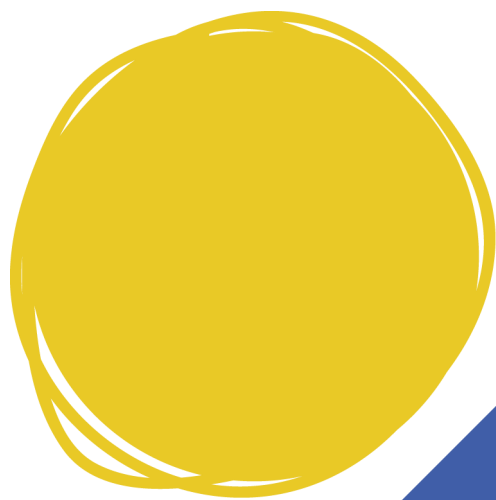


ITIA

Bulletin

2023 / 02

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



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Editorial

The spring always heralds the start of ITIA representatives heading off to annual general meetings or conferences and 2023 is no exception. These gatherings, which mean being able to talk to colleagues in person, are particularly welcome after three years of Zooming and hybrid meetings. Many of the associations and federations of associations were, coincidentally, celebrating significant birthdays.

First out of the blocks was a [FIT Council](#) meeting in Barcelona in April and a joint enterprise with CEATL during the annual [San Jordi celebrations](#). FIT was celebrating its 70th anniversary and CEATL its 30th. Annette Schiller, FIT Mundus Council member and Vice President on the Executive Committee, was in attendance.

Ljubljana was clearly a translator's hotspot in 2023 as both CEATL and AVTE's Annual General Meetings were held there this year in May. Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos, ITIA's representative to AVTE, attended their AGM held, appropriately enough, in the Ministry of Culture, while the editor of this publication attended the CEATL AGM a week later. Further birthday celebrations were held by the Slovenian Literary Translators' Association, DSKP, who hosted the CEATL AGM, marking 70 years since their association was founded.

Reports on the meetings give all the details.

These three federations of associations represent a large number of translator and interpreter professionals and it's always helpful to know exactly what they do. Sandra Mouton has very kindly agreed to open a window on the inner workings of FIT Europe for Bulletin readers in her article.

Apart from flying the ITIA flag aboard, at home the 2023 ITIA CPD programme continued with Josh Goldsmith, who held two [glossary workshops](#) online in April and in May, Dr Dorothy Kenny, DCU and Damien Hansen, University of Liege and Grenoble Alpes University, gave a hybrid talk at TCLCT on the

latest research on the intersections between literary translation and AI.

In Snippets, Trish Van Bolderen informs us about this really intriguing lecture where we learnt about the intricacies of machine translation for literary translation, how NMT and LLMs are advancing exponentially but haven't quite reached the 'human' gold standard. She also informs us about the latest arrival to the ITIA Ex Comm, our first student representative and Executive Committee members, Miriam Watchorn and Sarah Berthaud, give us a brief overview of the latest rates survey results.

Micro-credentials are becoming very popular with universities of late and to tell us about what these programmes involve Dr. Susann Huschke has written about a new academic programme to be delivered at the University of Limerick in the autumn. On the same topic, ITIA Chair, Mary Phelan, gives details about the DCU micro-credential programme also starting this autumn.

AI in general and more specifically the latest developments in generated text tools has given rise to a lot of discussion for all creative professionals, including translators. Worth-a-Click contains plenty of links to the latest views and positions taken in this field.

And yet another birthday – TCLCT celebrated its 10th anniversary and director, James Hadley, gives account of how they celebrated it.

Happy summer reading to all!

Anne Larchet
Editor

ITIA Representation

CEATL 2023 AGM in Ljubljana

CEATL delegates gathered in Ljubljana in May for the first in-person-only meeting since 2019 in Norwich. The 2022 AGM, held in Sofia, Bulgaria, was hybrid which, in general, rarely works for either those attending in person or those attending remotely.

It was a very busy agenda for the three-day meeting with voting for a new board first on the list. CEATL's board is made up of six officers - President, Secretary General, Treasurer and three Vice Presidents. Shaun Whiteside, President and Lara Hölbling, Secretary General, both stepped down in compliance with the maximum term rule - 4 consecutive two-year terms. The new members elected were Teodora Tzankova, BTU (Bulgarian Translators' Union) delegate and Senior Assistant Associate Professor at the University of Sofia in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese studies and Iztok Ilc, on the board of the Association of Slovenian Literary Translators DSKP and the main organiser of the AGM in Ljubljana. The new President and Secretary General are Francesca Novajra and Valérie Le Plouhinec.

