

ENPSIT NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PUBLIC SERVICE INTERPRETING & TRANSLATION

Dear ENPSIT member and sympathiser

Over 1600 years ago Saint Jerome took on the daunting task of rendering the Bible into Latin, and his views of translation continue to inspire us to this day: “For I myself not only admit but freely proclaim that in translating from the Greek I render sense for sense and not word for word”, although, admittedly, he made an exception for the Bible (but let those without sins cast the first stone).

The challenges in the 21st century are of a slightly different kind but the task is not less daunting. Translators and interpreters are under ever-increasing pressures to deliver high quality services at often modest rates and in the swiftest of times, while keeping up with technological advances. The T&I profession is not always a walk in the park. Yet what these professionals do matters. It matters to those they assist in bridging linguistic, communication and cultural distances in a plethora of settings. And there is no domain in which it matters more than in PSIT, where translators’ and interpreters’ work can have a life-changing or even life-saving impact on ordinary people’s lives. In conflict zones they even do so at their own peril.

Today we celebrate translators and interpreters all around the world, and do what is all too often neglected: we take our hats off in respect to their skill and dedication. Happy International Translation Day!

Best regards

Lieven Buysse
ENPSIT President

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PSIT IN THE NEWS

UPCOMING: SECOND ENPSIT WEBINAR

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CALL FOR PAPERS

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ENPSIT's involvement in research projects

As was announced in previous newsletters, ENPSIT is a partner in two research projects, *MHEALTH4ALL* and *EU-WEBPSI*. Both are now up and running. A brief update!

MHEALTH4ALL: update

The 1st meeting of the MHealth4All (Mental Health for All) project took place from 30th June to 1st July 2022 at the University of Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain). The event, which was held in a hybrid format, offered a space for partners to share updates and propose discussion topics about the project, with a special emphasis on existing language resources in mental healthcare. [More information here](#)



EU-WEBPSI: update

The Kick-off meeting of the research project EU-WEBPSI was held on Friday 23 September at KU Leuven's Brussels Campus. A perfect place for all Consortium partners to get to know each other, agree on fundamentals and dive into the first work packages. A fruitful day for a promising project!



ENPSIT upcoming activities

ENPSIT Webinar: Producing and Disseminating Multilingual Information about COVID-19 in Finland: Best Practices and Challenges

**Thursday 20 October 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. EEST
(3:00 to 4:30 p.m. CET)**

In this webinar, we discuss the challenges and best practices in relation to the production and dissemination of COVID-19-related multilingual information in Finland. An additional goal is to share ideas and insights with researchers and practitioners from other countries and discuss the challenges related to doing research in this area.

Program:

- Welcome (ENPSIT, Prof. Lieven Buysse)
- Introduction (Associate Professor Simo Määttä)
- Results of the project “Improving communication with migrants for crisis preparedness: lessons learned from COVID-19” (Dr. Tuija Kinnunen, Dr. Svetlana Probirskaja, Dr. Päivi Kuusi)
- General discussion moderated by Simo Määttä

This ENPSIT webinar is organized by the Translation Studies Research Community at the University of Helsinki and is open to anyone interested in multilingual communication in migration settings, crisis translation, and related areas. We warmly welcome you to hear about the project and join the discussion!

Please join the webinar [through this link](#)

Meeting ID: 679 0352 5736

Password: 132261111

More information about the “Improving communication with migrants for crisis preparedness: lessons learned from COVID-19” project is available [on this website](#)

Feel free to distribute this message widely within your network.

