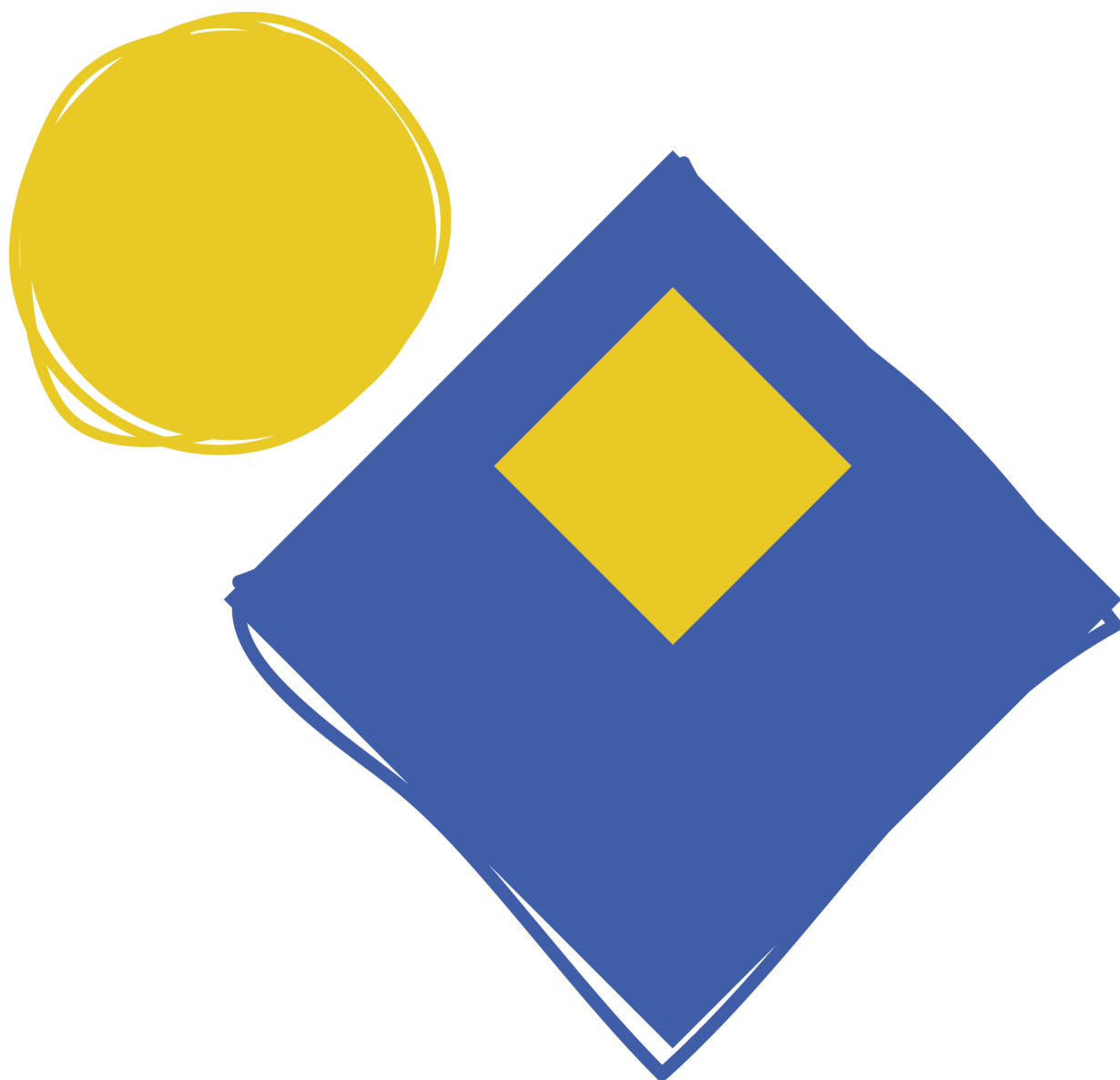


ITIA

Bulletin

2021 / 02

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



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Editorial

Lots of home news in this second issue of the ITIA Bulletin 2021 – competitions, exams, CPD and another career story from a newly Certified Legal Translator. A piece of particularly positive news for members is that at their recent monthly meeting the Executive Committee voted to continue the discounted membership fees for the year June 2021 to June 2022.

Former Chair Michael McCann hosted a recent [Zoom Coffee morning](#) and provided some very useful tips on how to keep the client happy. Feedback on the coffee mornings has been very positive to date with members enjoying the more relaxed 'drop-in and share ideas' aspect of this type of online meeting.