Before the elections the outgoing board gave account of their activities over the year 2022/23 which included a policy of developing greater cooperation with other federations. One and all were in agreement that joining forces with other professional groups can only be of benefit to all particularly at collective bargaining lobbying level with state and EU institutions.

'Don't forget to name the translators'

This policy resulted in the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia ([APTIC](#)) and the Association of Writers in Catalan Language ([AELC](#)) inviting the [CEATL](#) and the International Federation of Translators ([FIT](#)) to a joint event at the Gabriel García Márquez Library in collaboration with the Institute of Culture of Barcelona and the Barcelona UNESCO City of Literature Office.

The event, named 'This Sant Jordi Day, Don't Forget to Name the Translator', was a unique opportunity for these organisations to meet for the first time in the Catalan capital city, and an occasion for FIT and CEATL to sign the Barcelona Manifesto on good contractual practices in literary translation. The Manifesto is available in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#) and [Catalan](#).

Before the AGM began in Ljubljana, CEATL and TLRC-PEN ([PEN International](#)'s Translation and Linguistic Rights Committee) signed a memorandum of understanding on 17th May. TLRC-PEN and



CEATL share common objectives in the area of literary translation, including encouraging the practice of literary translation from and into all European languages, and providing a platform for the exchange of information related to the personal and professional status of literary translators based in Europe.

Another memorandum of understanding was signed with Audio-visual Translators Europe (AVTE) on 13th May. [AVTE](#) and CEATL common aims are promoting quality and professionalism in creative translation and authors' rights. These include encouraging research in creative translation, providing a platform for the exchange of information and fostering the coordination of international activities related to the protection of translators' intellectual property rights.

Both associations stated their belief that it is of utmost importance to join forces as “both organisations are working to combat translators’ isolation and improve their cultural visibility, which is key to improving their socio-economic position. Doing this in partnership is certain to bring good results. We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation”.

Last but not least, the previous board launched the new CEATL website at the AGM which they had been working on since last autumn. Everyone agreed it looks very well and is a vast improvement. It was agreed the 2024 AGM would be held in Reykjavik and the Icelandic delegates there have started planning already.

‘The 2024 AGM will take place in Reykjavik’

Anne Larchet

There were two special invitees to the AGM - Helena Gizeleza from the Latvian Association of Translators and Interpreters (LLTB) who have applied to join CEATL and Olha Liubarska from a newly formed group called Translators in Action, Ukraine, who help Ukrainians who need documents, of any type, translated.



Iztok Ilc (Vice-President), Francesca Novajra (President), Teodora Tzankova (Secretary), Miquel Cabal Guarro (Treasurer), Justyna Czechowska (Vice-President), Valérie Le Plouhinec (General Secretary)

AVTE 2023 AGM in Ljubljana

I recently represented the ITIA at the [AVTE](#) Annual General Meeting. Each year a different member association hosts our AGM. This time, we were hosted by the Association of Slovenian film and TV translators (DSFTP) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Organising a two-day hybrid meeting with representatives from 20 countries is not an easy task. But Polona Mertelj and Jerca Kos found a perfect setting for it. We used a conference room at the Ministry of Culture. There were 34 participants overall, 29 in person and a few connected via Zoom at different times. Everyone managed to participate seamlessly thanks to the high-tech structure available.

We welcomed a new association: Tramiti, representing subtitlers in Italy.

The AVTE exists to raise awareness about the challenges audiovisual translators face and to fight for their rights, therefore the topics discussed were the same as last year: strategies to raise our rates; royalties for audiovisual translators; negotiating with streaming platforms and local channels; and how technologies are used to lower the rates. AI is a major concern in this industry too.

Some colleagues had good news to share. After many years of building a strong network of AV translators and getting to know people working for broadcasters and streaming platforms, the Polish AVT association negotiated a 30% raise in the rates paid by a local TV channel.

Members of the French Association (ATAA) received a similar raise, but the association was not directly involved. It was the reward of years invested in connecting translators and building up their negotiating skills. The Finnish Union added freelance translators to their collective bargaining agreement, thanks to the new EU Directive on the topic.

