

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

The voice of associations of translators, terminologists and interpreters around the world

TRANSLATIO

No. 2, 2020 FIT Newsletter



President's message

Kevin Quirk

Dear FIT Members,

I hope, wherever you are in the world, that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. So much has changed since our last issue of *Translatio*, and for many of us, the current world is unrecognisable. And while translators, terminologists and interpreters are working tirelessly at the forefront of this global crisis to communicate vital information to those who need it, others are experiencing hardship from the resulting economic fallout. FIT, its Regional Centres and our member associations have been hard at work communicating with and on behalf of language professionals to help them navigate this new and ever-changing landscape. You can read about many of these initiatives in this issue, including one by the FIT Europe Regional Centre to create heat maps of assistance for translators and interpreters in Europe

to both inform member associations of the resources available and help encourage countries with less assistance to increase their response.

Having been forced to cancel its face-to-face Council meeting in Barcelona, which coincided with Sant Jordi's Day, FIT held its spring meeting via Zoom, the online platform we are all learning to love – some more than others. Thanks go to our friends at the Association of Professional Translators and Interpreters of Catalonia (APTIC) for agreeing to postpone our physical Council meeting until next year, and to FIT Secretary General Réal Paquette, who helped orchestrate the 16-hour-long multi-day meetings over many time zones. Council also made the tough but necessary decision to postpone the much anticipated XXII FIT World Congress, originally scheduled for this coming December, the announcement for which you can read in

the following pages. The host organisation, the Association of Cuban Translators and Interpreters (ACTI) and FIT will look forward to welcoming you in 2021, and we will communicate the updated details to you as soon as they are firmed up.

While these times are sure to pose unforeseen challenges for many, they can also be a period of reflection and opportunity. We are asking ourselves how we can serve our members better and convey to the wider world that language professionals will play an essential role in helping the world overcome this crisis and thrive in the years to come. Our priority areas have evolved in light of COVID-19, but our mission remains resolutely the same: to be the voice of associations of translators, terminologists and interpreters around the world.

Happy reading and be well,

Kevin Quirk, president@fit-ift.org

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Publication Director: Kevin Quirk

Copy editors: Helga Benigni-Cokan, Marion Dislaire, Ben Karl, Sandra Mouton, Réal Paquette, Marita Propato

Translation: Nelia Fahloun, Alice Jones, Sidonie Larato

Art Director: Jaroslav Soltys

Contact: translatio@fit-ift.org

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Registered office: c/o Regus, 57 rue d'Amsterdam, 75008 Paris, France

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FIT and ACTI postpone the XXII FIT World Congress in Varadero, Cuba for one year

Given the global spread of the coronavirus and the uncertainty of when the world may return to normal, FIT Council has, in close collaboration with the host organisation, the Association of Cuban Translators and Interpreters (ACTI), resolved to postpone for a period of one year the XXII FIT World Congress that was due to be held in Varadero, Cuba on 3–5 December 2020.

In our opinion, the FIT World Congress and the FIT Statutory Congress, which was scheduled to be held on 1–2 December 2020, are inextricably linked. Common to both these events is that they bring together from all parts of the world translators, terminologists and interpreters so

that they may network, share examples of best practice and celebrate our professions, all in an environment that showcases the warmth and hospitality of the Cuban people. We do not believe it would be possible to achieve this in a virtual setting and for this reason we have preferred to postpone both events and hope for better times.

FIT Council has invoked Article 23 of the FIT Bylaws, which allows FIT Council, in *force majeure* situations, to postpone the Statutory Congress for a period of up to one year.

While the venue will remain the same, the exact dates of the rescheduled congresses will be announced next month. Once

we know them, we will issue information about new deadlines (for registration, submission of papers, nominations for awards, etc.).

We should not forget that FIT is a global organisation with members in all parts of the world. The COVID-19 virus will likely affect different parts of the world at different times, and it is only fair that we consider those who may not yet have experienced the ravagings of this pandemic.

FIT and ACTI stand together in wishing to reschedule and in wishing you welcome to Varadero, Cuba when the world is a safer place and we can all celebrate together!

Thank you for your understanding!

Kevin Quirk, FIT President

FIT Council: Zooming into focus Or squeezing two days in Barcelona into 16 hours online

The decision to abandon FIT Council's physical meeting in Barcelona did not come as a surprise, even though as late as mid-March, I was personally still prepared to swap a few days in Scotland for the books and roses of Sant Jordi in Barcelona. A week later, we accepted the inevitable: the 2020 face-to-face FIT Council meeting would take place over Zoom.

I must admit I like online meetings. As an ITI Board member in 2010, I was pleased to bring about a change to teleconferences and video calls. While it is lovely to see the other FIT Council members at least once a year, it is difficult to justify travelling halfway around the world for meetings every two or three months.