Two very interesting CPD sessions are lined up for June. The first one, on 4 June, entitled [Translation: Specializing in Corporate Responsibility](#) will be held in conjunction with SFT and FIT Europe and has a stellar line up of speakers: Kimberly Stewart, Chris Durban, Dominique Jonkers, David Jemielity, Lillian Clementi and Martin Hemmings. Check out the wealth of knowledge and experience of these professionals [here](#).

A second CPD session on the topic of [MT post-editing](#) is scheduled for 26 June and will be given by Dr Akiko Sakamoto, lecturer in translation theory, Japanese translation, translation technologies and subtitling. As always, we will keep members posted on our website and social media.

The ITIA's ability to plug into and then call on colleagues in the wider translation and interpreting world for advice or to provide CPD is in part to do with our representation in organisations such as [FIT Europe](#), [FIT Mundus](#), [CEATL](#), and [EULITA](#). Participating in these associations of associations, as delegates, and in the case of FIT Europe, on the board, allows the ITIA and its members access to valuable networks. Annette Schiller's role as chair of ITIA PM subcommittee and as Chair of FIT Europe has been particularly fruitful in this regard. Annette was approached by [the ITI](#) to give the keynote speech at their annual conference entitled *Evolving in Changing Times*, in early May. Her hour-long talk, [No Frontiers: The evolving role of the professional T & I association in Europe](#), was very well received. In September Annette will chair the FIT Europe AGM, on Zoom again this year.

The ITIA was represented at the EULITA AGM in May by Chairperson, Mary Phelan.

As the ITIA's representative at CEATL, I attended our second Zoom AGM on 15 May. All the delegates, who represent national translator and interpreter associations, commented that this appalling pandemic had resulted in some positives for translator associations across Europe.

The main one, which we at the ITIA share, is that transferring most of an association's activities to online, resulted in much increased attendance and participation at meetings, workshops etc for members, especially those who live outside of capital cities. Swedish association's delegate to CEATL, Lena Jonsson, noted that in Sweden, a very large country, with the majority of members living in Stockholm, Zoom meetings allowed members from all over the country to participate. So however large or small a country, the effect was the same – increased member participation. Clearly, a plus.

Our [Members' Corner](#) contributor for this issue is Chris Hopley, Dutch to English freelance translator and recently qualified ITIA Certified Legal Translator. His story is full of determination and positive thinking – recommended reading!

We have [two articles on interpreting](#) from assiduous Bulletin contributor and ITIA Chairperson, Mary Phelan. The first covers the current problematic provision of interpreting services, which can leave vulnerable people in need of interpreting services in an even more vulnerable situation and the professionals trying to help them unable to fully understand the issue at hand. The second article is about interpreting services for children living in 'Direct Provision' settings. Sadly, Mary points out that the provision of interpreting services is no better in this instance either.

Budding translator activity is covered in an article on translation competitions which appear to show increased popularity in Covid times. Professional pathways are covered in a report on recent ITIA professional exams in Snippets.

The Bulletin team and ITIA Executive Committee wish all our members the very best for the coming summer. We might even dare to hope that there is a possibility of meeting up in person later on in 2021!

Anne Larchet
Editor

Members' Corner



Chris Hopley, ITIA PM and Certified Legal Translator, Dutch to English, is a self-confessed hardcore translator and solopreneur

1. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

I am first and foremost a hardcore translator. I did a postgraduate diploma in translation studies in 1995 and started my professional career as a translator in 1996. Since then, I've had a number of in-house translation positions, which were all thoroughly rewarding, although often in very different ways. Since 2011, I've been working full-time in my own busy practice and am consequently also an editor, terminologist, project manager, work planner, office manager and solopreneur.

'I am first and foremost a hardcore translator'

During my time as an in-house translator, I developed my speciality in the areas of education policy and oil and gas production. Since opening my own practice, I have been able to combine this with my own personal and professional interests, so I now also do a lot of work for financial institutions and the real estate sector.

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

I studied German and Dutch language and literature at university, so a career in languages was a fairly obvious option. Although I did consider other career options as diverse as the dramatic arts and international relations, my personal life took me via

Belgium to the Netherlands, and translating was a relatively painless way to find work related to my studies.