AVTE President Amelie Foss and CEATL Secretary General Lara Hölbling Matković signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Ljubljana after our meeting. It is great to have a cooperation like this because both federations face similar issues when working to improve the working conditions of translators across Europe. There is still a lot of work to be done. The AVTE will send representatives to media and translation conferences, write to EU officials, contact broadcasters and streaming platforms.

AVTE is publishing snippets of the working conditions research done last year on their twitter account (@avteur). On a local level, the ITIA is building a network of audiovisual translators, hoping to harvest some of the benefits the other associations already have.

Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos



All about FIT



Sandra Mouton is secretary general of FIT Europe, and serves on the editorial committee working on FIT's trilingual newsletter *Translatio*.

What we are and aren't

It was 30 years ago when the ITIA joined the International Federation of Translators, a.k.a. [FIT](#) from its name in French, *Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs*). In 2023, the Federation itself celebrates its 70th anniversary, and one of its Vice-Presidents, Annette Schiller, is an ITIA member. And yet, in conversations with translators and interpreters around Europe, when I mention FIT or its Regional Centre [FIT Europe](#), I often find these are perhaps not as well-known as they deserve. So, to reassure ITIA colleagues that their professional association has not taken up membership in a gym chain called 'FIT Europe' and hopefully also to inspire and inform them, here is an overview of FIT and how it represents the ITIA at global and European levels.

FIT and FIT Europe: what they are and aren't

FIT is 'the voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world'. FIT's members are not individuals, but organisations: T&I professional associations and unions, and higher education institutions. FIT has members in 66 countries around the world.

FIT Europe is one of FIT's three regional Centres. It serves 75 organisations that are members of FIT based around Europe, and it holds its own meetings at regional level, while FIT has global congresses.

It is not an institution of the European Union, although many of its members are based in EU countries: its constituency spreads across the European continent, from the Polar Circle to the Mediterranean shores of Cyprus, and from Azerbaijan in the East, all the way to Ireland in the West.

FIT Europe also has its own board: John O'Shea, chairperson, PEM (Greece); Gabriella Suzanne Vanzan, vice-chair, AssolInterpreti (Italy); Sandra Mouton, secretary general, SFT (France); María Galán, treasurer, Asetrad (Spain); Guillaume Deneufbourg, CBTI-BKVT (Belgium) and Zsuzsanna Lakatos-Báldy, MFTE (Hungary).

Nurturing links across Europe

An important aspect of our mission is helping to circulate information and support between our members. Following the invasion of Ukraine last year, we spread the word about language services available for refugees and support for Ukraine translators and interpreters, while maintaining regular contact with the Ukrainian Association of Translators and Interpreters.

This collaborative approach extends to partnerships with other federations of T&I associations, such as Audiovisual Translators Europe (AVTE), and the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL), two federations of which the ITIA is also a member. For example, FIT Europe and CEATL partnered up on the topic of the translation of the EU report *Translators on the Cover* into all EU languages.

Training language professionals

Another mission is to provide training on issues relevant to our members. We regularly survey both professionals and associations, and we are heavily involved in the annual European Language Industry Survey (ELIS). This data informs the trainings we organise. Recent topics include GDPR for T&I professionals, sound quality in remote simultaneous interpreting settings, gender-neutral writing, and machine translation literacy for association boards in the age of AI.

Earlier this year, FIT Europe launched a [CPD calendar](#), publicly available on its website. The aim is to allow our member associations to spread the word about the continuous professional development activities they put together, and to give T&I professionals access to online or in-person training resources in a wide range of languages, often at special, reduced FIT-association prices.

‘Our priority is to work closely with the EU’

We also look to the future and take part in events aimed at T&I students, like the Translation Student Fair organised last year by the EU Directorate-General for Translation (DGT). We contribute our expertise and the perspective of professional practitioners to the European Master’s in Translation (EMT) network and the EMT competence framework.

Engaging with Europe’s biggest industry player

With the European Commission’s DGT ranked as the biggest language industry player in the region, and EU directives playing such an important role in business, in member states and beyond, we have made it one of our priorities to work closely with the EU: being part of the Language Industry (LIND) Expert Group; co-organising Translating Europe Workshops and Translating Europe Forums; alerting the Commission and the public to the risks of promoting the free machine translation tool eTranslation without warning about its limitations; working on the visibility of the translation professions, and taking part in the consultation on topics relevant to our sector, such as the guidelines on collective bargaining for self-employed professionals under EU competition law.

