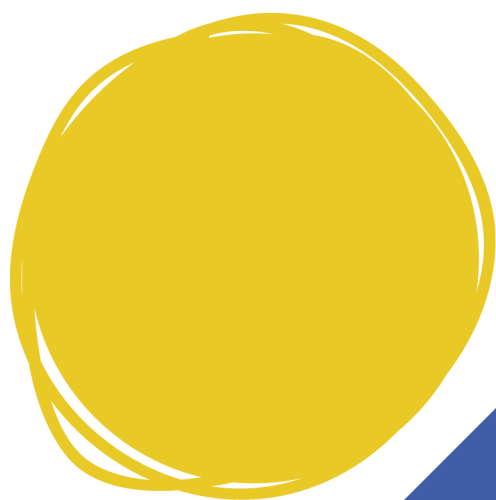


ITIA

Bulletin

2023 / 03

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



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Editorial

With the autumn suddenly upon us, preparations for the annual ITIA calendar are already in train – Professional Membership and Certified Legal Translator workshops and exam dates have been set, so anyone thinking of applying for these professional qualifications would need to consider their position - fairly soon!

Our members' corner contributor for this issue is our Canadian colleague, Trish Van Bolderen, whose career journey brought her to a number of Canadian provinces, with their specific cultural and linguistic contexts, on to France and eventually to our shores. Trish translates from French and Spanish and revises texts.

FIT has just launched its fourth regional centre – Africa – and currently has six member associations from Cameroon, Congo, Mozambique and Senegal as well as from East and South Africa.

As mentioned briefly in ITIA Bulletin 2023/02, Executive Committee members, Sarah Berthaud and Miriam Watchorn have been working on an analysis of their recent rates survey and the results are clear to see in their contribution.

A new member of staff at TCLCT, Natália Resende, has written about a new module being offered on the TCLCT MPhil in Literary Translation – localisation. She explains how an understanding and competency in this ever-growing aspect of translation is as important in literary translation as in any other specialised field of translation.

Home news, covered in the Snippets column, includes articles on the translation competition results and ITIA professional workshops and exams. The workshop will give all the details about the application process, the exams and assessment, and Miriam Watchorn, Executive Committee member, fills us in further with her piece on what the CLT exam involves.

The sad news about the recent passing of one of the big names in Spanish to English translation, Edith Grossman, ITIA Honorary member, appears in the obituary column.

The all-pervading topic of AI also appears in this issue – check out What's Not Hot and Worth-a-Click to hear the latest in AI applications in translation and interpreting.

The Bulletin is delighted to welcome Cristina Barroso, recently appointed student representative on the Executive Committee, on board the editorial team. Hopefully, two editors will double the interest in the ITIA e-zine!

As always, we look forward to seeing members at the ITIA's 37th Annual General Meeting which will be held online on Saturday, 14 October 2023 from 11 am – 1 pm.

Anne Larchet

Cristina Barroso

Coeditors

Members' Corner



***Trish Van Bolderen** works as a translator (ES & FR > EN) and an English language reviser. She has a Master's degree and PhD in Translation Studies and is a member of the ITIA Executive Committee*

1. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

Since 2022, I have been working as a full-time freelance translator (from French and Spanish into English) and English-language reviser, under the banner of my business, BolderWords translation & revision. My professional experience with these activities began in the mid-2000s and accompanied me throughout the completion of my Master's and PhD in Translation Studies at the University of Ottawa, in my home country of Canada. My work in revision and translation also comes after my first degree and initial career in contemporary dance, when I was predominantly based in Toronto. These various experiences laid the groundwork for specialising in academic and arts-based texts, among others.

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

I decided to pursue translation/revision as a career rather recently, several months after completing my PhD in the autumn of 2021. This career path appealed to me because I had already had regular translation and revision contracts over the years, knew I enjoyed the work, and had developed a solid skillset in the area. What's more, I knew this career would afford me the flexibility to continue pursuing scholarly interests while working directly on the craft at the centre of my research.

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

One of the most important things I did to launch my career was to set up my company website. I found this process invaluable because it pushed me to make

key decisions—about the company name, about branding, etc.—and to clarify for myself what my experiences, areas of expertise, and priorities as a language professional were. Creating the website also contributed greatly to enabling me to assert a professional identity that corresponded to my profile and values and was accessible to others, including colleagues and clients.