One major challenge for the Council was the plethora of time zones. Accommodating members from Utah to New South Wales was tricky. We stretch around the globe from UTC-7 to UTC+10, meaning when we started at 5am in Salt Lake City, it was already 9pm in Sydney. And because we were squeezing what would have

been two full days of physical meetings into as few Zoom sessions as possible, the meetings were long. Consequently, we needed to be succinct, and pleasantries were limited to swapping notes on DIY lockdown haircuts. We meant business!

With no hint of complaint, I will tell you that the agenda was not just long, it was looooooong. The timing of this meeting means there is always a lot of business to discuss and vital matters to examine in detail.

Unfortunately, the Congress meant to take place this year in Varadero has been postponed. Nevertheless, Council is determined that our Cuban hosts should have the opportunity to extend their famous hospitality to the world, and we hope we will see many of you there in person in 2021. We will inform you as soon as we have nailed down the specifics.

Other Council matters remain unaffected by COVID-19. The figures continue to show that FIT is under-resourced. We simply do not have the funds to do everything we want to do (or everything members

want us to do). The conversation on how to remedy this is difficult and will be increasingly so in straitened post-pandemic days. On the other hand, the Strategy Task Force has proposed a promising new draft strategy to give voice to translators, terminologists and interpreters that we are eager to share with you soon.

Another key part of our work to tell the world about what our members do is International Translation Day. It is appropriate in this time that we recognise the contributions of our professional linguists to the international response to this crisis. We are finalising the exact wording as we speak, and we are sure you will approve of the sentiment to recognise this work.

Though it was not possible to squeeze two days of Catalonian sunshine through a fibre optic cable into my office, we successfully got through our agenda. I am sure the books and roses of Sant Jordi will wait, and I look forward to the chance to enjoy them.

Iwan Davies (ITI), FIT Council

Translating for magicians

Francesca Novajra (Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters, AITI) is a translator with more than 20 years of experience translating fiction and non-fiction for children, young adults and adults from English and French into Italian. She is currently AITI's representative at CEATL (European Council of Literary Translators Associations). In 2017, she won the FIT Astrid Lindgren Prize for her work.

FIT: What does it mean to you to be part of a translators association?

Novajra: Sharing professional ethics, common objectives and fellowship among colleagues. Because unity is strength. Translation can be lonely, and literary translators are freelancers with often poorly paid, insecure and unprotected jobs. Together, we can be stronger.

How did you feel when you learned that you had won the FIT Astrid Lindgren Prize?

I burst into tears. I couldn't believe it. Such an award from colleagues from all over the world, translators like me. It was the greatest honour. Translators are humble creatures, we are used to staying behind the scenes, but our work is as vital as it is invisible and sensitive. As Aidan Chambers said once, "Translators are the synapses of our culture. Their work connects us to other, different ways of living and thinking and imagining, and the connections they make enrich us". Being awarded a prize named after one of the greatest and most revolutionary children's authors, Astrid Lindgren, was particularly meaningful for me.

How would you describe the art and craft of translating children's and young adult literature?

Very challenging. As Astrid Lindgren said, "Only children perform miracles when they read". Children are particularly attentive listeners, readers and critics. And excellent jugglers of words. True magicians. As a translator, you have to listen to words with the right ear, with no superstructures and a lot of imagination. Translating a book for children means rewriting, revoicing words and pictures, conveying the same feelings and emotions, but also wordplays, jokes, rhymes and names. If you don't find the right translation for a name, it won't work in the story.

Translating children's and juvenile literature is just as if not more difficult than translating literature for grown-ups. The fact that the readers are kids does not make it simpler, despite what many people unfortunately still believe. The challenges are the same, but child literary translators also have to consider target age groups, fit words into a certain layout, accompany pictures ('a third dimension', as Anthea Bell called them) and sometimes comply with the expectations of adults (parents and publishers) and a certain fear of using expressions and concepts that could sound difficult or culturally strange. I think that kids will broaden their minds if they can read the otherness of a foreign culture and can only



Francesca Novajra

grow by exploring new words and new worlds that spark their curiosity.

Nevertheless, translations of kids, teen and YA books are still paid less, which is unfair, and in many countries, there are no royalties. There should be more grants for child literary translations to be able to publish authors of languages that otherwise would not be translated. "Good literature gives the child a place in the world", said Astrid Lindgren. And kids have the right to read good and well-translated literature.

As in past years, FIT will award FIT prizes during the FIT Congress to be held in Varadero, Cuba. Nominations may be submitted until 1 July 2021.

For more details and to access the nomination form, visit the FIT website [here](#). For countries where the FIT website is currently blocked, please click [here](#). Please take this opportunity to nominate outstanding colleagues for the FIT prizes as recognition of them as a recognition for them as individuals and to demonstrate the work and accomplishments of your association's members. Associations may nominate one candidate per prize. All FIT member associations are encouraged to submit nominations.

