

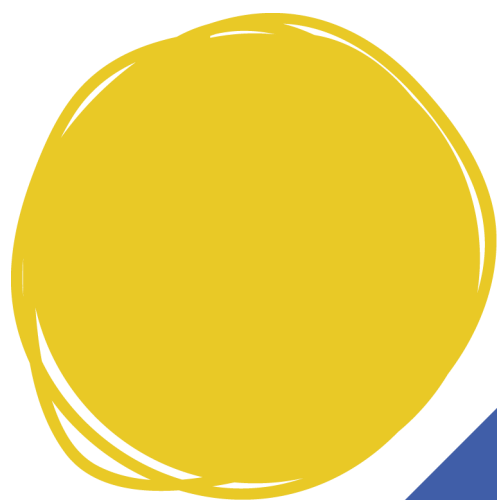
# ITIA

# Bulletin

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2022 / 02

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



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# Editorial

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When Ireland was successful in its bid to take a seat at the United Nations Security Council in June 2020 the then Taoiseach Leo Varadkar noted that the Irish had taken their place among the nations of the world, referencing a Robert Emmet quote.

At last, after a two-year hiatus, the ITIA has been able to take its place at the tables of the translators' organisations of which we are members and continue to both represent our members as well as reconnect with our colleagues. The exchange of information and practices and the sharing of experiences that ITIA representatives bring back to the ITIA are to the benefit of all.

Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos attended the [European Federation of Audiovisual Translators' Associations \(AVTE\) AGM](#) in Rome in May, the first time that ITIA has had representation with this federation of associations. Readers will recall the CPD webinar on Audiovisual Translation in 2021, given by Henrik Walter-Johnsen, AVTE Vice president and deputy Chairman of the [Norwegian Association for Audiovisual Translators](#) (NAVIO). The ITIA Executive Committee decided to apply for membership to AVTE and our request was ratified at the meeting with Mariana as ITIA representative.

The editor of this e-zine was invited to attend the [Réseau Européen des Centres Internationaux de Traducteurs littéraires \(RECIT\) AGM](#) held at our home in TCLCT, Fenian Street, in March. This was a first for both the ITIA and TCLCT who recently joined RECIT.

The same editor also attended [CEATL AGM](#) held in May in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Much further afield, former FIT Europe Chair, Annette Schiller, headed to the [XXII FIT World Statutory Congress](#) in Varadero, Cuba at the end of

May. This is a three-yearly meeting for the 130+ members of the FIT federation of associations. The report gives readers a picture of the structure of this worldwide organisation and how it governs itself. Annette's trip was very worthwhile and her electoral success a big plus for the ITIA.

Latest [Members' Corner](#) contributor, Sébastien Rolland, tells the Bulletin about his winding path to translation leading to his applying successfully for PM category. He joins the ranks of the existing English into French ITIA PMs, six in total.

This issue also covers annual in-house matters - results of the Professional Membership exams and also the ITIA Certified Legal Translator exams. As mentioned last year we really do encourage members to look into climbing up the professional ladder. There are pre-exam webinars and workshops held prior to both exams which help members to find out what is involved in taking the exam and how to go about applying.

Mary Phelan, ITIA Chair, follows up on the ITIA survey on RSI published in the Bulletin 2022/01 with [a piece on remote interpreting in legal settings](#) which, in theory, should be advantageous to all but in practice is fraught with problems.

Frank Wynne, Honorary ITIA member, shares the International literary prize with Alice Zeniter and is also in the news for other reasons – advocating for translators' rights. Read all about it in the [Literary Links article](#).

We wish all our members and readers a happy summer and look forward to being in contact again in September.

**Anne Larchet**  
Editor

# Members' Corner



***Sébastien Rolland***, PhD in Mechanics and Energetics, MITIA, working in the localisation industry since 2005 in various roles

## 1. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

My name is Sébastien Rolland and I am a professional member of the ITIA.