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

Qualifications and ongoing training are crucial to our literacy regarding professional tools and approaches, our understanding of the challenges facing our industry, and our ability to think critically about these tools, approaches and challenges. Training and qualifications are also key to ensuring high standards within the professional translation and interpreting community, which is how we uphold professional ethics and build and maintain trust with the broader society.

5. How do you find clients?

While I have a website, share my business cards, and periodically post on social media, the overwhelming majority of my client connections have been made through word of mouth.

6. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

No, I think it is feasible to be more of a generalist, and I think translation and revision skills are transferable across numerous sectors and domains. However, I also think that most people do end up specialising, either as a result of a deliberate decision to do so or because their personal and professional experiences have encouraged them to sharpen their focus in one area or another.

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

I wouldn't be able to limit myself to just one. I especially enjoy translating/revising scholarly texts, literary works, and material from the worlds of activism and the arts.

'Training and qualifications are key to ensuring high standards'

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

The worst thing about being a translator/reviser is that the work is almost always a solitary activity. This doesn't bother me on a day-to-day basis, but the effects of working solo eventually accumulate, and then I realise how much I have missed socialising during the workday.

For me, the best part about being a translator/reviser is having the opportunity to work at the intersection of languages and ideas, and to solve puzzles inherent in each project.

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

This is an excellent question that I don't yet know the answer to. Relative to my overall professional experience in translation and revision, it is only recently that I have begun to devote myself to this

work full-time, and I see a number of challenges when it comes to trying to ensure a good standard of living in this career while working for yourself. The most significant—and, unfortunately, very familiar—challenge seems to be that, while there is certainly a demand for translators and revisers, there is not necessarily an awareness among potential clients in terms of 1) the time and expertise required to complete the project at hand, and 2) the value of the product that is submitted .

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

My advice to fellow translators and revisers would be:

- 1) Read widely, especially in the language(s) you work into. This enhances your writerly agility and your overall efficiency while working.
- 2) Find simple and enjoyable ways to incorporate physical movement into your workday. It is far too easy to spend the day occupying the same physical position, with the accumulated strain not only adversely affecting our bodies but also interfering with our mental alertness and general mindset. I am a big fan of the Pomodoro Technique, which means that every half hour of work has a 5-minute break built into it, and I find it surprisingly helpful to use many of those breaks for stretching.
- 3) Do your best to communicate clearly with clients throughout the duration of the contract. This helps to ensure everyone is on the same page.
- 4) Charge by the hour. In my experience, the more conventional approach of charging by the word (line, page, etc.) occasionally results in overcharging the client and typically leads to undercharging for the services you provide, which misrepresents and undermines the time, experience and skills involved in producing translations/revisions that respond to the project brief .

FIT Regional Centre for Africa

FIT launches new Regional Centre

FIT Africa, the FIT Regional Centre for Africa, was inaugurated on 29 July 2023 and is the fourth Regional Centre after Europe, Latin America and North America..

FIT Africa currently has six member associations: the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Cameroon (APTIC), the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Congo (ATIPCO), the East Africa Interpreters and Translators Association (EAITA), the Translators and Interpreters Association of Mozambique (ATIM), the Translators Association of Senegal (ASTRA), and the South African Translators' Institute (SATI).

Given that Africa is a continent with over 2,000 recognised languages across more than 50 countries, there is considerable room for FIT to expand there.

The FIT Regional Centres work in line with the concept of subsidiarity – meaning what is best addressed and dealt with at regional level is done at this level.

The following people have been elected to the inaugural Board of FIT Africa:

Chairperson: Vincent Magugu (EAITA)

Treasurer: Léontine Nlomgoi II (APTIC)

Vice-Chairperson: Eleanor Cornelius (SATI)

Vice-Chairperson: Manuel Cabinda (ATIM)

Secretary General: Daouda Gassama (ASTRA)

Our warmest congratulations to the Board of FIT Africa, we wish you every success!

The official launch of FIT Africa will take place at the end of September in Stellenbosch, South Africa, on the occasion of the SATI / ATIM joint conference "Language Practice in Adversarial Times". FIT Executive Committee will be in attendance and the opportunity will be used to celebrate International Translation Day together with the 70th Anniversary of FIT.



Localisation module for literary translators



[Dr Natália Resende](#) is the newly appointed Haddad assistant professor in literary and cultural translation at TCLCT.

TCLCT introduces new localisation module for literary translators

While the Trinity Centre for Literary and Cultural Translation ([TCLCT](#)) bears the words 'literary' in its name, its teaching and research activities are not limited to literary translation. Or, rather, that the understanding of 'literary' includes a broad variety of creative works: from fiction, non-fiction written pieces, to new interactive digital narratives and electronic literature. This broad definition of literature encourages transdisciplinary research and allows for the integration of new technologies and translation practices.