And there is more! To further explore FIT Europe’s activities and to get in touch: fit-europe-rc.org; Twitter: @FIT_Europe; Facebook: @FITEUR; LinkedIn: FIT Europe.

For news of the International Federation of Translators: fit-ift.org; Twitter: @fit_ift; Facebook: FIT.InternationalFederationofTranslators; LinkedIn: fit-international-federation-of-interpreters-and-translators.

Read news in English, French and Spanish from FIT associations around the world in [Translatio](#), FIT’s trilingual newsletter: www.fit-ift.org/publications/translatio/.



Micro-credentials at UL



Accredited course in Communication and Interpreting in the Irish Healthcare System

Dr Susann Huschke is a medical anthropologist,
Faculty of Education and Health sciences,
University of Limerick

This coming autumn, the [School of Medicine at the University of Limerick \(UL\)](#) is offering a six-week micro-credential course in Communication and Interpreting in the Irish Healthcare System.

Micro-Credentials (MCs) are short university-accredited courses that attend to training gaps in the labour force. This micro-credential is part of a larger project in collaboration with Dublin City University. The aim is to create a set of 'stackable' micro-credentials that combined lead to an accredited Diploma in (Healthcare) Interpreting.

This micro-credential fills a crucial gap in the education market and also addresses a pressing need within the health care sector, where this lack of trained interpreters leads to poorer health outcomes and significant health inequity. Demand for trained interpreters is predicted to increase significantly over the coming years as there is a legal obligation for the HSE to ensure equal access to primary health care for new migrant communities via the Public Sector Duty 2014, enforced by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission.

'The clarification of the role of the professional interpreter was eye opening. My interpreting changed after that'

The key learning objectives of the course are to enable students to (1) understand the nature of good communication in cross-cultural healthcare consultations; (2) differentiate the role of interpreter from other healthcare and community sector roles to ensure best practice standards; (3) gain sound knowledge of the Irish healthcare system; and (4) identify methods for self-care and continuing professional development for interpreters in Ireland.

The programme is open to anyone interested in upskilling in the area of healthcare interpreting, e.g. people working as interpreters or planning to do so in the future, as well as advocacy workers, social workers, migrant activists, clinicians and healthcare planners.

The course will be delivered as blended learning (in-person and online). The course starts on 23 September 2023 with a full day in-person workshop at the University of Limerick, followed by 6 weekly online sessions (2 hours each) on Wednesday evenings. Attendance is required for all sessions.

Assessment includes continuous engagement via

'The online learning platform tasks were very good, articles, videos, really informative, thank you, I liked the course'

the online learning platform Brightspace (e.g. reflection questions and comments on learning materials); attendance of the in-person workshop; group presentations on a case study; and a written critical case reflection.

The course involves group work and written assignments which require advanced English language skills. To obtain the Graduate Diploma in the future (i.e. a combination of a number of micro-credential courses in addition to this one), non-Native English speakers will need proof of English skills level C1 (IELTS or equivalent), so it is advisable to work towards this in parallel to taking the micro-credential courses.

The course fee is 600 Euros for EU citizens, long-term residents and recent refugees under temporary protection, and 1,200 Euros for other non-EU citizens. For further information about the course and to submit your application, visit the [UL website](#).

Dr Susann Huschke

Micro-credentials at DCU



Healthcare Interpreting Practice & Ethics of Interpreting

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](#).

To address the lack of accredited training for public service interpreters in Ireland, DCU is introducing two micro-credentials courses to complement University of Limerick's course.

DCU will run two online micro-credential courses, each worth five credits, in the academic year 2023-24. The first, Healthcare Interpreting Practice (LC587M), will start in September 2023. The second, the Ethics of Interpreting (LC588M), will start in January 2024.

Applicants should be university graduates and must hold at least a C1 in English on the Common European Framework for languages ([CEFR](#)). Check this [link](#) for more detailed information.

'The courses will be held on line'

The Healthcare Interpreting Practice is aimed at interpreters who are currently working in the medical sector or who are interested in working in this setting. Students will have the opportunity to practise interpreting role-plays of typical scenarios that arise in GP surgeries and in hospitals.