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

Although my background in languages and translation studies was a good start, I have always found working in-house to be immensely useful. Not only does it give you great experience in the world of work in general (particularly team working, often with a diverse group of colleagues), but in-house translation positions also give you the relative luxury of a job in which you can also contribute to knowledge development, such as glossary building and terminology research, rather than focusing solely on the translation production process.

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

I'm a great believer in continuing professional and personal development. In today's busy world, it can be hard to find the time for training when you have a full workload and commitments to a growing family. But equally, it's very easy today to follow short courses and modules to develop new skills, or just feed your personal interests, on Udemy, Coursera or any of the other big MOOC platforms.

Qualifications can be important to show others what you have done or contribute to your own sense of achievement, but once you're established, it's your abilities that matter more than the certificates hanging on your wall.

5. Why did you decide to take PM and CLT exams?

I took the PM exam back in 2011, just after I went from paid employment to full-time freelancing. Even though I had a good number of years of in-house experience under my belt, I thought it was important to show that I was serious about my profession and had a credential to show a good level of professional competence.

I only took the CLT exam in November 2020 and, even though I started my career at a legal translation agency, I was still a little nervous about sitting the exam. But my result came with some great feedback and I couldn't have been more pleased. My main reason for taking the Certified Legal Translator exam was because I have plans to seek more work in this area.

6. How do you find clients?

For the last 10 years, I have relied largely on my own network and word of mouth. I have found one or two good clients via ProZ.com. Online forums like ProZ.com and LinkedIn are great places to meet not only other translators but also potential clients. You might not find a new client or assignment straight away, but keeping relationships warm and regularly showing your face is always a good idea.

7. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

Absolutely. No one can be fantastic at everything. That's not to say there are no great generalist translators around. There are. But there's always a specialisation to be had. Choose something you like to start with. Whether you're into cryptocurrency or make-up artistry, study your chosen subject in your working languages. And make sure your clients or potential clients know about your specialist fields. An attentive PM will steer relevant work your way. And you'll find the work more rewarding if you translate in a field you're interested in and enjoy.

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

For the last 10 years, I have relied largely on my own network and word of mouth. I have found one or two good clients via ProZ.com. Online forums like ProZ.com and LinkedIn are great places to meet not only other translators but also potential clients. You might not find a new client or assignment straight away, but keeping relationships warm and regularly showing your face is always a good idea.

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

The best thing about being a translator is that it is a cross between an intellectual and a practical pursuit. It challenges the mind, but has a clear economic purpose and value too. The worst thing about being a freelance translator is the long hours and all the usual pitfalls of being self-employed. Working in-house might seem to be the best of both worlds, but it has its own unique set of downsides too, as you're often regarded as an extra cost in the process and have to constantly stand up for the value that you add.

'No one can be fantastic at everything'

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

I'd say that it's certainly possible, but you have to find a way to make sure you are constantly in demand by the highest-paying clients. This is the holy grail that all freelance translators seek. There are numerous ways to try and achieve a good standard of living for yourself, but there's always the question of what sacrifices you want to make. You could become a digital nomad and work from a camper van in the Algarve or from a quiet retreat in Thailand. But if you live in suburbia anywhere in Europe and want to send your kids to the best sports clubs and go on holiday twice a year, it will probably be tough. Unfortunately, this applies to many other professions too.

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

Ask around, make contacts in the translator community, contact a professional body like ITIA and find out about student membership or mentoring schemes. Think of specialising first, for example, instead of studying just French see if you can study French in combination with Law, Engineering, Pharmaceuticals, etc. Combined studies like this will give you a great head start in the specialisation stakes. But above all, if it's what you want to do, go for it and don't give up! It can be a very rewarding career.

<https://www.chrishopley.nl/>

Interpreting Matters



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

Ireland is home to people from every country in the world. Many have excellent English, others have enough for work and everyday situations while still others have very little or no knowledge of the language. Even those who are reasonably fluent in English may find themselves outside their comfort zone in certain situations.

Interpreters are needed to ensure that limited English speakers can access services, can understand and be understood, and that people interacting with them can carry out their work. Interpreters are generally made available in garda stations and the courts but not always in other settings.

However, despite the obvious need for interpreting, interpreter provision in Ireland is very problematic. Public procurement processes have resulted in unattractive rates of pay and working conditions. There is a pervasive assumption that anyone who speaks English and another language can interpret.