FIT Awards Committee

Asetrad confronts COVID-19

From the moment health authorities and governments in Spain and around the world began to take steps to halt the spread of the coronavirus, the entire Management Board of the Spanish Association of Translators, Editors and Interpreters (Asetrad) focussed on and followed everything that was happening with the single aim of making the best possible decisions for the good of Asetrad and, of course, its members.

Essentially, we took two initiatives: the first relating to our social networks, and the second relating to our [annual meeting](#).

We launched the #AsetradSeQuedaEnCasa (Asetrad stays home) campaign on social media, with the goal that by using the hashtag, our members could share advice on how to get through being isolated at home, messages of encouragement and amusing anecdotes about what has been happening to them in recent weeks.

Unfortunately, but understandably, Asetrad has been forced to postpone our annual meeting. The public events will now be held on 1 and 2 October and the brainstorming session and annual general meeting will be held on 3 and 4 October. This was not an easy decision to make, but we believe that it is the most responsible and sensible one at this time. We have a responsibility as members of the public to help protect the health and safety of our colleagues.

We hope that we will be able to enjoy the programme that we have prepared this autumn. Of the many excellent talks and roundtables, I would like to highlight one on the present and future of associations in our industry, in which Dagmar Jenner, president of UNIVERSITAS, and Kevin Quirk, president of FIT, among others, will take part. We hope to see many of our colleagues from our big FIT family in Madrid during the event.

Given the likelihood that the current situation will have a negative impact on our work and finances, Asetrad's Management Board has decided that there will no longer be two types of registration, as we had originally planned. Instead, the early-bird registration rate will apply until registration closes on 15 September. This is our small way of standing with you during these difficult



times, and we hope that many translators, editors and interpreters will be able to join us. Registration, which we had temporarily closed until we had more information from the health authorities, has now resumed.

It is also worth mentioning that our annual meeting coincides with the Madrid Book Fair, which has also been postponed and will be held from 2 to 18 October. We would like to invite you to visit our booth and, if you have not already had the opportunity to do so, discover one of Madrid's many other major cultural events.

María Galán Barrera, President of Asetrad
presidencia@asetrad.org

Courts closed and hearings cancelled

In a nutshell, this is what Austrian court interpreters and translators have been dealing with for months. It had loomed on the horizon for quite a while before becoming a reality on 16 March. While there was some optimism at first that the use of remote interpreting would increase, maintaining a certain level of court interpreting activity, it soon became obvious with every email we received that hearings were being postponed for months

or cancelled altogether. Translation work continued to come in, but as lawyers, court clerks and businesses are on a complete lockdown, with staff required to work from home (if at all), assignments became shorter and less frequent as time went on. Before we reached complete professional hibernation, balmy spring weather made us realise that life does go on, which means there are bills and taxes to pay. Fortunately, government

measures are helping freelancers to preserve some basic income, and applications to lower social security contributions are being accepted. One big surprise was that Alma Zadic, our new Minister of Justice, did not postpone a meeting with Andrea Bernardini, the president of the Austrian Association of Court Interpreters (ÖVGD), but insisted on meeting with her and other board members via Zoom.

For decades, ÖVGD had scheduled our AGM one or two weeks before Easter, so we kept our fingers crossed that meetings of up to 100 attendees would still be allowed on 26 March but – again – it was cancelled with no idea as to when future meetings will be possible. By some lucky

coincidence, we scheduled the celebration of ÖVGD's 100-year anniversary for 9 October. We are still optimistic that we will be able to meet on that day and that many friends and colleagues will join us. We will let you know more about this event (and the exhibition on the Nuremberg Trial

“One Trial – Four Languages”, which we plan to stage in conjunction with the anniversary), once we can be sure that the coronavirus will not interfere with our anniversary plans.

Liese Katschinka, ÖVGD

ITI: Supporting our members

The Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) has been working hard to support its members during the COVID-19 pandemic and joined forces recently with the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) to send a letter to the UK Prime Minister asking for support for the self-employed. The self-employment income support scheme has now been announced for the UK.

The Institute has also launched its weekly virtual coffee mornings for members to help raise spirits and bring members together over this period. Panellists, including representatives from ITI Regional Groups, chat about their work, ITI activities and their lives. Other features so far have included apps panellists find useful in their work; enjoyable TV programmes and films that will help with language skills and continuing professional development; and there is always a quiz based around articles that have appeared in previous issues of the *ITI Bulletin*.



At times like this it is important to feel part of a supportive community of fellow professionals, and so the Institute has been asking members to keep sharing their thoughts and ideas using the hashtag #ITICommunity.

Many of the ITI Networks and Regional Groups are also organising online events and virtual meet-ups.

