

TRANSLATIO

No. 1, 2022 FIT Newsletter



President's message

Kevin Quirk

Dear FIT members,

While it may feel as though many of us should be celebrating what has been a turning point in the pandemic, with some of us already shedding our masks and returning to what may begin to resemble something akin to normalcy, we cannot feel festive as we witness the atrocities being committed in Ukraine. In late February, days after the invasion, FIT Council issued its first statement expressing solidarity with all translators, terminologists and interpreters impacted by events. This first statement received some criticism for being too broad and for that I can only apologise. FIT issued an updated statement on the war in Ukraine on 1 March, which you can read in its entirety [here](#). I am also especially grateful to FIT Europe, which has been sharing resources for our displaced colleagues on [social media](#) and ways everyone around the world can provide help.

FIT Council has long been faced with the difficult task of deciding whether the congresses rescheduled for this year were to go ahead as planned in Varadero, Cuba. I am pleased to inform you that, in accordance with the latest public health guidance, we have decided to hold our in-person events as planned, organised by FIT member ACTI. You can read more about

that decision in this issue, as well as plans for other conferences, including the 10th Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF 10), which is scheduled for late June.

Several other member associations are planning their first in-person conferences in some time this year, while others continue to provide valuable virtual and hybrid resources for all of us to take advantage of, such as ATA's professional development offerings.

Our FIT Regional Centres continue to do outstanding work. FIT Europe submitted questions to attempt to clarify upcoming European Commission competition law changes that could allow FIT member associations to negotiate better rates on their members' behalf. FIT North America held its first quarterly webinar of the year and focused on the economics of machine translation, which brought together experts from around the world. FIT North America also counts several new candidate members, which I hope will become full members at our upcoming congress in Cuba.

These clearly continue to be dark times for many. Senseless acts of violence and incursion are forever altering the lives of many of our colleagues, family, and friends in Ukraine and elsewhere. FIT

stands with all who advocate for peace and justice, no matter where they are. We would also like to recognise the generosity of everyone who is helping those experiencing hardship to communicate and access essential services despite language barriers. Language professionals play such an important role in the best of times, and even more so when times are tough.

Please be kind, look out for each other, speak out against injustice, and welcome your neighbour. We are stronger together. And as always, FIT will continue to do everything we can to help and support our members around the world.

Happy reading, be well, and stay safe!

Kevin Quirk, president@fit-ift.org



FIT Congresses to take place as planned



A world without barriers

VARADERO, CUBA



1-3 JUN
2022

FIT Council has decided that the FIT Statutory Congress and the FIT World Congress in Varadero, Cuba, on 30–31 May and 1–3 June 2022, respectively, will go ahead as planned.

This decision was taken at a FIT Council meeting on 25 February following considerable discussion based, among other things, on the survey that many of our members had recently completed. It is our hope that many of our member associations will be represented at the Statutory Congress and that many translators, terminologists and interpreters worldwide will travel to Cuba to discuss and collaborate on solutions to the global challenges facing the profession at the FIT World Congress.

While we realise that not every member

association will be able to send delegates to the Statutory Congress on 30–31 May this year, whether this be due to COVID-19, travel restrictions, financial circumstances or other reasons, we do hope you will try to attend. Should you be unable to attend the Statutory Congress in person, however, we would urge you to register your proxy vote with another FIT member association. If you require help in finding another organisation that will be travelling to Cuba, please contact me directly at president@fit-ift.org and I will help you find an association with whom you can liaise. Please note that registration to Statutory Congress and submission of proxies will open on 30 March. All relevant information will be provided at that time.

We also hope you will take time to join us for the first ever FIT World Congress (1–3 June) in Latin America, to debate and discuss around the broad theme of *A World without Barriers: The Role of Language Professionals in Building Culture, Understanding and Lasting Peace*.

The International Federation of Translators (FIT) and the Congress hosting organisation, Asociación Cubana de Traductores e Intérpretes (ACTI), welcome you to the XXII FIT World Congress 2022, in Varadero, Cuba.

For further information, please visit [va-radero.fit-ift.org](http://varadero.fit-ift.org). Please note that hotel booking will start soon when new reduced rates have been negotiated.