'There is no accredited training course for interpreters'

In reality, interpreting is a highly skilled activity involving processing information in one language and conveying it accurately in a second language. Interpreters need high levels of proficiency in both languages and interpreting skills. They need to understand the context of their assignment, the information they are interpreting, and ethical principles such as confidentiality, impartiality and accuracy.

While some interpreters on the Irish market are no doubt very able, the key problem is that there is no accredited training course for interpreters. Nor is there an accreditation system to establish if interpreters are competent or even a system of quality control to monitor interpreting.

Unsurprisingly, there is no shortage of reports on problems around interpreter provision. A 2008 report from the Office of the Minister for Integration Policy covered the topic in detail and made recommendations. Over the last two decades, the Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association has sent many submissions to various government bodies advocating for change. A number of NGOs have also highlighted the issue as have reports on direct provision.

There is no shortage of laws either. In criminal proceedings there is a longstanding right to the free assistance of an interpreter, a right that was reinforced by an EU directive that urges member states to take concrete measures to ensure quality, including a register of qualified interpreters. The directive was transposed into Irish law in 2013 but absolutely nothing has been done to improve the service.

The Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty obliges public bodies to actively promote equality, protect human rights and eliminate discrimination. It is clearly discriminatory if people with limited English proficiency are not provided with an interpreter when they go to their GP or when they are in hospital. All too often, people are expected to bring along their own interpreter who could be a friend, a family member or even a child. This sort of solution is very unsatisfactory as people may prefer not to discuss medical issues in the presence of someone they know. In a domestic violence case, the abuser could be the interpreter.

Consequences of inadequate interpreting

What happens if interpreters are unable to provide a competent service? In international protection interviews, inaccurate interpreting can result in inconsistencies and an interviewer not believing an applicant's account of why they are seeking asylum. In a garda station the account of a suspect or a witness or a victim of crime given through an interpreter may be distorted, unclear or even incomprehensible. In court, a defendant may not understand evidence against them. A victim of crime may not understand court proceedings. A patient may not understand the nature of their illness.

'As a society we must ensure that interpreters are trained and tested'

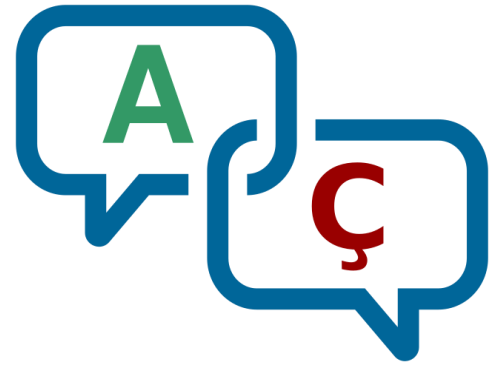
These issues do not only affect people with limited English proficiency. They also affect all the professionals who are trying to do their job as well as possible. GPs and other medical professionals will find it difficult to carry out their work if they are unsure what exactly the problem is, and whether or not patients understand their diagnosis, prognosis and medical advice. Members of An Garda Síochána may be concerned that evidence provided during interviews will not stand up to scrutiny if the recordings are later checked for accuracy. Judges and lawyers have to try and manage situations where confusion arises in court due to poor interpreting.

As a society we must ensure that interpreters are trained and tested and can provide a competent service. In addition, people need training on how to work with interpreters. The State needs to step up and the relevant government departments – Justice, Health, Housing, Social Protection, Employment – need to work together with government agencies to bring about an interpreting service that meets the needs of twenty-first century Ireland.

Mary Phelan



Translation Competitions



'The language of Europe is translation'

The Bulletin has the distinct impression that Umberto Eco's aphorism, quoted above, is indeed true, given the current level of interest in translation competitions. The European Union translation competition, **Juvenes Translators**, was run online in November 2020, with the winners being announced in March this year. An impressive 2,797 secondary school students from 664 schools in 27 countries submitted a translation. The number of participating schools is equal to the number of seats the country has in the European Parliament. Ireland has 10 seats, so 10 Irish schools were able to participate, selected randomly by computer.

Participants can choose to translate between any 2 of the EU's official languages, of which there are 24. Out of 552 possible language combinations, the budding translators used an impressive 150.

Most worthy of note is that the winner from Ireland this year, Alba Doherty-Madrigal, is from Maynooth Post Primary School, where two of the ITIA translation competition very first winners in 2016 were pupils (Alex Harding for Spanish and Elena Giardini for Italian).

