



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

ITIA Bulletin

2017 / 2

In this issue

Editorial.....	2
Members' Corner.....	2
Hungarian Literary Translators' Association.....	4
What we look for in our freelance translators.....	5
EULITA 2017 General Assembly and pre-conference events.....	7
Worth-a-click.....	8
News.....	8
Joining the ITIA.....	9
New ITIA Members.....	10
Contacting the ITIA.....	11

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Editorial

This issue focuses in particular on Irish-related items, of which there have been a plethora in recent weeks - Rachael McNicholl's trip to New York for the annual Pen America literary translator awards, President Higgins' trip to Cuba for the Havana Book Fair, European Parliament posts for Irish language interpreters not yet filled - check out Worth-a-Click section for these - and more. Still in Ireland, we continue with our commitment to balance re viewpoints and are delighted to have an article from Nova Language Solutions letting us know what they look for in translators.

A plea to language teachers and or anyone else involved in language education - do check out dates for this year's translation competition for secondary school students - it's a great opportunity to test translation waters and may even inspire future career choices. Details in our News section - don't forget to pass it on!

Happy reading!

Anne Larchet, Editor

MEMBERS' CORNER

Adam Brożyński, PM and former editor of this e-zine, maintains a high standard in all aspects of his profession, including his commitment to professional development, having just successfully completed his Polish Sworn Translator Exams - no mean feat!

Q. Describe yourself professionally in a few lines.

This question is more difficult than it seems at

first. This is because I am somebody who wants to grow perpetually and therefore who I am professionally is an ever evolving concept. I suppose first and foremost I am a community interpreter. However, I am also a translator. In fact just a few weeks ago I gained a new qualification and I became a sworn translator with the Polish Ministry of Justice, having passed a very difficult examination in Warsaw. On top of that I have been an ITIA Certified Legal Translator for a number of years now. I am also an English teacher and I run English courses mainly for my local Polish community. If that was not enough I also have my own translation agency called FIRST POLISH which helps me realise my business ambitions. I enjoy the variety of professional activities and it certainly helped me keep my head above water during the recession, however now that the economy is back on track, I must admit it is hard to reconcile all paths without working 12 hours a day.

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

Translating and interpreting was my plan B which I implemented after plan A failed. The big dream was to become a physician and I even managed to get into the Medical Academy at some point, however dissecting corpses from the Second World War turned out not to be my cup of tea. It was tough to resign from that dream, but because I already had pretty good English at that time, having lived in London for a year at the age of 18, I decided to pursue English studies. As opposed to Human Anatomy I found learning English language and culture really enjoyable. Then the post-graduate School of Translation, Interpreting

and Foreign Languages was set up in the same building that the Teachers Training College was in, and I thought it could be an interesting challenge. I felt that studying Translation would be more ambitious than just studying ELT. And it really was – the bar was raised by a few notches.

...your career will never take off unless you can perform to your clients' satisfaction... Sooner or later everyone must stand up to the scrutiny of the market.

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

I think joining the ITIA was one of the most important factors in establishing myself as a Polish translator/interpreter on the Irish market. It is a great platform for getting your name out there and for building a network of professionals who sooner or later recommend one another's services to clients and so create business opportunities. But your career will never take off unless you can perform to your clients' satisfaction. You must be able to provide your services at the highest level, and if you can do that, things will take care of themselves no matter how poor you are at marketing. Sooner or later everyone must stand up to the scrutiny of the market.

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

I think T/I is one of those fields where natural talent can take you quite far. On the other hand, it is hard to compensate for lack of same with hard work. This is not to say that training and qualifications are not important for interpreters/translators. Even the most talented interpreters/translators still need training if they want to reach the heights of their profession. Unfortunately in Ireland where T/I is not a regulated profession the popular belief, especially within the community

interpreting circles, is that everyone who speaks a foreign language is automatically able to translate/interpret, which is obviously untrue. This is often impossible to verify for a client, and as a result within the community interpreting sector there are examples of unqualified and untrained interpreters who are very busy and one could say successful. They are very experienced but unfortunately due to the lack of formal training they often exhibit some bad habits and constantly make the same mistakes, that they are not even aware of and which are not really acceptable for professional interpreters. Hopefully the clients' awareness of quality issues with regard to interpreting/translation will continue to grow in Ireland, and sooner rather than later there will be no place within the profession for people without training and formal qualifications.