Kevin Quirk, FIT President

Professional development for FIT members

One thing that every translator and interpreter knows is that we must never stop learning. Not only do languages change, but the world in which we provide our services does as well. New technology comes on the scene. Our clients' expectations change. Old markets fade and new specialisations take centre stage. Professional development is more than desirable: it is essential.

The American Translators Association (ATA) takes professional development seriously, delivering content in a variety of formats to ensure that everyone has options to learn and grow. We invite FIT members to take advantage of these continuing education opportunities at a discount.

Webinars

ATA currently offers four to five webinars each month. Lasting on average 60 minutes, these offerings are taught by

seasoned instructors. Subjects cover a broad range and are geared toward translators and interpreters of varying degrees of experience. Recent titles include:

- Vicarious Trauma and Language Professionals
- Listening and Communication: Keys to Resolving Conflict
- Introduction to Website Localization
- Note-taking during remote interpreting assignments

Our new *Back to Business Basics* series offers an opportunity to improve your business skills. Each webinar in this series focuses on a single piece of actionable business advice for translators and interpreters at different stages of their careers. Recent topics include diversification, entrepreneurial skills, setting business goals, leveraging the power of testimonials, and more.

Some webinars are offered free to ATA members and the public, such as this recent [ATA webinar on scams targeting language professionals](#).

All ATA webinars are added to an [on-demand library](#), which now includes over 150 titles. There truly is something for everyone!

You'll find the latest information on upcoming webinar presentations on the [ATA Webinar Series page](#).

Virtual Workshops

ATA virtual workshops are designed as in-depth training events that last from three to six hours. They are limited to smaller groups so that everyone can take full advantage of the interactive format. The exercises, small-group discussions, and individual attention from the instructor allow participants to benefit from focused learning on a variety of topics, taught by industry experts. Upcoming

virtual workshops can be found on the ATA [Seminars and Workshops](#) page.

Inside Specialization podcast series

If you like podcasts, check out the [ATA Podcast!](#) In addition to news from ATA and the T&I industry, you can also enjoy our new *Inside Specialization* series. These monthly interviews spotlight different specialisations in translation and interpreting,

providing tips and strategies for anyone interested in exploring those niche areas.

Dialogue and collaboration with sister associations

ATA's Professional Development Committee continues to pursue top-notch continuing education opportunities for translators and interpreters. We are open to dialogue and collaboration with sister

associations. Please reach out to us at ata-professionaldevelopment@atanet.org

We want to encourage FIT members to explore ATA's professional development offerings. Please use the discount code FIT-member to receive a 15% discount off the non-member price for all ATA webinars and virtual workshops.

[ATA's Professional Development Committee](#)

AUSIT advocacy and professional development

In December 2021, Australia began re-opening its international borders. After spending the better part of two years closed off from the world with relatively low COVID-19 case numbers, re-opening the borders has inevitably brought a surge of cases. If a silver lining is to be found, it is that the pandemic has increased the visibility of our profession to the general public, as translators and interpreters (of Australian Sign Language, in particular) have taken centre stage in official information dissemination processes. Many government authorities, however, have failed to ensure our culturally and linguistically diverse communities have equal access to up-to-date health information. AUSIT has leveraged heightened public attention on these failures to advocate the importance of governments adhering to protocols for employing the services of professional translators and interpreters.

Community Translation Quality Assurance Framework

We engaged in a major project with the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA) for the Federal Department of Health. The project aims to shed light on the present state of the community translation industry in Australia, with a particular focus on the design, development, and delivery of public health messaging.

AUSIT members and associates, in conjunction with leading academics from the field of community translation studies, LSPs, translators, and community groups conducted research, recommended community translation protocols, and revised guidelines. We delivered a cost proposal and guidelines for the implementation of



a translation quality assurance framework and a set of community translation style guides for a range of languages. The aim is to instigate change in the Australian community translation sector to improve translation quality and enhance the delivery of accurate health messaging to our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. It has been wonderful to collaborate with different stakeholders to work towards a harmonised national community translation system that has quality improvement at its core.