I have over 17 years' experience in the localisation industry (client side, vendor side, freelancer side), allied with a unique technical and scientific working experience. In September 2010, I started my own business in Ireland, offering a wide range of linguistic services (translation, reviews, QAs, etc.), mainly on IT, marketing, technical & scientific projects. Against all odds, I've recently accepted to join an IT security company as a part-time Localisation Marketing Programme Manager.

## 2. When and why did you decide on a career in translating/interpreting?

I had a late calling. I studied sciences but always had an interest in French and foreign languages. Even the year of my 'bac scientifique' (equivalent to the Leaving Cert), I had kept 9h of language courses (English, German and Latin) because I simply couldn't choose. In 2005, with a PhD, a postdoc in NUI Galway and 2 years living in Ireland, I wanted to try something different. The localisation industry (where the technical and languages mix) sounded a great field for me. I worked 5 years in project management before deciding in 2010 I really wanted to do something with my 'French competencies'.

## 3. Name the most important thing you did that helped you launch your career.

While I had already some fields of expertise, language skills, CAT tool experience, work connections and knowledge of the industry, I didn't have a piece of paper saying "that guy can translate". I was accepted in a 3-year translation course in France, but it would have been too long. I took a shorter course (with regular assignments) from a Dublin agency and secured a certificate in French translation. Of course, this didn't open all the doors, but it gave me confidence to apply to various agencies and feel less like a fraud. I didn't get any favours and had to pass translation tests like any other translator.

## 4. How important are training and qualifications for a career in translating?

It's obviously good to have some qualifications or training to have an advantage compared to 'generic translators', but the most important is: can you translate real documents accurately, on time and on budget?

Early in 2021 I managed to pass the ITIA Professional Membership Exam (Technical). While I didn't really need it at that time, I thought it would be good to have it in case 'something happened'. And, Murphy's Law applied – I was quite happy to add this extra credential to my CV when I had to find new clients towards the end of 2021.

## 5. How do you find clients?

ProZ.com is a good start (Job listings + the Blue Board to check agencies credentials), but nothing beats professional referrals, so I always try to stay connected with various stakeholders just in case. In the past I did also gain direct clients by attending local business events (Chamber of Commerce + business shows).

The best is when clients find me! It's important to have a presence in various media (LinkedIn, Google Business Profile, website, etc.) to encourage potential clients to contact you.

## 6. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

Yes, it's good to have expertise in some subject matters, but you can't be a specialist in everything. Without my technical and scientific background, I wouldn't have stood out. Note that I am fully aware of my limitations and wouldn't rush to translate literary and legal texts, for example. I just don't have the right style and proper training.

## 7. What is your favourite type of text/assignment?

In my first few years, I did enjoy transcreation as the projects were short and fun but required a lot of brainstorming.

Currently, I do enjoy assignments about photography (photo editing software, user guides, websites) as this is a personal passion and it allows me to continue learning while working.

Overall, I try to diversify clients, projects and tasks (translation, proofreading, LQA, etc.) as I just can't translate 8h a day.

## 8. What is the best/worst thing about being a translator?

**Best:** The power to say "No". It's nice to help if you're available, but only you can decide what's good for your business and personal life, so avoid "mission impossible". In a nutshell: "Your clients' lack of planning is not your priority".

**Worst:** The fear of uncertainty. Translators' life is usually made of feast or famine. Even after years working on a particular account, someone somewhere can always decide to change a company's strategy and blow your business model. Compared to a lot of my peers, I've been lucky to have had over 9 consecutive years of regular work. However, I did experience a major setback last year, losing 2 main accounts (80% of my revenue) in the space of 2 months. I reacted very quickly, updated my CV, applied wherever I could and contacted lots of connections. I had quite a few scary weeks with very little to do, while bills kept on coming. Amazingly, I think I am now better off...

## 9. Is it possible to have a good standard of living?

Yes, but it is easier to get requests in my language combination as the demand is high throughout the year compared to others. French is often ranked as a "Tier 1" in big companies, along with German, Italian and Spanish.