Please note that there will need to be at least two students per language. Students will work on glossaries, get feedback from their peers and will have the opportunity to discuss issues. The end of course assessment will be an interpreting exam. This course will be taught online on Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. commencing on 10th September and ending by 2nd December.

The Ethics of Interpreting covers ethics in all settings including healthcare, legal interpreting in garda stations and courts, social protection and international protection. Students will have the opportunity to share their experiences of how they have dealt with real life ethical dilemmas and to learn about best practice approaches and codes of ethics. The end of course assessment will be an academic essay. This course will be taught online on Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. commencing on 15th January and ending by 13th April.

Dr Mary Phelan, coordinator for both micro-credentials courses, can be contacted by email mary.phelan@dcu.ie

Dr Mary Phelan

TCLCT anniversary



The TCLCT celebrates its 10th anniversary

James Hadley is Ussher Assistant Professor in Literary Translation at Trinity College Dublin, and the Director of the College's award-winning MPhil in Literary Translation master's degree.

The [Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation](#), where the ITIA is based, had cause to celebrate on 3rd May. 2023 marks ten years since the official launch of the Centre by renowned Irish poet, Seamus Heaney, and five years since the Centre officially opened the doors to its Georgian building, which had been lovingly restored from a derelict state.

Over the ten years, the Centre has grown from a loose collection of likeminded translation practitioners and theorists, to Ireland's reference point when it comes to literary and cultural translation. It now offers a busy catalogue of events, including translated literature book clubs, lectures, workshops and launches all the year round, almost all of which are open to anybody for free. It also boasts an enviable team of doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, working on topics that range from transfiction, or the representation of

translation and translators in works of literary fiction; to the history of two Irishmen who translated for Napoleon during his struggle with the British. The Centre's researcher team is joined every year by over twenty master's students who travel from all across the globe to attend the Centre's award-winning one-year MPhil in Literary Translation, which combines theoretical, practical and professional components and sees students go on to careers in teaching, diplomacy, project management, computer game localization, and of course, literary translation.

During the celebrations, the Centre's Director, James Hadley, outlined Trinity's links with literary translation, which go back all the way to the foundation of the College in 1592, when Daniel O'Donnell, the first translator of the New Testament into Irish, was one of the first three students.



Linda Doyle, the College's Provost, also spoke about the importance of the Centre for the College in general, and for its School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies in particular, bringing together as it does, people from all around the world to celebrate cultural and linguistic differences. Having noted how far the Centre had come already in its ten years, James Hadley, pointed out that the Centre is just getting going, making reference to the ambitious new strategic plan, which will be unveiled later this year.

TCLCT directors: James Hadley, Sarah Smyth, Michael Cronin

Snippets

Neural Machine Translation, Large Language Models and Literary Translation: The Story So Far

In early May, the ITIA held its first in-person CPD since the pandemic, with this hybrid event also marking the inaugural CPD in the ITIA's new home of the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation (TCLCT). DCU professor, Dr Dorothy Kenny, and doctoral scholar, Damien Hansen, led a timely and fascinating discussion about the real and potential intersections between literary translation, neural machine translation (NMT) and large language models (LLMs). Usefully clarifying some of the mechanics of NMT and LLMs, Dorothy and Damien also touched on the tools' applications in literary contexts, such as how NMT and LLMs can be used to shed light on literary translator style and how they can serve as sources of creative inspiration for professional translation. They also addressed a range of pros and cons—from the esthetic to the ethical—associated with using the tools, reminding us of both the expanding horizon of technological possibilities and the ever-critical role that professional human translators continue to play in thinking critically and creatively about these opportunities.

Special thanks go to Dr. James Hadley, Director of the TCLCT, for his generous assistance and technical know-how in preparing the space for the event.

Trish Van Bolderen

Student representation on ITIA Executive Committee

As part of its ongoing commitment to reflecting the priorities and perspectives of its varied membership base, the ITIA Executive Committee recently reached out to the association's student members with a call for interest to join the Committee. Now, we are pleased to introduce you to the Committee's first-ever student representative, Cristina Barroso. Cristina immediately impressed the committee not only with her enthusiasm for collaborating on existing projects but also with the many ideas she already had for possible ITIA events and initiatives. Welcome aboard, Cristina!

Cristina Barroso holds an MPhil in Literary Translation from Trinity College Dublin, where she is also a PhD candidate in Translation Studies. She has been a student member of the ITIA for the past year.

