

# ENPSIT NEWSLETTER

## EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PUBLIC SERVICE INTERPRETING & TRANSLATION

### Dear ENPSIT member and sympathiser

In the PSIT sector obstacles abound. There is widespread ignorance among those appealing to as well as those providing public services about the nature of multilingual communication processes, the role human interpreters and translators can play in these, what impact non-human intervention may or may not have, how different the deliveries are if made by professionals compared to non-professionals... There is an acute and persistent shortage of interpreters and translators for languages of lesser diffusion. In quite a few countries PSIT certification is yet to be firmly established. The language ideology that drives policymakers is not always aligned with public sector needs. Financial restrictions sometimes lead to cut-price tariffs.

If this looks like all too bleak a picture to you, you may well be right. Although all of these observations are grounded in reality, there are many glimmers of hope as well. An increasing body of sound research on PSIT practice gives more robust foundation to the profession, informs the development of professional standards for interpreters and translators as well as for those hiring them. Recent successful project funding applications suggest that policy makers too are increasingly convinced of the need to devote greater attention to our field. Stakeholders from outside the PSIT domain are also reaching out to us so that our expertise as researchers and practitioners in PSIT can be incorporated in broader projects.

This is how slowly but steadily the road is paved to greater public and political awareness, which can ultimately make public services considerably more effective, reduce language barriers for all citizens, and improve working conditions for PSIT professionals.

So allow me to invite you to explore the reports of and calls from some of the initiatives included in this newsletter. Get involved and be inspired!

On behalf of the ENPSIT Board, I wish you a splendid summer.

Lieven Buysse  
ENPSIT President

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## ENPSIT & projects

As already highlighted in previous newsletters, ENPSIT is a partner in two research projects: *MHEALTH4ALL* and *EU-WEBPSI*. Both are now running on full speed. A brief update!

### EU-WEBPSI: update

The EU-WEBPSI project is progressing rapidly! ENPSIT, in collaboration with our project partners, is actively working on several key initiatives:



- **Creating Train-the-Trainer Material:** We're developing train-the-trainer modules for PSI interpreting, including specific focus areas such as video-mediated interpreting and languages of lesser diffusion (LLDs).
- **Developing the EU-WEBPSI Portal:** This portal will host our training materials, alongside a booking and video tool designed to connect with LLD interpreters across Europe.
- **Launching Training Courses for PSI Interpreters:** Our partners in Belgium, France, and Greece are currently recruiting candidates and ensuring everything is set for the courses. These will take place between September 2024 and February 2025, providing an opportunity to test our developed products while training 60 LLD interpreters.
- **Disseminating Updates and Results:** We are keeping stakeholders informed through our project website, newsletter, and several online events planned for 2025.

Are you interested in receiving project updates directly in your inbox? Subscribe to the EU-WEBPSI newsletter [here](#).

You can now also connect with the EU-WEBPSI project on social media! Follow the project on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#) to stay up-to-date with the latest news and developments.

## ENPSIT & projects



### MHEALTH4ALL: update

*The University of Amsterdam is preparing the cross-national evaluation of the digital ‘MentalHealth4All platform’ in practice. This multilingual communication and information platform aims to promote access to mental healthcare for refugees and migrants across Europe. **Interested health and social care providers (HSCPs) and organizations can register to participate in the evaluation via [mhealth4all-cw-fmg@uva.nl](mailto:mhealth4all-cw-fmg@uva.nl).***

Refugees and other migrants with low language proficiency (LLP) have a higher risk of experiencing mental health disorders compared to non-migrant populations. They are also more likely to experience a lack of access to mental healthcare due to language- and culture-related barriers. As part of the MentalHealth4All project, a platform has been developed that provides, among others, multilingual audiovisual information about mental health communication and an overview of external resources on mental health and language services to enhance access for these patient groups.

The evaluation of the platform will be performed with a pretest-posttest cross-national survey study. This study will take place in September and October 2024 in nine European countries: Belgium, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, and the United Kingdom. Participants will be requested to use the platform and fill in pre- and posttest questionnaires.

The findings of this cross-national study will help to deepen our understanding of how a multilingual platform may promote access to mental healthcare services for LLP refugees and migrants. If successful, this intervention could be used to improve access to mental healthcare services for any LLP refugees and migrants across Europe (and beyond). Therefore, interested HSCPs and professional organizations (also for refugees and other migrants) are called upon to register with the project team via [mhealth4all-cw-fmg@uva.nl](mailto:mhealth4all-cw-fmg@uva.nl).