Staff translators from the Commission select the winning entries submitted by the 17 yr old students from 27 European countries. Alba was one of 45 entries from Ireland and her language combination was Spanish to English. The winning students will attend an online ceremony in July when they and their teachers will have the golden opportunity to meet with translators and discuss possible future careers in translation.

[Here](#) is the link to this year's competition text, in all 24 languages. Why not see how you fare!

Irish competitions

Meanwhile, on these shores, the winners of the fourth edition of **'Aistritheoirí Óga' / Young Translators** contest, an annual translation competition organised jointly by the European Union and the Irish Government, were announced in May 2021.

This competition is open to students across the island of Ireland who were at least 15 years of age and they can choose to translate from English into Irish, or from a choice of five other European languages into Irish. Prizes are awarded for the best translation from English in each province, an overall prize for the best translation across the island of Ireland, and a prize for the best translation from a language other than English.

This year's edition saw 62 students from 28 schools translating texts from English, French, German and Spanish into Irish. Matilde Warsop from Galway was the overall winner while Alanna Plunkett won the best translation from a language other than English for her translation from Spanish to Irish.

The aims of the competition are to promote a high standard of Irish, to encourage multilingualism among secondary school students and to encourage their interest in careers with Irish. Given the level of interest and entries in the competition it looks like these aims are being achieved.

Much closer to home, the **ITIA 6th annual translation competition** for secondary school students' entry deadline on 5 May closed with 191 entries (there were 112 entries in 2020). The breakdown by languages of the entries received is:

Chinese: 18

French: 38

German: 17

Irish: 41

Italian: 6

Japanese: 4

Polish: 18

Spanish: 49

The ITIA Executive Committee is currently divvying up the entries amongst themselves as well as other members to cover languages. We hope to have the results by September, in time for the start of the new school year. It must be said that of all the work the committee does, assessing these entries is by far the most enjoyable!

Needs of Children in Direct Provision

In April 2021 the Ombudsman for Children's Office (OCO) released a report called Safety & Welfare of Children in Direct Provision. The origin of the report lay in concerns raised by a parent living in direct provision (DP) in 2017. Alarming, on investigation, the OCO discovered that:

staff members working in the centre had not been vetted to work with children, nor had they been trained in child protection despite assurance that this was the case. There was a failure to report a serious child protection concern and all the parents were erroneously told that their children may be removed by child protection and welfare services if they did not supervise them properly in the centre.

The OCO went on to investigate what was happening in direct provision centres which at the time were monitored by the Reception and Integration Agency (RIA), since renamed as International Protection Accommodation Services (IPAS). A key finding relates to the absence of interpreters:

as interpretation services were not available, parents could not advocate on their children's behalf. Parents had no way to talk to centre management about child protection and welfare concerns, even though the centres are contractually obliged to have these mechanisms in place.

The OCO recommends that:

Cultural diversity training and interpreting services be made available for professional staff with the HSE and Tusla working with residents in DP.

Since the investigation, IPAS has provided some interpreters for Zoom meetings and has stated that it will provide interpreting services at future on-site clinics. However, OCO 'has not seen any plan for the implementation of this'.

While the focus of the report is on children, it is obvious that adults may also need the help of interpreters in order to communicate with the staff who run the accommodation services. While cultural diversity training would be welcome, it would also be helpful to provide training in how to work with an interpreter. And, as always, it must be kept in mind that there is no training course in Ireland for interpreters who work in direct provision and international protection settings and no system of accreditation.

The full report can be downloaded [here](#).



Professional pathways

ITIA Exams 2020/2021

Whilst the Bulletin recently reported on the mandatory webinars for those ITIA members wishing to take both the Professional Member exam as well as the Certified Legal Translator exam, it is also worth reporting some of the details:

PM exams took place in March 2021 and there were:

12 candidates

14 papers

8 language pairs

8 assessors from Ireland and across Europe

4 areas of specialisation (legal, business/finance, medical/pharmaceutical, technical/engineering)

A meeting was held for PM exam assessors for the first time this year - possible thanks to Zoom – with the aim of providing support to these highly qualified linguists, to allow for discussion of any concerns or specific queries in relation to assessing the ITIA exams, and ultimately to provide for a uniform approach to assessment across all language pairs.