Q. How do you find clients?

To answer simply, I find clients anyway I can i.e. through networking, social media, word of mouse, word of mouth, websites, advertising (leaflets), etc. A lot of clients find me through recommendations from other clients, so, as mentioned earlier, it is very important to perform consistently at a high level so as to impress your clients. Another useful marketing tool is the ITIA website and their registers of members and Certified Legal Translators. Therefore, to anyone who wants to pursue a T/I career I would say: become an ITIA Professional Member and a Legal Certified Translator as soon as possible and make sure your name is on those registers!

Q. Do you think it is necessary to specialise?

I think some level of specialisation is unavoidable, but I am the best example of someone who is kind of a jack-of-all-T/I-trades. I think at the beginning of your career you really have to follow the money and you have to accept whatever work comes your way. Specialisation is probably a luxury that you can afford to have at a later stage in your career when you have so many clients and so much work that you can allow yourself to be

selective. Of course there are many advantages to becoming specialised in a particular area. If you establish yourself as an expert in a given field you can charge higher rates for your work, and you can do your work more efficiently and cost-effectively.

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

I love all interpreting assignments as long as I can carry them out in humane conditions. By that I mainly mean having a comfortable seat, the right amount of breaks at the right time (preferably a 5 min break every 20 min), some water to lubricate my throat every now and again, an opportunity to prepare for the assignment, and remuneration commensurate with my qualifications and the complexity of the assignment. As a former medical student I must say I often enjoy translating medical documents even though they can be quite challenging and time consuming. Not only do I enjoy the challenge but they also give me a chance to expand my own medical knowledge.

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

For me the best thing about being a translator/interpreter is the freedom and independence of being a freelancer. I really enjoy being my own boss and cannot imagine going back to being an employee and having someone telling me what to do. However, the downside of it is that my working day rarely lasts only 8 hours. Finding the right work/life balance is a real difficulty and requires a lot of self-discipline. One must remember to watch the clock, to manage one's time, and to prioritise.

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

My advice would be if this is what you feel you want to do in your life, then you must absolutely do it! Always follow your dream! Beginnings are never easy, but if you are passionate about

something, there is no doubt you will become good at it and will eventually succeed!

Remember also that if you want to be a freelancer, you will essentially be running a business and so you need some business skills as well as linguistic and translation abilities. Therefore make sure the university course you do also incorporates some business education.

Adam Brożyński
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If you establish yourself as an expert in a given field you can charge higher rates for your work, and you can do your work more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Following Macedonia and Romania, the Hungarian Literary Translators' Association is this issue's kind contributor to our regular glimpse at another of our European colleagues.

Hungarian Literary Translators' Association

Since its beginnings in 2003, the Hungarian Association of Literary Translators (MEGY) has grown to become a recognized advocacy organization in the industry, as well as a shared pool of knowledge and resources for its members.

As a forum of professional support and legal advice, we have promoted recommendations on a wide range of professional issues from translator visibility to sample contracts. Though far from being generally practised throughout the Hungarian book trade, these guidelines have made a general positive impact. MEGY and notably its mailing list is also a hub for news from, and contact building toward the European and international community of literary translators.

MEGY is a lively and diverse community of lit translators reaching across generations and

languages, and while the big relevant issues continue to be discussed and explored, there is a serious element of fun in our regular interactions. The online community base significantly overlaps a self-organizing general Hungarian literary translators' group on Facebook. Many professionals remain non-affiliated, and MEGY is looking toward new directions for the future expansion of its membership base and activities. Promoting the organization's work, we continue to make a presence at the Budapest International Book Festival at our own stand, and organize the quite popular annual Lit Translator's Getaway weekend.

Presently, MEGY is looking forward to board elections at its coming General Assembly in Budapest.