# Invitation COST Actions

*A **COST Action** is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and professionals together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions and other relevant organisations or interested parties. Anyone can apply to join in the course of these 4 years. Two recently started actions are calling for PSIT researchers and stakeholders to consider joining them. Below is some information on the two COST Actions.*

## **COST ACTION: Establishing Networks to Implement the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations (IMPLEMENDEZ)**



Interviews conducted across the world by police and other law enforcement agencies with suspects, victims and witnesses are crucially important in **determining criminal justice outcomes**. Several EU member countries have developed (or are developing) an ethical approach termed ‘**investigative interviewing**’, which aims to obtain detailed and reliable information, while respecting human rights. This approach is consistent with the 2021 United Nations Declaration of the ‘**Principles of Effective Interviewing**’, known as the ‘**Mendez Principles**’ after the UN Special Rapporteur Professor Juan Mendez. Law enforcement agencies in most countries, however, remain unaware of this approach, undertaking unethical practices that can lead to miscarriages of justice and failed investigations.

This Action involves a timely and much-needed strategy of convening regional and in-country networks of researchers, practitioners and policy makers working with each other and with the Action Team to enable wider implementation of the ‘Mendez Principles’.

Further info: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22128/>

Interested in joining? Contact Prof. David Walsh  
([dave.walsh@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:dave.walsh@dmu.ac.uk))

# Invitation COST Actions

## **COST ACTION: Justice to youth language needs: human rights undermined by an invisible disadvantage (Y-JustLang)**



This Action addresses the lack of **consistent policies** to establish the **language abilities** that children and adolescents need to possess in order to **participate in justice proceedings** effectively. The journey through criminal justice is based on highly verbal processes that require a level of verbal ability that is unlikely among young offenders, e.g. because of language impairment, underdeveloped syntactic abilities, abilities to connect language to context or abilities to handle structurally complex language. To date, there are, however, no procedures to establish language ability across populations and lack of awareness pervades the justice systems. Even where screening for language difficulties exists, it is not sufficiently nuanced to capture issues with the most common structures found in justice interchanges and no attention is paid to the needs of children from different education backgrounds, with disabilities, who are multilingual, or who are deaf or hearing impaired. To ensure protection of human rights of this vulnerable population, this Action will assess the situation at a transnational level in Europe and propose specific measures to identify language needs.

Further info: <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22139/>  
Interested in joining? Contact Prof. Maria J. Arche  
([m.j.arche@greenwich.ac.uk](mailto:m.j.arche@greenwich.ac.uk))

# News from our members

## The time has come: the new qualification system for community interpreters in Switzerland is being introduced

Since 2024, **basic courses for community interpreters** have been organised according to a **new model**. This includes not only teaching interpreting in education, healthcare and social services, but also interpreting in asylum procedures and for the police, public prosecutor's offices and courts. In addition, interpreting over the telephone and via video is already taught in the basic courses - and not, as previously, only at the advanced training level. These conceptual changes are intended to make interpreters fit for the labour market of the future.

To obtain the **INTERPRET certificate**, which is widely recognised in Switzerland, interpreters must pass a newly designed, four-part examination. These tests are the responsibility of INTERPRET, the umbrella organisation for community interpreting in Switzerland, and will be conducted in German, French and Italian.

2025 will be an important year: the Swiss federal professional examination for interpreters will be conducted according to a new model for the first time, too. This examination enables interpreters to obtain a **Swiss federal diploma of higher education**, i.e. an official Swiss tertiary-level qualification. So, things remain exciting, and INTERPRET is happy to keep you informed about further developments.

## News from our members



### Child Labour in Germany? BDÜ: Abolish Child Language Brokering!

On the occasion of World Day against Child Labour on June 12, Terre des Hommes published its annual report, this year focusing on Germany. The report on the topic of "Child Labour? In Germany?" is based on an empirical study and reveals unexpected forms of child labour, such as children being 'marketed' by family influencers and taking on care work in their families.

Furthermore, the report emphasizes the issue of child language brokering, particularly in medical settings. The report advocates employment of professional interpreters to assist families with migration or refugee backgrounds to prevent children from having to handle complex and potentially distressing situations. Germany's Federal Association of Interpreters and Translators (Bundesverband der Dolmetscher und Übersetzer, BDÜ) supports this request, extending it to other community interpreting settings like schools and public offices. The goal is to shield children from the abusive work as child language brokers and to offer families a professional and adequately paid interpretation service.

Also see BDÜ's earlier Position Paper on Child Language Brokering: [Download here \(DE/EN\)](#).

# News from our members

## Project FEIMEM

**FEIMEM**, which stands for Training and research with/for migrant women speakers of Languages of Lesser Diffusion, is a project developed by the FITISPos group at the University of Alcalá, Madrid (Spain) (2023-2024), and financed by the Ministry of Equality, Women's Institute. Please find [more information here](#).