The Institute is currently conducting one of its regular Pulse Surveys; this is a short

Kathryn Slater @kes_xl8 · 27 Mar

Thank you for organising this, @ITIUK! A welcome break from everything and a great chance to get know members more, even if it's only virtually for now 😊 #ITICommunity

ITI Official site @ITIUK · 27 Mar

Match the mugs to the panelists. The @ITIUK virtual coffee morning is underway with a great turnout from the #ITICommunity.

Bring Your Own Beverage (BYOB)

1 comment, 5 likes, share icon

Kate Stansfield @KateStans26 · Mar 27

Feeling a little emotional, listening in to the #ITI's Virtual Coffee Morning this morning.

What a wonderful community we are part of, as translators and interpreters.

How amazing to feel understood and supported in our unique situation.

#ITICommunity #translation

1 comment, 13 likes, share icon

survey that takes place twice a year to gauge market trends impacting our members. The spring survey includes questions on how the COVID-19 pandemic has been affecting their working lives, and the findings will be made available in June.

The Institute will continue to monitor developments and adapt its programme to meet the needs of members and a fast-evolving situation.

*ITI Communications Team
Institute of Translation and Interpreting*

Two posters from Argentina

¿EN QUÉ IDIOMA TE LO DECIMOS?

Quedate en casa
#YoMeQuedoEnCasa #QuedateEnCasa

Stay home
#StayHome

Rimani a casa
#IoRestoACasa

Restez chez vous
#JeResteChezMoi #RestezChezVous

Fique em casa
#EuFicoEmCasa

Bleibt Zuhause
#wirbleibenzuhause

Zostań w domu
#zostajewdomu #zostanwdomu

Я остаюсь дома
#Яостаюсьдома

自宅待機
#外出禁止

أنت إبقى في منزلك
#انا_أبقى_في_منزلي

CTPSF Colegio de Traductores de la Provincia de Santa Fe Primera Circunscripción

AL VIRUS LO COMBATIMOS CON TU AYUDA. #COVID19 #CORONAVIRUS #CUARENTENATOTAL

Many languages, one goal

At the beginning of the worldwide campaign to counteract the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Translators Association of the Province of Santa Fe (Argentina) designed a poster that included the popular phrase “stay home” in different languages, with translations provided by our members. This small contribution from our organisation shows that, regardless of the language we speak, this important message remains the same.

Volunteering during the pandemic

To help during the global crisis caused by COVID-19, and following the example of other professional associations in Argentina and around the world, the Translators Association of the Province of Santa Fe has made the translation and interpretation services of its members available to the community. The aim is to provide free assistance to those who, as a result of the pandemic, need help overcoming language barriers, whether they are Argentinian nationals abroad or foreigners in our province.

Silvia Bacco, CTPSF
info@silviabacco.com.ar

CTPSF Colegio de Traductores de la Provincia de Santa Fe Primera Circunscripción

COLEGIO DE TRADUCTORES
DE LA PROVINCIA DE SANTA FE, 2.º CIRC.

En la provincia de Santa Fe contamos con un listado de **TRADUCTORES E INTÉRPRETES VOLUNTARIOS** que ofrecen asistencia idiomática durante la emergencia sanitaria generada por la **PANDEMIA DE LA COVID-19**

¿A QUIÉNES ESTÁ DESTINADO?
A quienes, como consecuencia de esta pandemia, requieran asistencia debido a barreras idiomáticas.

¿CÓMO SOLICITARLO?
A través de las dos circunscripciones del CTPSF, por correo electrónico o por WhatsApp durante el horario de atención habitual.

Sede Santa Fe (1.º Circ.): colegio@traductoresantafe.org.ar | (0342) 155 345 141 | www.traductoresantafe.org.ar
Sede Rosario (2.º Circ.): colegio@traductoresrosario.org.ar | www.traductoresrosario.org.ar

Utilizá siempre los servicios de un traductor matriculado

COVID-19: freelancers are not variables in the supply chain

As the coronavirus crisis continues, the Société Française des Traducteurs (SFT) has been alerted by many of its members to what sometimes amounts to abusive practices by their clients. SFT has set out its response in a press release that stresses that freelancers are not variables in the supply chain, while commending the positive initiatives launched by some businesses.

Although the press release was originally aimed at readers in France, its message ultimately concerns translators and interpreters around the world. For example, the regulations surrounding payment terms referred to in the press release are transposed from European Union directives and as such apply to at least all businesses within the EU. Similarly, France is far from being the only country to have put measures in place to support businesses during this period, which has been challenging for us all.

SFT has published an English version of the press release, which has been

circulated by the FIT Europe regional centre. Please feel free to share widely!

PRESS RELEASE

The health crisis we are experiencing is a source of concern, particularly for the economic health of small businesses and the independent professions. As such, SFT (Société française des traducteurs), French union for the translation and interpreting professions, would like to reiterate that freelancers and small businesses are not variables in the supply chain, but are central to the translation process.