PSIT in the news

Civilian interpreters in Mali

ENPSIT co-signs open letter demanding resolute action

Last August ENPSIT co-signed an open letter with the Red-T initiative addressed to Christine Lambrecht, Annalena Baerbock, and Nancy Faeser, members of the German government. In the open letter the co-signers express profound concerns about the safety of the civilian interpreters in Mali. The situation is increasingly dangerous with the withdrawal of French peacekeepers and the threat of withdrawal of German troops. It is imperative that the chaotic exit from Afghanistan is not repeated. You can read the [open letter here](#)

Open Letter
Mali

Share



**Mali: Open Letter to German ministers
regarding the resettlement of Malian
interpreters/LECs**

Friday 26 August 2022 - 10:09am



OPEN LETTER

PROTECTING TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS WORLDWIDE

August 2022

Ms. Christine Lambrecht, Federal Minister of Defense
Ms. Annalena Baerbock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Ms. Nancy Faeser, Federal Minister of the Interior and Community

Re: A Beacon of Light for Interpreters in Mali

Dear Ministers,

The undersigned representatives of the international and German language community, together with their humanitarian partners, are deeply concerned about the safety of our colleagues in Mali. Engaged locally to provide a critical service as civilian interpreters/cultural liaisons for German troops of the UN MINUSMA mission, they worked at great personal risk to themselves and their families. Now, with the withdrawal of French peacekeepers and the seemingly imminent withdrawal of your country's soldiers, this risk rises exponentially as regional volatility and security challenges mount.

Local insurgent groups affiliated with al-Qaeda and Islamic State are active in central and northern Mali. With the majority of your troop contingent based in Gao, leaving the local personnel behind would endanger their lives. We understand that your country is currently employing 59 interpreters/ Locally Employed Civilians (LECs - Ortskräfte). To guarantee their safety, we urge you to extract all of them and their families prior to full withdrawal.

It is imperative that the chaotic exit from Afghanistan not be repeated; a speaker of the Bundeswehr operational command has expressed a similar sentiment. The lives of all LECs must be protected. Moreover, we believe that exhibiting duty of care, coupled with an actionable plan for resettlement, will serve as a beacon to other MINUSMA troop-contributing countries.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Save the date: ENPSIT InDialog4

ENPSIT is delighted to announce that the international InDialog Conference series will be continuing under its auspices in 2023. **InDialog4** will be held in Ghent (Belgium) and hosted by Ghent University. The two-days conference will be scheduled in calendar week 38 (18.09.2023 - 22.09.2023). You will be informed shortly on the exact dates. More news coming up soon!

Call for papers

8th International Conference on Public Services Interpreting and Translation Alcalá de Henares (Madrid) | 22-24 March 2023

FITISPos Group organises the 8th International Conference on Public Services Interpreting and Translation, which will be held in Alcalá de Henares (Madrid, Spain) from 22 to 24 March 2023. The theme of this conference is **PSIT in Transition**.

More details and the call for papers [here](#)

Abstracts can be submitted [through the website](#) until 5 November 2023

Call for proposals for future webinars

Your positive feedback after the first ENPSIT webinar on the role of PSIT in the Ukrainian refugee crisis, which we held in May 2022 was very motivating. You can still [watch this webinar online](#). We are delighted to announce in this newsletter also a second webinar. Does your organisation want to organise a webinar? Any ideas or proposals? Please contact the ENPSIT President Lieven Buysse at Lieven.Buysse@kuleuven.be. Let's start building an inspiring series of webinars from and for the ENPSIT community and beyond!

Contribute to the ENPSIT repository

ENPSIT, as a European network, is continuously gathering PSIT-relevant information for every European country. This [repository](#) contains documents issued by agencies and governments about interpreting and translation in legal settings, healthcare, welfare, employment, migration, etc. You are welcome to share documents about your country. We hope to include documents from all countries, and specifically welcome documents in less shared languages, about countries such as Hungary, Poland, Latvia, Greece, etc. The website has a contact sheet through which you can obtain a free login. Do not hesitate to contact the webmaster: hivermeir@gmail.com

Membership fees 2022

ENPSIT members have received a payment request or a reminder to settle their membership dues for 2022. For those who haven't respond to this yet, thank you for doing so at your earliest convenience!

News for us?

Any PSIT-related initiatives, activities, conference announcements, collaboration opportunities, or other relevant information you would like to share with us? Do not hesitate to send in your contributions for the next quarterly newsletter: lds@imdi.no | july.dewilde@ugent.be