## New issue of FITISPos

We are happy to announce that special issue "[Emotions, stress and related phenomena in public service interpreter and translator training](#)" has been published in FITISPos International Journal, Volume 11, Issue 1



## Focus - PSIT in Germany

Community interpreters (CIPs) play a crucial role in various community services, including healthcare, when service providers and users do not share a common language. However, there is a lack of evidence-based data on this population globally.

Saskia Hanft-Robert and Mike Mösko from the Department of Medical Psychology at the University Medical Centre Hamburg-Eppendorf conducted a nationwide online survey among CIPs in Germany to collect data on their qualification background, working conditions, mental health, interpreting-related psychosocial distress, and sociodemographics.

Across all 16 federal states, 873 responses were used for analysis. Most participants are female (74%), born abroad (77%), and have a high level of education (69%). The vast majority interpret occasionally in their leisure time (44%) and are self-employed/freelance (51%). 34% interpret solely or additionally on a voluntary basis (unpaid). The median number of hours of interpreting per month are 10, and 75% of participants do not exceed 30 hours. On average, interpreters work in four different settings. 69% attended any kind of interpreting training with a median of 25 hours in total. Of those who have never attended any training, 69% consider themselves rather/very competent in interpreting. In total, 36% reported moderate or severe psychosocial distress regarding interpreting. Factors such as precarious work conditions, lack of recognition, and discrimination (e.g. racism and sexism) were reported as distressing. The findings can be valuable for the development of qualifications, guidelines, policies, and the process of professionalizing the field of community interpreting.

The findings are published in BMC Public Health and [can be consulted here](#).

# CALL FOR PAPERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **AUSIT Conference on Linguistic Equity and Access (21-24 November 2024, Melbourne)**

The 37th Annual National Conference of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) will be held at **RMIT University in Melbourne** from **21-24 November 2024**.

The theme of this year's conference is **Linguistic equity and access: translating and interpreting – connecting our communities and the worlds**. The conference's main focus will be on the end-users of AUSIT's services. Inspiration and information can be found [here](#).



## **11th EST Congress: The Changing Faces of Translation and Interpreting Studies - University of Leeds (30 June - 3 July 2025)**

The 11th Congress of European Society of Translation will be held at University of Leeds. This edition will be organised around the general conference theme “The Changing Faces of Translation and Interpreting Studies”. Submissions adopting a wide range of (inter)disciplinary, methodological, conceptual, professional, historical or geographical perspectives on this theme are welcome.

Submission deadline: 26 July 2024.

[More information and the call for papers can be found here.](#)

# CALL FOR PAPERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Translation Culture of the GDR - University of Graz, 29-30 November, 2024

For the conference “Translation Culture(s) of the GDR”, the organisers invite you to submit contributions on these topics or related issues:

- **Translation policy of the GDR and/or institutions in the GDR:** What was translated? Who were the individuals involved in the translation process? What were the motives behind the translation policies? What effects did these policies have on the institutions and professional practice? To what extent were they influenced by the political situation?
- **Translational relations and networks of the GDR and/or institutions in the GDR:** What translational relations existed with other states and/or institutions on a national and international level? How did these relationships develop? What roles did these relations and networks play?
- **Translation practice:** What were the working conditions of translators and interpreters and how were they influenced? What role did professional organizations play in shaping professional practices?

Investigating translation cultures always also includes insights derived from case studies, especially in the sense that they serve as a starting point for further questions and ultimately contribute to the abstraction of findings, enabling researchers to make more general statements about the respective translation culture.

Please send your abstracts of no more than 300 words to [hanna.blum@uni-graz.at](mailto:hanna.blum@uni-graz.at) by 31 July. The abstracts can be written in English or German. There is no conference fee for presenters. The conference will be held on site. Please note that the details are subject to change without notice.

## Call for contributions

### **Istanbul University Journal of Translation Studies - Special Issue: Community Interpreting**

Istanbul University Journal of Translation Studies, a refereed Journal, announces the publication of a Special Issue for December 2024 on the topic of **Community Interpreting: Practices and Approaches**, guest edited by Maribel Del-Pozo-Triviño and Alev Bulut.

The IU Journal on Translation Studies invites you to submit articles in the field of Community Interpreting in English, Turkish, German, French and Spanish (for this Special Issue). Although the journal suggests a variety of Community Interpreting contexts, like Court, Police, Healthcare, Sign Language, Emergency and Disaster, Conflict/Warzone, Refugee and Asylum Interpreting, your suggestions of emerging topics and contexts are also appreciated.

Deadline for submission of articles is September 10, 2024.

**The style sheet and conditions for submission can be found here.**