Dani Danyi

Sinead Healy, Founder and Managing Director of Nova Language Solutions Ltd. has written this article for the Bulletin, giving a detailed overview of her company and what you need to be an eligible candidate.

What we look for in our freelance translators

Intro

At Nova, we've always maintained that we're only as good as the people we work with. Whether it's our in-house team of senior translators/reviewers or our external team of freelance translators, we look for the cream of the crop – talented linguists who share our passion for language, love of learning, and a desire to produce translations that read as if written in English from the outset.

Who we are

Established in July 2007, Nova language solutions ltd. is an into-English SLV (Single-Language Vendor) with an international reputation for producing high-quality English translations. Our team today consists of a tightly

knit in-house team of six senior translators/reviewers and an external team of 75+ freelance translators working in a variety of language combinations and areas of expertise.

What we do

We have solid experience in a wide range of different areas; however, we tend to specialise in marketing, IT, and technical translation. That's not to say we don't get to indulge our creative side; in the past year, projects that got our artistic juices flowing included a book about a talking dog-politician from Brazil, a bio of one of France's leading opera singers, and the colourful history of Louis Vuitton luggage down through the centuries.

Becoming a Nova freelancer

Given that we are only as good as the talent that works for us, we take our translator approval process very seriously. The first step in this process is initial screening of incoming applications. This involves reviewing each candidate's profile to verify whether they meet our basic requirements – applicants must be a native English speaker (ideally living in an English-speaking country) with an undergraduate or master's degree in translation, or failing that, must have equivalent industry expertise backed up by professional translation experience.

As a rule, we also look for at least two years of experience, ideally with a portion of this time spent working as part of an in-house translation team. Proficiency in at least one CAT (computer-aided translation) tool is also something we value highly.

Once screened, applicants are required to complete a standard test translation for their specialised domain, e.g. creative, financial, technical, etc. These tests are short (not more than 300 words), and candidates generally have at least one week in which to complete them. Once returned, the tests are evaluated by the relevant senior reviewer for that language pair and references are checked. The results of this

step are then communicated to the translator by email along with our standard vendor pack, which includes invoicing and payment details, our standard service-level agreement, and instructions on how to access and use our project management system.

Where appropriate, newly approved translators are then assigned a pilot project based on their language combination and area of expertise. Any training requirements for the project are identified and provided by Nova, either remotely or via on-site training. Halfway through this process, an interim QA is performed on the translator's work. This takes the form of a detailed QA report documenting the changes that the translator needs to make to their files before submitting their final delivery. All such feedback is collated in our internal quality system where it is used as the basis for creating project-specific teams. It's our belief that this rigorous recruitment process is greatly beneficial for both parties in the long run. It allows us to build up an expert pool of freelancers whom we can trust to provide top-quality translations, and it gives our translators the firm support of an expert in-house review team that they can rely on to provide constructive feedback and guidance every step of the way.

Our internship programme

One question we are often asked by translators starting out in the profession is how to get experience when you don't have experience. We've always been very aware of this catch-22 situation, and it was for this very reason that we set up our first internship programme over six years ago. Given that we view each internship as a process of mutual investment, we only ever take on people in whom we see potential for long-term collaboration, be it on a freelance or in-house basis. To date, the programme has been a great success, and today, our in-house team includes a number of former interns who have progressed to the level of senior translator. The internships we offer are for both translation and project

management and are generally 3-6 months in duration. Apart from hands-on experience in a fast-paced office environment, our interns get one-to-one mentoring from a dedicated senior project manager/translator, on-the-job training in the latest CAT tools, as well as practical exposure to industry expectations and translation best practice. In recognition of the investment made by each intern, we also offer a monthly stipend to help offset living expenses incurred over the duration of the internship period.