Of course, it also usually means working hard and being ready to sacrifice some hours at weekends and holidays in order not to lose some clients/accounts.

## 10. What advice would you give someone thinking of embarking on a career as a translator?

Be prepared to have a few low months when you start. Take advantage of that free time to polish your CV, build your profile online, attend training/business events (always have a business card!), carefully check and target the agencies/clients you would like to work with... It's exactly like job hunting: you have to prove you're a good asset.

If a company or agency asks you to do a test, don't rush, do research, be thorough and explain your translation choice well. One of the first tests I did was full of catches and needed extensive research. I likely spent 6-7h on it, but it allowed me to earn over €300K over 9 years, so I think it was worth sacrificing a few hours.

# ITIA Representation

## AVTE AGM in Rome

As the ITIA Executive Committee was discussing options for CPD in 2020/21 we looked at the different translation specialisations and noted that interest in dubbing and subtitling had grown in recent years with the rise of video streaming services. And so the webinar on audiovisual translation, given by Henrik Walter-Johnsen, AVTE Vice president was organised in 2021. Although there are not a large number of ITIA members who have declared they work in this field, ITIA sees joining forces with another European federation of associations, like FIT and CEATL, as an important expansion of our network for our members to be able to tap into and learn from. Audiovisual Translators Europe (AVTE) is a federation of translators' associations that seeks to represent translators in the audiovisual industry. In 2021, the ITIA applied for AVTE membership. On the 18th May 2022 [AVTE](#) began their General Assembly in Rome.

The ITIA was represented by Executive Committee member Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos and ITIA's membership application was ratified.

## ITIA at AVTE

At my first AVTE meeting I learnt, first hand, what AVTE is about. It strives to raise awareness about audiovisual translators' work conditions and to connect with people who can improve them. There is constant effort to contact elected officials and industry stakeholders.

At this year's meeting, the 22 association representatives elected an expanded Council of 12 (previously made up of 6 members): Amalie Foss (Denmark, President), Mirka Brezovska (Slovakia, Vice-President), Henrik Walter Johnsen (Norway, Vice-President), Estelle Renard (France, co-secretary), Petra Matic (Croatia, co-secretary), Florence Curet (France, Treasurer), Max Deryagin (UK), Jean-François Cornu (France), Valeria Cervetti (Italy), Iris Permuy (Spain), Marielle Steinpatz (Netherlands), and Tina Shortland (Norway/UK). Each association also had the opportunity to share its progress and challenges in publishing subtitling guidelines, campaigning for better rates, and communicating with representatives from the EU Commission, its local broadcast channels, streaming companies (such as Netflix and HBO,) and academic researchers.

AVTE's work is not restricted to the representatives who participated in the General Assembly. Members of local associations are invited to join working groups in their areas of expertise or interest. Among the areas of engagement are: increasing visibility about the work conditions and rates offered to audiovisual translators; defending the translators' rights as authors; campaigning for better rates and work conditions; engaging with academic research about AVT; The use of machine translation and artificial intelligence in AVT and accessibility.

Next year's AVTE annual meeting will be held in Slovenia.



This year's AVTE meeting in Rome

Passos

Mariana Ciocca Alves

# ITIA Representation

## CEATL AGM in Sofia, Bulgaria

Like many other organisations attempting to organise annual meetings during a pandemic, the CEATL Board, with the help of the [Bulgarian Translators Association](#), made a very late decision to hold the AGM in person in Sofia in May of this year. Given that Covid hasn't gone away, online attendance was also offered. Even with the best technology available, hybrid meetings with large numbers, 39 in this instance, are rarely satisfactory. 25 delegates attended in person with 14 online, including two board members.

Given the very short notice, the Bulgarian hosts put on a wonderful 4-day programme, with main meetings taking place in Sofia City Library and other events at Sofia University.

The highlight of the meeting was a talk given by three Ukrainian colleagues who gave us a chilling first-hand account of the situation of Ukrainian translators.