Payment terms are strictly regulated by law in France. The term of payment between companies is fixed in principle on the 30th day following the execution of the service and may not exceed 60 days from invoicing (or 45 days from the end of the month). This time limit was agreed after negotiations between freelancers/small businesses and their clients and may under no circumstance be amended unilaterally by either party.

Similarly, some large translation companies are using the current situation as an excuse to impose fee reductions of between 10% and 20% on their suppliers who are very often very small companies and freelancers already weakened by the current crisis where the slowdown in activity is having an impact on their order books. Here again, it is not up to the client companies to unilaterally set the prices for the services they purchase.

France has introduced financial aid for firms in difficulty. The current health crisis can therefore in no way justify such unfair, unethical, abusive or even illegal practices.

Furthermore, SFT would also like to commend the initiative of clients who have offered to pay their freelancers and small business suppliers ahead of time. In this difficult situation for all companies, SFT calls on everyone to show solidarity and respect. Because, we will only get through this crisis together!

For more information about SFT, please visit www.sft.fr

Société française des traducteurs

OTTIAQ: spring 2020 and COVID-19

The Ordre des Traducteurs, Terminologues et Interprètes Agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) stands united with health-care workers during this period of crisis. We are also keen to highlight the role of language professionals, who are helping in the fight against COVID-19 by using their skills to communicate urgent notifications and important messages from health authorities.

Like many other national governments, the Canadian government has put several measures in place to combat the pandemic. OTTIAQ has similarly taken precautions to reduce the impact on our employees and members and fulfil our remit to protect the public.

Remote working

The whole team is working from home until further notice but can be reached using their usual contact details. This is allowing

us to protect our employees while still supporting our members.

Membership fees deferred

To support our members during this challenging period, OTTIAQ has put back the deadline for 2020–2021 membership renewals and fee payments to 1 June 2020.

Webinars

As training is an important part of continuing professional development, OTTIAQ has announced that all in-person training events scheduled between now and the autumn will be delivered as webinars. There is a 25% discount on these webinars, which are available to members and non-members in Canada and around the world.

For more information, visit OTTIAQ's [website](http://www.ottiaq.org).

In line with current guidance, our spring events (the Youth Committee drinks

reception, certification ceremony and open day) have also been postponed.

FAQs

Given the current crisis, some of our members are concerned and have many questions they would like answered. We have therefore compiled some frequently asked questions (which can be accessed via our member zone) to provide support and direct members to helpful resources. We have tried to cover as wide a range of subjects as possible, from anxiety to loss of work, membership fees and much more. The FAQs are being updated as the situation develops.

We at OTTIAQ hope our colleagues in Quebec and around the world stay safe and well, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Ordre des Traducteurs, Terminologues et Interprètes Agréés du Québec

Impact of COVID-19: FIT Europe surveys members

As the COVID-19 crisis unfolded, it became increasingly clear that freelance interpreters and translators would be severely impacted, and FIT Europe sprang into action. While countries around Europe went into lockdown, governments began announcing packages of measures for those who had lost incomes and livelihoods.

FIT Europe drafted a short survey to ask member associations how their countries were handling the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on freelance interpreters and translators and what types of measures were being taken, including monthly income replacements/single payments, tax/social security deferrals, help with mortgage/rent payments, etc. Member associations began responding almost immediately and have continued to update FIT Europe regularly as their local rules change.

Using the data that was gathered, FIT Europe developed an infographic for each country with an association that had responded to the survey. If several member associations from the same country responded, the data

was collated into a single infographic. Contributors have been duly acknowledged. The infographics and a more detailed text were then posted to the FIT Europe website on a rolling blog, allowing for updates as they became available. Countries that had not initially announced measures but went on to announce them as the crisis deepened were added as announcements were made.

Given that not all countries have announced measures and the wide range of measures enacted, FIT Europe also decided to visualise the data as heatmaps to indicate the level of support being offered to freelance interpreters and translators around Europe. Again, as more responses were received or as measures changed, the heatmaps were updated to provide an up-to-date snapshot.