Key attributes of a successful translator

As a career choice, translation involves more than just a good understanding of a foreign tongue. It is, in fact, as much about the target language (in our case, English), as it is about the source language. With that in mind, at the top of our list of key attributes of a successful translator is a consummate command of the English language and a true passion for languages. Apart from a solid grasp of English grammar and punctuation, we look for sensitivity to nuances of meaning and an ability to write in language that is clear, direct, and natural, while also reflecting the full meaning of the source text. A meticulous mindset and almost obsessive attention to detail are two other important qualities for anyone looking to make a career in translation; if a misplaced comma or poor turn of phrase drives you to the brink of distraction, you'll fit right in. In many ways, translation as a profession is a process of continuous learning, so a positive, open attitude, a thirst for knowledge, and an ability to take on feedback are essential for honing your craft in this demanding business. In terms of learning how to manage workloads and meet deadlines, strong organisational skills, continuous flexibility, and good time management are also fundamental assets for any professional linguist. Yet above all else, given that a good chunk of any translator's time is spent researching, understanding, and mastering new domains, an intrinsic curiosity about how things work is a must (be it in relation to selective

catalytic reduction, the inner workings of die-cutting machines, or the intricacies of the chocolate-making process).

This summer, Nova will celebrate 10 years in business. During this time, we've seen the industry evolve in many ways, but in a sea of change one thing remains constant: the importance we attach to working with the best in the field. If you'd like to join us as we journey into the next decade, get in touch – we'd love to hear from you.

Sinead Healy
interns@novalanguagesolutions.com

Our Vice Chair person, Annette Schiller, represented the ITIA at the annual EULITA meeting in Vienna and here reports back

EULITA 2017 General Assembly and pre-conference events

"The Many Facets of Legal Interpreting and Translation"

30 March – 1 April 2017 in Vienna, Austria

EULITA is the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association. It was founded in 2009 with the aim of advancing "the quality of legal translation and legal interpreting in both spoken and sign language in all Member States of the European Union". The association has 32 full members and 59 associate members, 35 of which are organisations and 24 individual members. Members hail from within and outside the EU. The ITIA has been a full member of EULITA since 2012. English and French are the two working languages of EULITA.

Day 1:

The morning programme included a visit to a District Court at the Justizzentrum Wien-Mitte in Vienna where Mag. Ulrike Schmidt, President of the Court, welcomed the participants who then attended a court hearing with briefing and de-

briefing and chuchotage interpreting.

During the afternoon, participants attended a Translating Europe Workshop. Topics addressed included machine translation at the Europe Commission and the European Language Resource Coordination (ELRC <http://www.Ir-coordination-eu/home>). The latter is a programme launched by the European Commission to identify and gather language and translation data that is available in national public services, administrations, and governmental institutions across the 30 European countries that are participating in the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme. The aim is to use the data resources to develop high-quality automated translation systems for EU languages in the CEF eTranslation platform and to enable multilingualism in EU cross-border public services. There are, however, some misgivings about copyright issues regarding the data and also about the possible commercial exploitation of data that is a national resource in each country. Further topics discussed at the workshop were the EU Public Documents Regulation 2016/1191 and the results of the INFOCRIM report on Directive 2010/64 on the right to translation and interpreting of suspected and accused persons across the EU (<http://eulita.eu/other>).

Day 2:

On day two, a wide range of papers was delivered, each 30 minutes in length. The speakers included translators, interpreters, translator/interpreter trainers, lawyers, notaries and others.

The interesting range of topics included arbitration, interpreting in mediation, interpreter-mediated questioning of minors, the approach to the authentication and certification of translated documents in various Member States, the professional profile of legal translators and interpreters in Italy, joint continuing professional development of legal professionals and translators and last but not least "One trial – four

languages: The Interpreters at the Nuremberg Trials” with an accompanying exhibition.

Day 3:

The EULITA General Assembly took place on the morning of Saturday, 1 April and was very well attended with 30 of the 32 full members represented in addition to many associate members.

Five of the seven members of the board of Eulita stepped down as required by the Constitution as their term was over. This included the president, Liese Katschinka, who has been the driving force behind EULITA since its inception.

The new board of EULITA: Daniela Amodeo Perillo (President), Geoffrey Buckingham (Vice-President), Jan Runesten (Vice-President), Catherina Van den Brinkova Stifterova (Secretary) Michaela Spracklin (Treasurer), Laura Izquierdo Valverde, Joanna Miler-Cassino. The next EULITA General Assembly will take place in Sofia, Bulgaria, on 17 March 2018.