Vice-president of PEN Ukraine, Ostop Slyvynsky, a poet and translator and Natalia Pavliuk, president of the [Ukrainian association of translators and interpreters](#) UATI joined the CEATL delegates via Zoom. Ukrainian translator Oksana Stoianova also participated in the meeting in Sofia in person. She is now living in Bulgaria. All three spoke first hand of the current very difficult situation for all Ukrainians and specifically of the situation of literary translators.

Slyvynsky, who was speaking to the meeting from Lviv, reported that most Ukrainian publishers have had to stop working and any agreements to translate books have come to nothing. Any announcements about new book publications have little possibility of coming to fruition as one of the big printing facilities has been destroyed. The lack of essential materials such as paper make future plans almost impossible. This has left translators, along with many other sectors of the Ukrainian population, in a very difficult financial situation.

All three speakers reiterated that Ukrainian translators want to work as much as possible and that, apart from donations, the best type of aid they could receive is being offered more translation.

The meeting concluded on a very sunny Saturday morning and plans have begun for the 2023 meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, which will coincide with the 70th anniversary of the founding of the [Slovenian Association of Literary Translators](#) (DSKP).



Sofia City Library

# ITIA Representation

## XXII FIT World Congress, Varadero, Cuba

**B**ack in Brisbane in 2017 at the last [FIT](#) World Congress a number of member associations made their case to hold the following congress, scheduled for 2020, in their country. The winning candidate was the [Cuban Association of Translators and Interpreters](#) (ACTI) and so they set about organising the meeting for 2020. After much scheduling and rescheduling, cancellations and more cancellations the XXII FIT World Congress finally commenced in Varadero, Cuba on the 30th of May.

ACTI is a founding member of FIT Latin American Regional Centre and works closely with other associations in Latin America and the Caribbean.

FIT-IFT is the international federation of associations of translators, terminologists and interpreters gathering more than 130 associations from all over the world. FIT has regional centres, FIT Europe, FIT Latin America, FIT North America and a fourth regional centre, Africa, is at an advanced stage of planning.

Every 3 years FIT member associations come together from all around the world to participate in the FIT Statutory Congress (similar to an association's AGM) over two days followed by the FIT World Congress, rather like an international conference held over three days, which is open to practitioners, educators, policy makers and anyone interested in translation.

The programme covered every possible topic related to the professional sector – interpreting indigenous languages, the importance of intercultural sensibility in translation, cybersecurity for translation and interpreting services and many, many more. Any attendees would have been hard pushed to decide on what to attend as there were three parallel sessions every day over the three days.

### Inner workings

Every 3 years Congress elects a new Council of 14 members. The Council in turn elects its Executive Committee of 6 members and co-opts 3 further members to Council. The Executive Committee has 6 officers – the President, the Secretary General, the Treasurer and 3 Vice Presidents – and they direct FIT until the next world congress.

Annette Schiller is the ITIA representative to FIT and was Chair of FIT Europe from 2017 until last year when she stepped down. Annette gave [ITIA Bulletin](#) readers a comprehensive overview of FIT Europe and her time as Chair.

During the Statutory Congress in Varadero, Annette was elected not only to FIT Council but also onto the Executive Committee as one of the three Vice Presidents. Clearly her experience as Chair of FIT Europe will bring benefits to FIT's Executive Committee. She will be working with President Alison Rodriguez (NZTI New Zealand), Secretary General Alexandra Jantscher-Karlhuber (Universitas), Austria, Treasurer Ted Wozniak (ATA), USA and the two other Vice Presidents, Alejandra Mercedes Jorge (AATI), Argentina and Eleanor Cornelius (SATI), South Africa.

The next FIT Congress will be held in Costa Rica in 2025.





# Hanging on a Thread - Remote Interpreting in Legal Settings



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

In June 2021, the Irish Refugee Council published a [report](#) called 'Hanging on a Thread' about delays in the Irish international protection process. The report recommended that 'the option of a remote Tribunal is extended to persons requiring interpretation'. Of course, videoconference remote interpreting does seem like a great idea because it saves time and potentially cuts costs, but is it really a good idea in Ireland where spoken language interpreters do not have access to accredited training and are not tested to establish their competency?