Cristina's current research explores the possibilities of bridging the gap between the localisation industry and the literary translation market, through the study of electronic literature. She also works as a freelance translator and as a reviser of literary translations from English into Spanish.

For her undergraduate studies, Cristina completed a double diploma in Political Science at the University of Granada, in Spain, and at Sciences Po Bordeaux, in France. She specialised in International Cooperation and worked in Africa on different cooperation projects. Cristina has lived in Ireland for the last 10 years.

Trish Van Bolderen

Obituary

Lanna Castellano 1931 - 2023

Latest ITIA survey news

As a snapshot, the ITIA 2022 Rates Survey contains some very interesting findings, some of which are detailed below. We expect to deliver the full report in the next bulletin so watch this space!

A total of 73 people responded to the survey. Almost all were ITIA members (72). The typical respondent was a female sole trader and ITIA member, aged 40-60, with a master's degree (generally in translation and/or interpreting), with 15+ years' experience. This cohort can be presumed to be at the mid-career or late-career stage. Just 5% of all respondents were aged under 30.

The median translation rate across all language combinations was €0.12 for direct clients and €0.09 for agency clients, with significant variations in terms of specific language combinations. These will be analysed in more detail in our survey report later this year. Median rates for the top language combinations were as follows:

Median rates for translation		€	€
Source	Target	Direct	Agency
German	English	0.14	0.12
French	English	0.10	0.08
English	German	0.12	0.09
English	Polish	0.11	0.07
English	Irish	0.13	0.12
English	French	0.15	0.09
Polish	English	0.09	0.06

Interpreting rates varied sharply according to setting. The median day rate of interpreters offering only conference and business interpreting was €600, in sharp contrast to rates offered for public service interpreting work such as police, courts, health, social welfare, which are typically placed through agencies.

Hourly rates reported for PSI or community interpreting (courts, police healthcare settings, social welfare, etc.) varied widely, from €18 to €65. In these settings, the median was €40 per hour, €225 per half-day and €400 per full day.

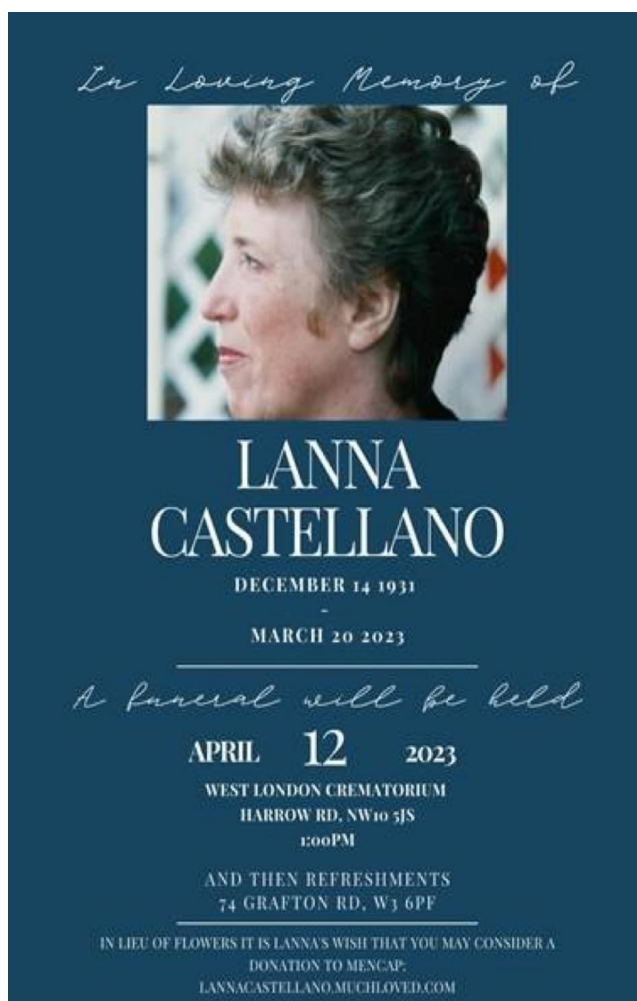
Miriam Watchorn and Sarah Berthaud

One of ITIA's long standing members, Lanna Castellano, passed away on 20th March of this year aged 92. She was an ITIA member up to 2019 and during her time with us "was very helpful with setting up the certified translator system" notes Annette Schiller who worked with her.