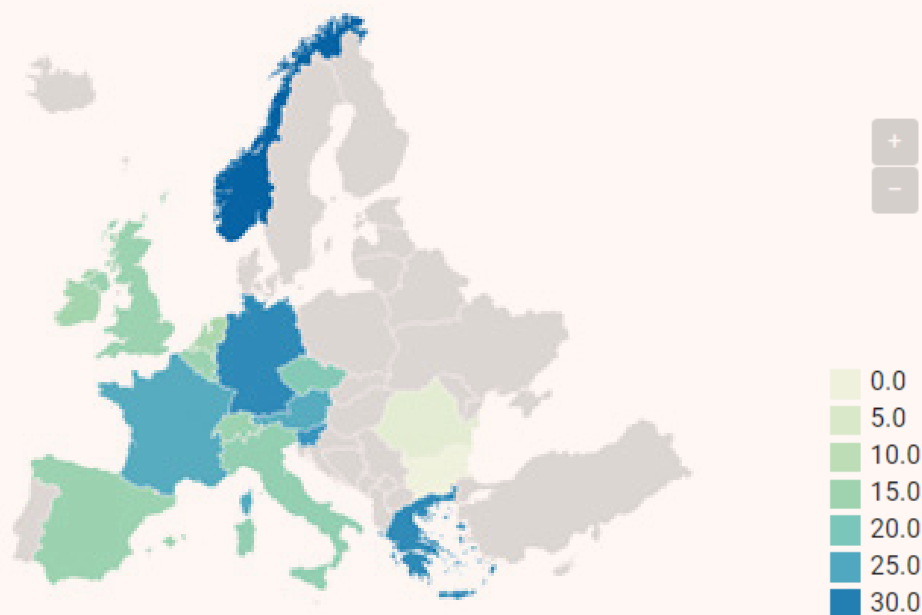
FIT Europe also launched a freelancer survey to gauge how much freelancers have been impacted by the crisis and whether they had availed of the support offered by national governments. By the time the survey closed, 96.7% of respondents

reported being affected, but only 18.3% had applied for support from their governments and a massive 62% planned to do so if the crisis continued and their work continued to be impacted.

“What these visualisations and the survey show is that there are glaring gaps across Europe in the level of support being offered. Our hope is that the data might be used by member associations in less fortunate countries to persuade their governments to respond based on what is being done for freelance professionals elsewhere. However, it appears that accessing financial support is anything but straightforward – anywhere. The problems are diverse: application processes are confusing; schemes are not designed for the freelance working model; freelancers are earning too much or too little, or have to close down their businesses to apply; support is only available after three months; interpreters may not apply, but hairdressers may, and the list goes on,” said Annette Schiller, chair of FIT Europe.

[FIT Europe Regional Centre](#)

Measures around Europe in response to COVID-19 to support interpreters and translators



The higher the figure / the darker the colour in the heatmap, the more comprehensive support national governments are offering to freelance translators and interpreters. Grey indicates zero data provided so far (9/4/2020)

Map: FIT Europe • Source: Data provided by member associations • [Get the data](#) • Created with [Datawrapper](#)

GDPR confusion continues two years on

As the second anniversary of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) approaches, it has become part and parcel of translators' lives, not just in Europe, but around the globe. Yet many vital questions remain unanswered.

Let's take two examples.

Peter lives in the US. He was contacted by a translation agency in Germany he has never dealt with before and asked to sign a data processing agreement. After reading it, he had about 20 questions he wasn't sure about.

Giovanni asks if Claudia can keep some sworn translations she had done for him, as he might need them in the future. Having done some GDPR training, Claudia was not totally sure of the answer.

Two translators, two different settings. Just two of countless possible GDPR scenarios. Two enduring themes: confusion and complexity.

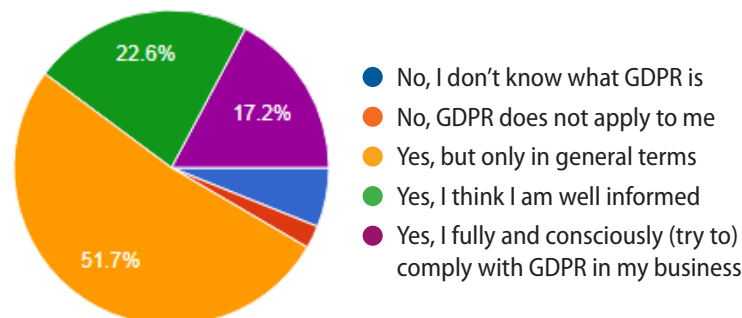
It's precisely because of cases like Peter's and Claudia's that FIT Europe initiated a project to develop guidelines tailored to freelance translators and interpreters. After officially launching the project at the BDÜ conference, FIT Europe surveyed translation and interpreting associations in Europe as well as individual freelancers between December 2019 and January 2020 to see whether they knew enough about the GDPR, have done enough to implement it, and actually understand what is required of them.

The surveys attracted a strong response (around 1,300 freelancers and 55 associations) and revealed that confusion still reigns supreme among members of our profession. Although the survey results show there is interest in the GDPR, only about one third of the respondents have taken action to implement data protection measures in their businesses. Put differently, two thirds of freelancers don't consider themselves well informed about all aspects of the GDPR. 10% of respondents didn't even know if the GDPR applies to them, and about half of respondents stated that they were waiting for clearer guidelines.