## **'Interpreting in a VC is more stressful'**

The recent Court of Appeal Judgement in the case of [DPP v H.M. and B.O.](#), now available on the Courts Service website, is a good example of what can go wrong even when the interpreter is highly educated, bilingual and experienced. The three Court of Appeal judges studied the transcript and translation of recordings and agreed that medical terms caused the court interpreter difficulty, that the meaning of some questions was distorted, and that there was inaccurate interpreting of some answers to questions. The appeal was possible and ultimately successful thanks to audio recording of the court case. However, in Ireland, international protection interviews and hearings, a field

of legal interpreting, are not recorded, meaning that it is impossible to carry out checks on the standard of interpreting after the event.

In the last [ITIA Bulletin](#), Sarah Jane Aberasturi reported that highly qualified and experienced conference interpreters found remote interpreting more tiring than face to face interpreting and that one interpreter had developed tinnitus due to exposure to compressed sound, background noise and poor connections. The [Avidicus 3 handbook of bilingual videoconferencing](#) (2016) includes similar information in relation to fatigue and recommends that remote interpreting be confined to brief hearings:

A further factor is the duration of the VC [video conference]. Interpreters generally feel that interpreting in a VC is more stressful and tiring than working in the traditional settings. As a general principle, the use of VC involving an interpreter should therefore be reserved for brief hearings. (page 10)

In 2013, Sabine Braun published a study comparing face to face and remote interpreting of simulated police interviews by eight accredited French-English interpreters who had at least five years' experience of this type of work. Each interpreter interpreted one interview remotely and the other face to face. All interviews were recorded, transcribed and analysed. Braun found a significantly higher number of interpreting problems, and a faster decline of interpreting over time in remote interpreting, and concluded that:

Given the specific requirements of legal interpreting, the problems identified in this study seem to put constraints on the use of videoconference-based remote interpreting in legal proceedings. At least, it seems reasonable to restrict its use to the simplest cases until further knowledge has been gained, and until training opportunities and minimum standards and guidelines are available. (page 224)<sup>1</sup>

Finally, it is worth mentioning that not all interpreters have access to a private, quiet space in which to carry out remote interpreting. This can impact confidentiality if what the interpreter says can be overheard. Background noise can affect the interpreter's concentration and indeed the experience of all online participants. Equipment is also an issue: not everyone has access to a desktop computer or a laptop or to a suitable headset. Indeed, there have been reports of interpreters using mobile phones for remote interpreting in international protection cases.

Remote interpreting has potential, particularly for short GP appointments where time and money can

be saved as interpreters do not have to travel to and from GP surgeries. It could make sense in international protection if interpreters were trained, subject to such safeguards as recording of all interviews and hearings along with independent

## ***'Background noise can affect interpreters' concentration'***

checking of a percentage of recordings. In all instances, whatever the setting, interpreters need to be trained in how to interpret, how to work online, how to take notes, and how to behave ethically, in line with international standards.

Mary Phelan



<sup>1</sup> Sabine Braun (2013) 'Keep your distance? Remote interpreting in legal proceedings' *Interpreting* 15: 2, 200-228.

# Literary Links

## Recognition of literary translators

ITIA Honorary member Frank Wynne shares the 2022 Dublin Literary Award with French author Alice Zeniter for the translation of her novel, *The Art of Losing* (*L'art de perdre*). The prize is worth €100,000, the world's largest prize for a single novel published in English with Zeniter receiving €75,000 and Wynne €25,000. Wynne won previously in 2002, as translator of *Atomised* by Michel Houellebecq, which enabled him to become a full-time translator.

Wynne has a long history with the prize and said that "In a very real sense, I owe my career as a literary translator to the Dublin Literary Award, a prize I cherish because it makes no distinction between English and translated fiction, treating authors and translators as co-weavers of the endless braid of literature."