This semester marks a pivotal moment as the Centre introduces an inaugural module on localisation, reflecting its commitment to staying at the forefront of advancements in the translation field. The introduction of this new module in the curricula of the [MPhil in Literary Translation](#) is motivated by the expanding localization market, which provides numerous opportunities for translators in a variety of roles: as project managers, quality controllers or post-editors.

'In-house localisation v. outsourcing'

These categories, often assigned to technical translators, can also be found to be performed by translators of creative texts, as is the case of video game companies who increasingly seek to develop in-house localisation practices, instead of sourcing external translators. Academic institutions, translation schools and university language departments are progressively incorporating localisation programmes into their curricula if they don't already offer it.

The main objective of this new module is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the localisation process through the lens of Translation Studies, nurturing student's critical thinking skills when involved in localisation projects. Students will engage in hands-on, industry-relevant tasks, such as identifying culture-specific items, devising successful strategies to meet the target context's requirements, and understanding the different stages of a localisation project, including costs and time management. They will also explore the relationship between translation studies, as a discipline, and the ways in which Translation Studies' theories may contribute to the development of a localisation project. Lastly, the module will cover aspects such as the collaborative process involved in localisation, the inclusion of new technologies, and their ethical implications, in terms of authorship, translator's rights, and translator's visibility

2022-2023 ITIA Rates Survey

Results of the latest ITIA rates survey

The results of the 2022-2023 ITIA Rates Survey are out and like those of its predecessor in 2018-2019, they are interesting! Under competition law, the ITIA cannot recommend rates so therefore our most recent Rates Survey offers an overview of reported practices of language professionals for 2022, which is useful for translators, interpreters, academics and the wider community in Ireland. While concentrating mostly on rates, the survey also includes information on pension provision and health insurance, among other things.

73 respondents in total took part in the survey; 72 of them ITIA members. 45 respondents reported providing translation only, three interpreting only, and 25 reported providing both services in differing proportions. Most respondents were between 40-60 years of age (60%), female (64.4%), with a Master's degree (59.7%), sole traders (80.8%) and with more than 15 years' experience (65.7%). 47 respondents declared they had undertaken at least ten hours of CPD in 2022 and 17 reported undertaking more than 30 hours of CPD.

The small cohort of survey respondents and the small size of the translation/interpreting market in Ireland mean that the results reported may not be wholly representative of practices implemented elsewhere. However, they do constitute a starting point for discussion and overview.

Translators

To ensure the anonymity of our respondents, only those language combinations with more than one respondent were included. Ten language combinations working into English were reported; seven language combinations working out of English were reported and one language combination without any English or Irish was reported (Italian to French). The most common language combinations reported into English were: German to English; French to English, Polish to English, Spanish to English. The most common combinations reported out of English were: English to German, English to Irish, English to Polish, English French.

The most common unit of payment reported by the respondents was per source word. Some respondents quoted per line, per hour or even per target word. However, these were in the minority and were therefore standardised to allow for analysis and comparison. The respondents provided the rates they charged in 2022 with direct clients and agencies. Differences in rates were noticeable between languages and also between direct clients and agencies.

'ITIA cannot recommend rates under competition law'

For direct clients, the highest rate reported was applicable to German to English with €0.29 per source word. This was followed by French to English with direct clients with €0.22 per source word. The lowest rate reported with direct clients was for Polish to English with €0.05 per source word.

For agencies, the highest rate was reported for English to Polish, English to Russian, English to Ukrainian and Russian to English with €0.20 per source word. The lowest rate reported was for English to French at €0.04 per source word.

56 out of the 70 respondents who provide translation work with CAT tools. The most popular of these tools are undoubtedly SDL products (aka Trados Studio or one of its variants). 20 of the 56 users of CAT tools reported that they did not offer any discount. The remainder reported varying discounts, including applying agency grids or their own discount grids. One reported not offering discounts to direct clients.

Compared to the 2018-2019 Rates Survey, the 2022-2023 Rates Survey lists rates for machine translation post-editing (MTPE). 25 respondents reported providing MTPE and included their rate information in source word and/or per hour. The minimum rate per source word reported was €0.04 while the maximum was €1. The minimum hourly rate was €18 and the maximum was €40.