Annette Schiller

Worth-a-click

Do have a listen to this podcast of Anne Enright, Sebastian Barry and Hugo Hamilton discussing translation

<https://tinyurl.com/kj87qxf>

This link gives all the details about the 23 vacancies in the Irish translation department at the EU Parliament

<https://tinyurl.com/mpujj75>

The translation of Joseph O'Connor's Star of the Sea is the first Irish novel since Ulysses to be published in Cuba

<https://tinyurl.com/n38m223>

Rachel McNicholl splashed out to get to the

PEN awards in New York

<https://tinyurl.com/mbcn48f>

Manchan Magan reviews not one but two translations of Cré na Cille - five fascinating extracts comparing both with the original - my, but translations can differ!

<https://tinyurl.com/kylwk6r>

Our Chairperson, Dr Mary Phelan, has contributed a comprehensive article for the Law Society Gazette about the current realities of legal interpreting in the Irish courts, pages 53-55

<https://tinyurl.com/llhg4sk>

And now for the bad news - court interpreter standards still rock bottom

<https://tinyurl.com/kvjlad>

News

Translation Competition for Secondary School Students

Calling on all budding translators

The Irish Translators' and Interpreters' Association (ITIA) was set up in 1986 and is the only professional association in Ireland representing the interests of practising translators and interpreters.

Following the successful competition in 2016, the ITIA is once again organising a translation competition for secondary school students in Ireland and has added the languages Chinese (Mandarin) and Japanese.

Students are asked to translate an excerpt from a novel or short story from one of the following languages into English: Chinese, French, German, Irish, Italian Japanese or Spanish.

A prize of €100 will be awarded to the best

translation for each language.

The deadline for receipt of translations is

5 pm, Monday, 15 May 2017.

Completed translations are to be sent **as a PDF attachment only** to

competition2017@translatorsassociation.ie

While students are encouraged to do online research and to use dictionaries, the use of a machine translation system such as Google Translate to actually translate the text is not permitted.

Please include your name, the name of your school and your year at school when submitting your translation.

Winners will be announced in July 2017. A prize-giving ceremony will be held in Dublin in September to present the winners with their prizes.

The texts for translation and details for submission are available on the ITIA website

Please address all queries to:
competition2017@translatorsassociation.ie

Please note: the competition is not open to the families of members of the Association.

Translations submitted after the deadline will not be considered. The decision of the ITIA Executive Committee is final.

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
- Affiliate
- Institutional
- 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.

Affiliate Membership is generally availed of by people with a professional interest in translation and interpreting, by those with a general interest in these professions or by professionals from other sectors who wish to work in the area of translation or interpreting and do not currently have a specific qualification or experience in the area

Institutional Membership is available to bodies that do not function as commercial agencies, for example university centres for translation and interpreting studies or cultural institutes. Application documents for Institutional membership are currently being prepared.

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 or interpreting.

New ITIA Members Feb - Mar 2017

New ITIA associate members

Patrick Burke

English from German and Spanish

Emeline Dubois

French from English and Italian

Beibhinn Dunne

English from French and Spanish

Aneta Katarzyna Wozniak-Fawcett

Polish from English

Darragh McCormick

English from French and Spanish

Amanda Mannix

English from French

Amy Orgill

English from French and Spanish

Teresa Whittington

English from French

New ITIA affiliate members

Lidia Daraban

Yongguan Huang

New ITIA student members

John Britton



Contacting the ITIA

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ITIA Executive Committee: 2016–2017

Chairperson / Chair of Community Interpreting Sub-Committee	Mary Phelan
Honorary Secretary	Miriam Watchorn
Honorary Treasurer	Graziano Ciulli
Chair of Professional Membership Sub-Committee	Annette Schiller
ITIA Bulletin Editor	Anne Larchet
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Chair of CPD Sub-Committee	Mary Phelan
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	Ilaria Furlan
	Karl Apsel
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