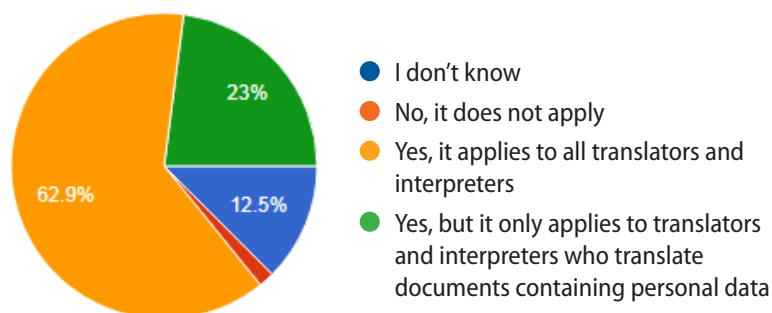
FIT Europe's initial hypothesis has proven true, and the need for guidelines is more pressing than ever. With that in mind, the data is currently being analysed in more depth. Expect updates in the near future. Next steps involve bringing together a group of experts to examine the issues brought up by associations and freelancers in the survey relating to their own work. The experts will then convene to discuss their views and formulate a position paper. A conference outlining the jointly agreed position is planned (most likely a Translating Europe workshop) and guidelines that apply across borders will be published based on the outcome of these two events.

John O'Shea, Board Member, FIT Europe
privacy@fit-europe-rc.org

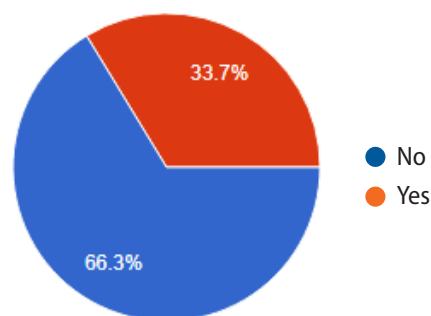
General interest in GDPR



Is GDPR applicable to translators and interpreters?



Have you taken part in GDPR training events?



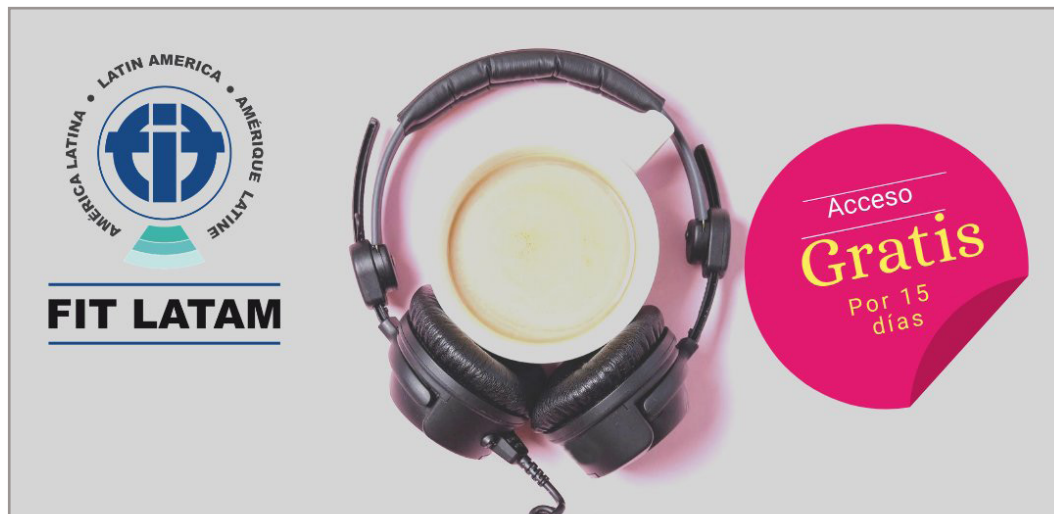
LatAm strengthens collaborative initiatives during pandemic

FIT LatAm member associations have joined forces during these unprecedented times. We have reiterated the “stay home, stay safe” message; shared academic materials, free webinars and training playlists; and translated and disseminated the call by FIT, WASLI and AIIC to raise awareness of the dire situation of interpreters.

Associations have not been immune to the effects of COVID-19 and have had to cancel or postpone highly anticipated in-person events, such as the CITI Lima Congress, and a range of seminars traditionally held during international book fairs, which organisers have also called off. We hope these events will take place when the pandemic is behind us and we can meet in person again. What a welcome day that will be!

Many associations have adopted ways to adjust to the new normal of social distancing. Board and committee meetings have migrated to online platforms, as have courses and programmes hosted jointly with universities, leading to increased administrative work and technological upgrades. To ease the burden these unusual circumstances have placed on members, some associations have offered more flexible options for paying annual dues.