Responses to the survey also offer insights into other fees applied on an occasional basis. In detail, this included a minimum rate, which was charged by 54 respondents at least some of the time if not always. Other extra fees applied included a rush fee for short turnarounds or a fee for work with poorly legible documents. These were charged by 30 respondents at least some of the time.

Table 1

Number of respondents per language combination into English and per direct clients/agencies

Number of respondents for	Direct clients	Agencies
Danish into English	2	2
Dutch into English	2	2
French into English	9	9
German into English	10	9
Italian into English	2	3
Norwegian into English	2	2
Polish into English	6	4
Russian into English	3	3
Spanish into English	5	5
Swedish into English	3	3

Table 2

Number of respondents per language combination out of English and per direct clients/agencies

Number of respondents for	Direct clients	Agencies
English into Dutch	2	2
English into French	6	6
English into German	8	6
English into Irish	6	8
English into Polish	8	5
English into Russian	4	4
English into Ukrainian	2	2

Interpreters

Three respondents provided interpreting services only and a further 25 provided interpreting sometimes. 22 were self-employed, four owned a company and two were employees. Seven of the respondents worked in conference/business settings only, ten of them worked in Public Service Interpreting only, nine worked in both, and four of them did not provide the information

Only seven language combinations included more than one response. These were:

English to Polish, Polish to English, Romanian to English, Spanish to English, French to English, Italian to English and Ukrainian to English.

The respondents reported hourly, half-day and/or day rates. The respondents who only provided conference and/or business interpreting tended not to provide an hourly rate (although some did) but rather a day or even half-day rate, as is common in that industry.

There were important differences between the rates paid to interpreters according to settings. For conference/business settings only, the rates varied between €500 and €700 per day; for PSI settings only, the rates varied between €144 and €400 per day.

‘Rates paid to interpreters vary according to settings’

Similarly, there were strong differences between the proportion of direct clients and agencies in different interpreting settings. Respondents who work solely in PSI settings tend to have mostly agencies as clients while respondents who work in conference/business interpreting settings tend to deal mostly with direct clients .

Technology has also had an important impact on the interpreting profession. The majority of respondents reported offering either remote simultaneous interpreting and/or telephone interpreting.

Overall, the results show a variety of language combinations and rates charged by translators and interpreters.

We would like to thank all of the respondents for taking the time to complete this very worthwhile survey and we hope that our members and Bulletin readers find this summary useful.

Sarah Berthaud

Miriam Watchorn

ITIA Executive Committee

Snippets

ITIA Translation competition

This is the 8th consecutive year that the ITIA has run the secondary school translation competition. Over these eight years we have gradually added more languages, beginning with five in 2016 and rising to 11 this year with the option of English into Irish as well as Ukrainian. We were delighted with the level of interest in the competition this year and would like to thank students and their teachers for participating in the translation competition. We received 119 entries in total, across all the language combinations. We do hope that they enjoyed the texts and, of course, translating them.

The **winners**, who will receive a €100 prize, were from all over Ireland and our congratulations go to:

Chinese: Tierney Wei

Dominican College, Taylors Hill, Galway

English into Irish: Fionnán Ó Baoighill

Institue of Educatiion ,Dublin

French: Anne Grundy

St.Louis Secondary School, Monaghan

German: Niamh McCarroll

Our Lady's' Bower, Athlone

Irish: Fionnán Ó Baoighill

Institue of Education, Dublin

Italian: Cayden O'Rourke

Coláiste Chiaráin, Croom, Limerick

Japanese: Karen Akaura

North Wicklow Educate Together SS, Bray

Polish: Zofia Bielicka

St. Finian's College, Mullingar

Portuguese:Caio Ferreira de Paula

Causeway Community School, Kerry

Spanish: Sadhbh Clifford

Muckross Park College, Dublin

Ukrainian: Daryna Khrystiuk

Causeway Community School, Kerry

ITIA Exams

The Bulletin never likes to miss an opportunity to remind and encourage readers and members about the possibility of further professional qualifications to raise their profile.

The Professional Membership (PM) and Certified Legal Translator (CLT) subcommittees have just finalised the dates for deadlines, workshops and exams.

The mandatory workshop for those considering applying for the PM exam will take place on Saturday, 11 November 2023, from 11am to 12 midday. The workshop is free of charge and is also open to anyone interested in finding out about professional membership at the ITIA.



The deadline for applications for PM membership is 5 pm, Friday, 24 November 2023. Applications will be accepted by email only.

The PM exams will be held on Friday, 23 February 2024 and Saturday, 24 February 2024.

