí poiblí a n-oibleagáidí maidir le húsáid ainmneacha, seoltaí agus teideal daoine aonair i nGaeilge a chomhlíonadh. Le haistrúcháin oifigiúla is mo a bhainfeadh an leasú sin, agus dualgas áirithe cheana ar chomhlachtaí poiblí faoi Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (2003). Agus is míniú ar 'foirm oifigiúil' atá i Leasú 1. De réir Leasú 11 beidh an ceart ag duine gan teideal a úsáid, de réir mar is mian leis nó léi.

Baineann Leasuithe 27 agus 28 le cúrsaí logainmneacha. Bunófar An Coiste Logainmneacha agus cuirfear deireadh leis an gCoimisiún Logainmneacha. Leagtar oibleagáid ar an Aire comhairle a fháil ón gCoiste Logainmneacha sula ndéantar Ordú Logainmneacha faoin Acht.

Beidh fáilte mhór ag lucht scríofa agus léite na Gaeilge roimh Leasú 10, go gcinnteofar go mbeidh 'an síneadh fada ar fáil le haghaidh foirmeacha oifigiúla uile comhlachtaí poiblí le go bhféadfar ainm, seoladh nó teideal duine sa Ghaeilge a thairfeadh agus a úsáid i

gceart.' Is de réir a chéile a thabharfar an socrú sin isteach, le Rialachán i ndiaidh dul i gcomhairle leis na hAí. Bímis foighneach!

Tá oibleagáid cheana ar chomhlachtaí poiblí freagra a thabhairt sa teanga chéanna ar chumarsáid i scríbhinn nó i ríomhphost i dteanga oifigiúil. Leathnófar an oibleagáid sin de réir Leasú 7 go cásanna ina ndéanfaí an chumarsáid le comhlacht poiblí trí mheán shóisialta. Baineann Leasú 8 le húsáid ríomhphost ag comhlachtaí poiblí le faisnéis a scaipeadh ar an bpobal no ar aicme den phobal. Feasta beidh ábhar margaíochta i gceist de bhreis ar fhaisnéis. Is dea-nuacht é ag aistritheoirí Gaeilge go mbeidh ar chomhlachtaí poiblí 20% dá bhfógraíocht bhliantúil a chur amach i nGaeilge, agus 5% den fhógraíocht sin a bheith sna meáin Ghaeilge, de réir Leasú 9.

De réir Leasú 25 beidh 20% de na hearcaithe nua i gcomhlachtaí poiblí inniúil ar an nGaeilge faoin dheireadh na bliana 2030. Cuideoidh sin leis na comhlachtaí poiblí a ndualgais faoi Acht 2003 a chomhlíonadh maidir le haistrúcháin Ghaeilge de.

Go ginearálta, rachadh na leasuithe sin chun forálacha Acht 2003 a chur i bhfeidhm níos fearr ná mar atá faoi láthair, agus seans go laghdófar ar na gearáin go léir faoi chomharthaí bóthair agus fógraí poiblí eile a bheith mícheart, agus faoi easpa sínti fada i gcúrsaí cló. Níl ann anois ach iad a achtú.

Máire Nic Mhaoláin



Snippets

OPEN LETTER from EULITA

The European Association of Legal Interpreters and Translators [EULITA](#) would like to express its great concern for local translators and interpreters in Afghanistan, whose lives are currently at risk. Translators and interpreters are much needed to facilitate exchanges between people who do not express themselves in the same language, be it for the work of journalists in missions carried out abroad, for the running of an embassy or consulate, for the activities of international organizations or NGOs, for delivering humanitarian aid to those in need, etc. They are the language bridge to the local people, albeit their work often remains invisible to the general public. Interpreters and translators in conflict and war zones, such as Afghanistan, are at a particularly high risk. They are often regarded as traitors and spies, they receive death threats, they are prosecuted for being spies, kidnapped, tortured or killed. Many Afghan interpreters and their family members have already lost their lives since 2001 because of their association with foreign military

forces. We regret to say that translators and interpreters are not specifically protected by international legislation despite their often being a target of hostile attacks.

Therefore, EULITA calls upon the European institutions as well as all the governments in Europe to take measures to protect and help not only their nationals in Afghanistan, but also the local interpreters and translators who worked alongside them, as now more than ever their profession has made thousands of them, and their families alike, vulnerable to loss of life, limb and liberty. EULITA strongly believes that Europe has the moral duty to support the local translators and interpreters who helped European countries to conduct their businesses and set up missions in Afghanistan, and who now rely on Europe not for their livelihood, but for their lives.

August 2021



What's HOT

Finally, many years later, there has been international recognition of the importance of interpreters as well as consideration for their fate, post the departure of occupying forces from Afghanistan.

What's NOT

Those who were left behind.

Worth-a-click

Following up on our German colleagues' description of their association, this issue's regular Worth-A-Click feature focuses on all things literary, in translation. August 2021 was Women in Translation Month, which was started in 2014 by [Meytal Radziski](#) to honour women writers and translators around the world. Many bookshops in Ireland took this on board, promoting women's work. Click on any of these links and with a bit of luck you will find your next book, in translation, to read:

<https://tinyurl.com/5auvmu8c>

<https://tinyurl.com/ysc8yu3n>

<https://tinyurl.com/4m6drw4r>

<https://tinyurl.com/3w9kbcj4>

Mascha Dabić, born in Sarajevo, has lived in Austria since 1992. Author, translator, academic and conference interpreter into and out of English, German, Russian and Serbo-Croatian, tells us about her work in [this podcast](#) entitled 'Encounters: Mascha Dabic and Leigh Bailey in Conversation', which is Worth-a-Listen.

Following on from Maire Nic Mhaolain's article, [Frank McNally](#) opines on the proposal for obligatory fadas.

New Members

New Associate Members

Hubert Zieba

English into Polish and Polish into English

Vana Marie Brady

Tagalog into English and English into Tagalog

Leesa Wheatley

German into English

Hani Aliwi

English into Arabic and Arabic into English

Aoibhinn Quaid

Spanish into English

English into Irish

Philip Taylor

French into English

Rosemary Hynes

French into English

Spanish into English

Shaimaa El-Shamy

English into Arabic

Alexandra Roget

French into English

Spanish into English

Ali Selim

English into Arabic and Arabic into English

Hannah Quinn

Spanish into English

Kieran Flanagan

Japanese into English and English into

Japanese

Michael Walker

Russian into English

Elina Dergaca

English into Latvian and Latvian into English

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
- 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.

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 and interpreting.

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