This extreme situation has given us the opportunity to test our resilience as organisations that are consistently available for our members and to continue providing meaningful services to our communities. For example, ANTIO offered voluntary remote collaboration to the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Health and Public Security of Costa Rica to help overcome communication barriers for those affected by the pandemic. The Cordoba Sworn Translators Association in Argentina made its roster of translators and interpreters who were willing to work as volunteers available for passengers affected by the lockdown-related travel crisis, an initiative that was replicated by the Santa Fe Association. ATPP in Peru organised a seminar encouraging



"Playlist" de las charlas FIT LatAm

Esta semana:

«Normas de gestión de calidad y terminología para traductores»

(Ofrecida en 2016)

Oradora: **Silvia Bacco**

Asociación organizadora:



#QuédateEnCasa

#SeminariosFITLatAm

#AprendamosJuntos

Flyer of the FIT LatAm Webinar Playlist: every week, a different webinar from the 2018–2019 series is made available, in addition to the webinar series that was already launched for 2020.

e-learning initiatives during COVID-19, while other associations shared high quality publications and newsletters.

The FIT LatAm Council has remained active and introduced a new edition of its free webinar series on the FIT Zoom platform. ACTTI Colombia hosted an interesting talk by Alberto Bejarano on palimpsests and literary translation, which was open to non-LatAm association members and drew more than 130 participants. Our Regional Centre further strengthened its social media presence by opening an Instagram [account](#).

We would like to thank those colleagues who have shared their knowledge and

expertise by participating in mentoring programmes, delivering webinars, or volunteering in any capacity. Latin Americans are known for their warmth, friendliness and expressive greetings. And while those demonstrations of closeness have to be put aside for now, we are working on initiatives that can bring us together virtually, even though we are physically apart. Let's celebrate the values of our T&I community. We are ready to lend a helping hand!

*Marita Propato, AATI, CTPCBA, ATA
Member of the FIT LatAm Board*

Chinese translators in action to fight COVID-19

Translators and interpreters are crucial in facilitating the international effort to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Translators Association of China (TAC), together with its members across the country, has taken an active part in the battle against COVID-19.

TAC wrote a letter to express its deepest sympathy and support for translators associations in Hubei Province and Wuhan, which have been hardest hit by the epidemic. TAC also wrote an open letter to all its members to express its respect and concern, especially for those who have been on the front line of the battle against the epidemic. Many local associations have coordinated resources for important translation tasks related to prevention and control efforts. All associations are reporting what their members have done to instil a sense of professional pride.

TAC members, such as universities and language service providers (LSPs), have all bravely responded to the challenge, harnessing their advantages in translation and language services.

- China International Publishing Group (CIPG), TAC's parent organisation,

organized an International Think Tank Webinar on Combating COVID-19, a video conference with experts and scholars from different countries exchanging ideas and insight on how to jointly contain the spread of the virus around the world. China Academy of Translation, a translation research institute under CIPG, coordinated the multilingual translation of key terms and expressions related to the pandemic and published them in a timely manner to aid translation efforts.

- Many universities, LSPs, and individual translators have worked hard to provide translation and interpreting services to various organisations both at home and abroad, many on a volunteer basis. These include very urgent, demanding tasks as well as dangerous ones, such as working at hospitals, airports, and communities in direct contact with potential coronavirus patients. Many LSP staff and translators have been working very long hours to meet urgent deadlines.
- Some institutions and companies have made their resources available

for public use for free. Some translation tool developers and online language training institutes are sharing their technical platforms for free for a certain period of time as a gesture of solidarity during these difficult times.

- Materials discussing the measures China took to fight COVID-19 have been translated exceptionally quickly into many languages to facilitate the global fight. Touching stories and reflections on this disaster have also been translated and published in many languages, thanks to the hard work of our fellow translators.

In this global village we live in, a severe pandemic like COVID-19 is the common enemy of humanity. More and more people have come to realize that only through concerted effort can we win the battle against the virus. Let's hope that everyone around the world joins hands and overcomes this pandemic as soon as possible.

*Yang Ping, FIT Council member
Deputy Secretary General of the Translators
Association of China*

Notice of the 8th Statutory Congress of the Translators Association of China and 2020 annual conference

This year, China's translation and language service industry has embraced a new era of innovative development. To further promote exchange and cooperation with language professionals from across the world, the Translators Association of China will convene its 8th Statutory Congress and annual 2020 conference this November in Beijing.

Organised by: China International Publishing Group

Hosted by: Translators Association of China

Dates: 12–15 November 2020

Venue: Beijing International Convention Centre

Theme: 2020: New Visions, New Breakthroughs, New Journeys

Main events:

- 8th Statutory Congress of the Translators Association of China to review the work of the seventh council over the past five years, elect a new council and relevant leaders of the association, and map out TAC's five-year plan.
- Annual TAC conference: latest industry news, standards and specifications; recognise relevant organisations and individuals; organise thematic forums, lectures, training sessions, workshops, exhibitions and more.

For more information, please visit the Translators Association of China's official [website](#).