There are now 5 new Professional Members MITIA:

1 Spanish to English

1 English to German

3 English to French

CLT exams

For those who may not know, the annual examination leading to the professional qualification of 'ITIA Certified Legal Translator' was first introduced in 2006. Only Professional ITIA Members may apply. Typically, they will have at least five years' working as professional translators as well as experience in the translation of legal and state documentation. The exam took place in November 2020 and involved the translation of one short document (certificate) and an A4 page of a legal text- contract or similar, of the kind that certified translators are required to do in their day-to-day work. The marking system is anonymous, and scripts are assessed by carefully selected international experts in the field.

This year existing CLT members were invited to attend the mandatory workshop for candidates, offering them an opportunity to share their relevant experience and advice. Interaction between experienced members and the exam candidates was deemed very positive with plenty of engagement and discussion.

There were 6 candidates for this year's exam with a range of language pairings. There are now 2 new ITIA CLT members: Chris Hopley, Dutch to English and Chris McDowell, English to Irish and Irish to English

The Chairs of both the PM subcommittee and the CLT subcommittee believe that the mandatory workshops were very well received, and they hope that this initiative will encourage members to take further steps up the professional ladder.



The Court of Justice of the European Union seeks Freelance Translators through contract notices

The Court of Justice wishes to procure translations into English of legal texts
in certain official languages of the European Union

Czech (CS)
Danish (DA)
German (DE)
Greek (EL)

Spanish (ES)
French (FR)
Irish (GA)
Italian (IT)

Lithuanian (LT)
Dutch (NL)
Polish (PL)
Swedish (SV)

The contract notices are published in OJ 2021/S 101-265564 of 27/05/2021

The procurement documents are accessible at the address:

https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/p1_268713/en/



Requests for information by email should be sent to:
FreelanceTenderEN@curia.europa.eu

What's HOT

Reclaiming the European Street, a collection of speeches on European themes delivered by Uachtaran na hEireann, Michael D Higgins, between 2016-2020, was recently published by Lilliput Press. Three of these speeches were translated into Irish, German and French. More of this please!

Worth-a-click

Of all the reports and comments on the translation of the American spoken word artist, Amanda Gorman's book of poetry, [this](#) must be the most balanced and nuanced of them all: Haidee Kotze, professor of Translation Studies at Utrecht University (The Netherlands). Definitely worth the click!

[‘Is Muidne ESA’ \(We Are ESA\)](#) is the Irish translation of the colourful guide to the European Space Agency's activities in space technology, research and exploration. Dr Bryan Rodgers of Enterprise Ireland noticed that when the booklet came out last year in multiple languages, Irish was not one of them. Given that Ireland is a founding member of ESA, he encouraged ESA to translate the guide into Irish. The guide was launched as Gaeilge on St Patrick's Day this year.

What's NOT

A recent French survey on working conditions for freelance conference interpreters found that 67% of respondents believe that remote simultaneous interpreting (RSI) conditions are worse than on-site and 50% think they perform worse via RSI.

ITIA members and Bulletin readers might be interested in this translation of Richard Bermann's travel account of Ireland from 1913, translated and edited by Leesa Wheatley and Prof. Florian Korb. It has just been published by Cork University Press. Take a look inside the book at [this link](#):

The University of Vigo has just published [Issue No. 21](#) of their Revista Galega de Tradución, Viceversa. For those of you with an interest in co-official languages (some describe such languages as minority or indeed minoritized) there are rich pickings to be had. Articles on a wide range of topics are written in different combinations of Galician, Spanish and English.

New Members

New ITIA Professional Members

Sarah Berthaud
English to French

Sebastien Rolland
English to French

Emeline Dubois
English to French

Meike Beumers
English to German

Shane Connors
Spanish to English

New Associate Members

Marek Kwiatkowski
Polish to English and English to Polish

Vana Marie Brady
Tagalog to English and English to Tagalog

New Student Members

Liping Xiong

Joining the ITIA

The Irish Translators' & Interpreters' Association is pleased to welcome new members to the association. We currently have the following categories of membership:

- Professional
- Associate
- Student
- Honorary

Professional Membership is awarded to translators or interpreters who meet the strict criteria of the ITIA based on qualification and level of experience.

Applicants must also achieve a PASS in the annual Professional Membership Examination (translator or interpreter) set by the ITIA.

Associate Membership may be granted to holders of a third-level qualification in translation and/or interpreting and/or languages or to holders of a third-level qualification with relevant experience.

Student Membership is available to persons undertaking undergraduate studies in any discipline or those undertaking postgraduate studies in translation or interpreting.

Honorary Membership is awarded by the ITIA AGM to persons in Ireland or abroad who have distinguished themselves in the field of translation and interpreting.

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