Wynne also happens to be the chair of the International Booker Prize jury, the first translator to hold the position. He has kickstarted his tenure by calling for publishers to pay translators royalties on the sales of the books they translate. Although publishing houses in some European countries, France and Spain amongst others, do pay royalties, even granting copyright to translators, which can be a battle in itself, this still does not guarantee translators the right to receive an income from their work, especially from theatre or film adaptations.

His proposal has been backed by the Booker Foundation which confirms its position that the prize celebrates the vital work of translators and that both translator and author are equally deserving of "honour and winnings". The International Booker Prize money is worth £50,000 and is divided equally between the author and translator. Sadly, of the 13 books on the 2022 International Booker Prize longlist, two have not assigned copyright for the translation to the translator.

The role of the literary translator has been much in the news lately with the recent #TranslatorsOntheCover campaign launched by Jennifer Croft and Mark Haddon helping greatly to highlight the role of translators, as reported in the [ITIA Bulletin 2021/04](#).

Wynne joined up with Jennifer Croft on BBC Radio 4's Front Row programme last month where he made the important point that "if publishers don't offer translators a share in the profits it doesn't encourage emerging translators to come in and create a diversity in translation that doesn't currently exist".

The constant excuse that publishers offer for not including the translator's name on the book cover is that potential buyers will be put off making the purchase if they know the book is a translation. Are publishers actually trying to fool the readers that the book isn't a translation?

Whilst all of the above activity refers specifically to literary translators, any news or public campaign that highlights the role of translators increases the visibility of all translators and is welcomed by all of us working in the field. A rising tide floats all boats!



ITIA Honorary member Frank Wynne

# Literary Links

## RECIT AGM at TCLCT

**T**rinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation (TCLCT) recently joined [Réseau Européen des Centres Internationaux de Traducteurs littéraires](#) (RECIT) and as the latest new member of the network it was decided to hold their AGM in Dublin in March, in the lovely Georgian house at 36 Fenian Street.

Initially established as a European network of colleges of literary translation in the 1990s, RECIT is now a network of 14 organisations across 13 countries. RECIT's objectives are to strengthen the network of literary translators and facilitate residency programmes.

The AGM was held over 3 days, chaired by Yana Genova, who is also director of the [Sofia Literature and Translation House](#), Bulgaria, and hosted by TCLCT. Both Michael Cronin and James Hadley gave a talk to the group attending and those online, and manager Eithne Bowen ensured all aspects of the 3-day meeting ran smoothly. Matters discussed were planning for the coming years, widening the network, improving the programmes for the translator residencies and of course sourcing funding. RECIT members were able to share difficulties and try to find solutions together. ITIA's recent move to Fenian Street puts us at the heart of translation in Dublin and we look forward to even more close collaboration with both our colleagues at TCLCT and their network.



*RECIT is a partner in an international initiative, Translation in Motion, which supports the development of literary translators working into and out of the languages of the western Balkans through residency programmes.*

# ITIA In-House News

## *ITIA Professional Membership examination 2022*

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The exam took place in March 2022:

- 9 exam candidates
- 10 exam papers
- 6 language pairs
- 5 assessors from Ireland and across Europe
- 4 areas of specialisation (legal, business/finance, medical/pharmaceutical, technical/engineering)

The compulsory online Professional Membership webinar, introduced in 2020, took place in November 2021 for those thinking of applying to take the exam to join the Professional category. During this webinar the application procedure (criteria, qualifications, level of experience) and the standard required in the exam, among other things, are discussed. Attendees have the opportunity to put questions to the PM sub-committee, to clarify any grey areas and to decide whether they believe they meet the criteria in a given year or whether they need to gain more experience or qualifications and apply at a later date.

ITIA now has three new PMs, one Italian into English, one German into English and one English into Polish.