She had the reputation as a great translator and a leading light in our sector. Lanna was also a member and representative of the ITI UK.

Her quote, from Mona Bakers' [In Other Words](#), a must-read text for would-be translators, makes eminent sense:

"Our profession is based on knowledge and experience. It has the longest apprenticeship of any profession. Not until thirty do you start to be useful as a translator, not until fifty do you start to be in your prime."



In Loving Memory of



**LANNA
CASTELLANO**

DECEMBER 14 1931
-
MARCH 20 2023

A funeral will be held

APRIL 12 2023

WEST LONDON CREMATORIUM
HARROW RD, NW10 5JS
1:00PM

AND THEN REFRESHMENTS
74 GRAFTON RD, W3 6PF

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS IT IS LANNA'S WISH THAT YOU MAY CONSIDER A
DONATION TO MENCAP:
LANNACASTELLANO.MUCHILOVED.COM

What's HOT

A new generation of sign language interpreters graduated in Derry in June. Ten men and women received level 6 certificates (the highest level) in Irish Sign language (ISL) and level 3 certificates were also awarded to British Sign Language (BSL) students. The ceremony was organised by the Foyle Deaf Association (FDA), who said that government funding was vital in enabling it to enhance the services it offers - "The Department's investment in Foyle Deaf Association demonstrates its commitment to developing the sign language infrastructure necessary to support the local deaf community, and in doing so, improving accessibility to services for BSL and ISL users both in the north west and across Northern Ireland."

"It is important that not only are these initiatives co-designed with the deaf community but, where possible, their delivery is deaf-led" said Tommy McAuley, Acting Head of the Department for Community Sign language Policy and Legislation team.

What's NOT HOT

The Irish Sign Language Act was enacted in December 2017 and commenced in December 2020. It was designed to give ISL official recognition as a language in Ireland and to give the deaf community the right to use ISL as their native language. The CSO reported 4,266 ILS users at home in the 2016 census. The Irish Deaf Society estimates there are some 40,000 ISL users (family, friends, co-workers etc).

Section 10 of the act obliges the Minister for Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth to report on its operation at intervals.

One of the points made in the first report on the implementation of the act is that a lack of interpreters or duty to assign interpreters was the most common barrier mentioned by public bodies. It notes a 'cost loophole' where it appears the wording of the act facilitates public bodies to avoid providing ISL interpretation based on costs.

Definitely not a positive!

Worth-a-click

The Association of Literary translators of France ([ATLF](#)) and the Association for the promotion of literary translation ([ATLAS](#)), the two main French literary translators' associations, have published a joint 16-page statement about artificial intelligence in translation. They warn of the imminent danger of AI in the field of literary translation which they believe "must be defended as an intellectual, essential and deeply human activity". It is on the website in French, English and Spanish.

The [International Authors Forum](#) (of which CEATL is a member) hosted a webinar on AI and copyright last week. It was extremely interesting, focusing on slightly different perspectives than the one in Ljubljana (which was also really great!), but with equally knowledgeable people - the CEO of the American Authors Guild, Mary Rasenberger, Tom Chatfield from the Authors Licensing and Collective Society in the UK and Paolo Lenterri from WIPO. It is really worth a [look](#), if you haven't seen it already.

The [US Authors Guild](#) carried out a [survey](#) which revealed that 90% of authors believe they should be compensated for the use of their book in training generative AI technologies, and 65% support a collective licensing system that would pay authors a fee for the use of their work in training AI. Most interesting, 23% of writers reported using generative AI as part of their writing process.

The European Writers Council ([EWC](#)) released a statement calling on the European Parliament, Council and Commissions to improve key elements in the current proposal for the European AI Regulation, as well as to reform existing TDM exceptions.

The EWC has been taking a position on the technical, legal and economic impact of AI in the book and cultural sector since 2020 which can be read in this [overview](#). The current urgency of the changes advocated in the present proposal of the AI Act led to the attached [statement](#).

New Members

New Professional Members

Mariana Ciocca Alves Passos
English into Portuguese

Petru Rusan
English into Romanian

New Associate Members

Agata Grzelak
English < > Polish

Darren Mag Aoidh
English < > Irish

Gillian Quinlan
French into English

Elizabeth Sexton
French into English
German into English

Christopher Streek Sanchez
English < > French
English into Spanish

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.

Contacting the ITIA

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