The CLT workshop, which is mandatory for all CLT exam applicants (only ITIA PMs may apply) and open to all existing CLTs, will be held on Thursday, 19 October 2023 (time TBD) with the exams taking place on Thursday, 9 November and Friday, 10 November 2023.

Most importantly, the deadline for applications for CLT is 5pm, Friday, 13 October 2023.

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

Obituary

Certified Legal Translator status

Every year since 2006, the ITIA runs an examination leading to the professional qualification of ITIA Certified Legal Translator. This examination is open to all professional members in the language combinations for which they have obtained professional membership.

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

Certified translations are generally used for legal, state, contractual or immigration purposes. Typical documents are birth certs, court transcripts, incorporation documents and academic transcripts.

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

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

Miriam Watchorn

Edith Grossman 1936 - 2023

Edith Grossman, ITIA Honorary member 2013, came to Dublin in May of that year to give a public interview followed by the conferment of her award. The following day she gave a masterclass at ITIA's then home, the Irish Writers Centre. Her work preceded her – translator of works by Mario Varga Llosa, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Carlos Fuentes, Ariel Dorfman and others, but of special mention was her translation of Miquel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote de la Mancha* (2003). She famously succeeded in having her name on the front cover of the translation, something that translators of today are still fighting for. She was a great advocate and champion of translators and laid out her views on this in her book *Why Translation Matters* (2010). In her introduction she answered the title question with "I believe it matters for the same reasons and in the same way literature matters – because it is crucial to our sense of ourselves as humans."



What's HOT

For the first time, Dublin's 2023 Fringe Festival offered three performances with [ISL interpretation](#). The DFF says that this new initiative "Aims to bridge the gap between the stage and Deaf audiences and is a vital step in recognising the cultural heritage of the Irish Deaf Community."

This commission was led by artist and Deaf interpreter, Lianne Quigley and a team made up of six interpreters, two Deaf and four hearing and their participation allowed for an enriched and more inclusive experience for those attending team.

What's NOT HOT

[Gizmodo](#), described as a 'technology, science and science fiction website', started out as a blog in 2002 and then grew by forming alliances with other media organisations around the world. The Spanish version of the site, which receives over 2 million visits per year, was up until last August looked after by a small team of Spanish translators. They were relieved of their positions that month and reportedly replaced by MT. Yes indeed, AI can leave you without your job.

Worth-a-click

Concerns about the dwindling number of readers of translated literature seem to have somewhat abated according to this [article](#), which speaks of a renewed interest by a younger generation in reading the work of writers from all around the world. A recent book buyer survey revealed that sales of translated fiction had increased by 22% and most of the buyers were under 35. Makes for positive reading!

[Translation as Activism](#) is a new community-driven project which is exploring ways to combine translation and activism, an act of solidarity, to serve members of marginalised communities. The first event, a two-day international [workshop](#), was held in Cork, 26 and 27 September 2023.

AI yet again makes its presence felt in the world of interpreting and this [article](#) from the English version of *El País* gives a detailed account of a demonstration of recent automatic interpreting technology developed by a company called Kudo. Kudo does state that where high levels of accuracy are required, human interpreters will be 'the best option'.

Dr Lorraine Leeson, Professor in Deaf Studies at TCD and ITIA honorary member, has contributed an [analysis](#) on [RTE Brainstorm](#) [add link 5] about how ISL interpreters have become familiar faces on the TV in Ireland in recent years. She talks not only about what ISL interpreters do and how sign language works but also gives us the historical context for signers, who, unbeknownst to most of us, have been working in Ireland for hundreds of years.

New Members

New Associate Members

Debbie Bough

French into English

Nuria de Cos Lara

English < > Spanish

Shauna Hargan

German into English

Spanish into English

Iweta Kulczycka

English < > Polish

Magdalena Szwarckopf

English < > Polish

New Student Member

Yokebed González-Rendón

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

Postal address:

36 Fenian Street, Dublin 2, Ireland

Email:

info@translatorsassociation.ie

Web:

www.translatorsassociation.ie

ITIA Bulletin

Coeditors

Anne Larchet
Cristina Barroso
bulletin@translatorsassociation.ie

Proofreader

Penelope Eades-Alvarez

Design

Róisín Ryan
roryan.com

Layout

Graziano Ciulli

To subscribe to the ITIA Bulletin, send an email to itiabulletin+subscribe@groups.io

ITIA Executive Committee 2022-2023

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Mary Phelan

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Anne Larchet
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