Annette Schiller

## *ITIA Certified Legal Translator Examination 2022*

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In Ireland only Professional ITIA Members may apply to become Certified Legal Translators. Typically, they will have worked for at least five years as professional translators and have experience in the translation of legal and state documentation. The CLT examination itself involves the translation of one short document (certificate) and a legal text of the kind that certified translators are required to do in their day-to-day work. Candidates attend a mandatory online workshop prior to taking the exam. The marking system is anonymous and scripts are assessed by carefully selected international experts. There were four candidates in 2021 and ITIA now has three new Certified Legal translators, two with the language pairing English into French and one English into Italian.

Penny Eades Alvarez



# What's NOT HOT

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Judge Miriam Walsh, a District Court judge sitting at Portlaoise District court was widely quoted in the Irish national newspapers in May 2022 as being “sick to the back teeth” of defendants looking for interpreters to assist them in court proceedings when they have been living in Ireland for years.

Judge Walsh is not the first judge to make these types of comments. Judge Mary Devins, amongst others, made similar comments at Claremorris District Court in 2010. Mary Phelan wrote a [detailed review](#) in 2011 of court reports from national and provincial newspapers in Ireland over the period 2003 to 2010. Clearly, some things never go out of date, and in particular, some members of the judiciary hold rather fixed views on levels of language competence that should be acquired by immigrants appearing before them related to the number of years living in a country. Mmmm?

# What's HOT

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In response to Judge Miriam Walsh's comments about defendants requesting the services of interpreters, Mick Clifford of the Irish examiner, [argued the importance of interpreters in the Irish courts](#) stating that “Requiring an interpreter to be fully cognisant of proceedings which could result in a term of imprisonment is surely not too much to ask and, to be fair, neither is it ever denied”.

Clifford appreciated that the judge was within her rights to try to protect taxpayers' money but made it clear that of all the public funds spent on the legal system, the cost of interpreters was a relative drop in the ocean. He further added that work interpreters carry out to ensure that all are equal before the law is a necessary expense.

Had he highlighted the very low rates of pay to interpreters and the resulting scarcity of qualified interpreters available to the courts, a more complete picture of the current situation would have emerged.

# Worth-a-click

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Following on recent ITIA Bulletin articles on RSI interpreting, the link below is a report by colleagues in Spain who took a pro-active role and set up their own initiative [Freelance Interpreters United Spain](#). FUI Spain came about spontaneously in response to Covid 19 and the increase in RSI, particularly in Europe. The story of the background to the setting up of this initiative featured in the Spanish Association of Translators, Interpreters and Proofreaders, ASETRAD 's magazine, [La linterna del Traductor](#). Solidarity and camaraderie definitely pay dividends for all in the translator and interpreter community.

What could be described as encouraging news appeared in a recent article from [Slator](#). Meta (previously known as Facebook) appears to place a value on the human evaluation of MT output. Current metrics, such as the algorithm BLEU (Bilingual evaluation understudy) have been proven to produce poor results leading some to consider human evaluators to be the 'gold standard' in quality assessment.

A multi-disciplinary team from Meta AI have proposed a novel metric, called XSTS – a cross-lingual variant of STS (Semantic Textual Similarity). This system evaluates the degree of similarity in meaning between source text and MT output using a 5-point scale where 1 represents no semantic equivalence and 5 represents exact semantic equivalence. [An interesting read.](#)

# New Members

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## New Professional Members 2022

**Erin Lyons**

Italian into English

**Elaine Nevin**

German into English

**Anna Paradka**

English into Polish

## New Associate Members (Feb - May 2022)

**Abdelhamid Abbas**

Arabic into English

French into English

**Hala Al Sarakbi**

Arabic into English

English into Arabic

**Silvia Delgado**

English into Spanish

German into Spanish

**Mohammad Ghozlan**

Arabic into English

English into Arabic

**Rachel McCabe**

French into English

Spanish into English

**Anastasia Papathanaki**

English into Greek

French into Greek

**Renata Ribeiro de Paula**

Portuguese (Br) into English

English into Portuguese (Br)

# Joining the ITIA

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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.

# Contacting the ITIA

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## ITIA Executive Committee 2021-2022

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