Perth 2021 conference

AUSIT held its first ever hybrid event in Perth last November. It brought together over 140 online registrants and 70 in-person attendees who heard 22 different presentations from speakers hailing from around the globe. With the ocean as its backdrop, Perth 2021 opened with an authentic Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony performed by men's dance group Noongar Moorditj Minang Jinna. They were joined by the women's group, all of whom are practising interpreters, to dance the *tjurka* together. The dancers exhibited and shared the cultures that lie behind their languages, an aspect that is fundamental to establishing the two-way understanding that [Aboriginal Interpreting WA](#) promotes. The upcoming 2022 national conference is now in the planning stages and will take place in Queensland.

Hayley Armstrong, AUSIT
communications@ausit.org



The Noongar Moorditj Minang Jinna men's dance group, AIWA interpreters and Smoking Ceremony fire at AUSIT National Conference 2021, photo: Catherine Pfammatter

CTPSF adds affiliations and activities

As it celebrates its thirtieth anniversary, the Translators Association of the Province of Santa Fe (CTPSF), Argentina has recently joined two relevant institutions. These new memberships are expected to provide additional benefits to its members.

CTPSF is now a part of the Santa Fe Chamber of Foreign Commerce (CaCESFe).



This will give greater visibility to the role of translators and interpreters among national import/export companies. Our members will also be able to take the

international trade courses offered by the chamber, with the aim of improving their understanding of this field and thus enhance their translation skills.

CTPSF has also joined the Argentine Institute for Standardization and Certification (IRAM) to participate in the groups that are discussing standards related to translation and interpreting. Once drafted, agreed upon, published, and implemented,



these standards will help language professionals better manage the quality of the services they provide. In 2022, IRAM intends to work on standards



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

related to certified translation, legal interpreting, machine translation post editing, and translation projects.

Silvia Bacco
CTPSF representative

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ITI undertakes EDI survey



Institute of Translation & Interpreting
PROMOTING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS IN THE PROFESSION

In February, the Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) launched its first equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) survey.

The survey is a step towards the long-term understanding of who our members are, which will give us a better knowledge of how representative the ITI is of the industry and professions it serves and of wider society. It will also give us a benchmark from which to measure our progression to a more equal, diverse, and inclusive membership body.

ITI is committed to ensuring that it is welcoming and accessible to everyone regardless of gender or gender identity, ethnicity or nationality, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or age. By gathering and analysing diversity data, we will be able to assess the extent to which we are achieving this aim and will use the information to review processes to ensure they are fair and transparent for all.

ITI welcomes new board members

The Institute of Translation and Interpreting (ITI) has announced the new composition of its board from 1 May. It is a testament to the interest and engagement in the running of the Institute that we regularly have to hold elections due to receiving more nominations than there are places available on the board.

From 1 May 2022, Fiona Gray MITI, Agata McCrindle MITI and Lloyd Bingham MITI will join the board. Carmen Swanwick-Roa MITI was re-elected for a second term.

Among those leaving the board in May will be current chair, Paul Appleyard. Paul has been ITI chair for three years and has guided the Institute through the unprecedented times of a global pandemic. Our sincere thanks go to him for his hard work and support of the Institute. The new chair will be announced in due course.

Paul Wilson, CEO, ITI

KATI holds online symposium

KATI | Korean Association of Translators & Interpreters

On 12 December 2021, the Korean Association of Translators and Interpreters (KATI) assembled online for its second symposium of the year. The symposium was attended by some 110 members of the Korean T&I community who took part via Zoom. The conference covered topics that highlighted a human-centred perspective towards technology integration, featuring emerging opportunities for T&I specialists as new technology is increasingly being added to T&I practice. Presentations included such topics as voice recognition in interpreting, providing realistic quotes for MTPE projects, new work environments for conference interpreters, respeaking, specific precautions to take during remote interpreting assignments, and an introduction to terminology collaboration in WIPO Pearl, the terminology portal of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Min-jae Song
KATI director for Newsletter/PR

2022 OTTIAQ annual conference

The Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec (OTTIAQ) turns 30 this year and will be holding its [annual conference](#) on Friday, 14 October 2022 at the [Palais des congrès de Montréal](#). The theme of this year's conference is Language Professionals at the Forefront of Social Change.

Our society has changed drastically in recent years, more so than ever since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Many of these changes reflect the impact of lasting social phenomena – inclusion, diversity, immigration, and the Indigenous experience – both in Canada and abroad. Through it all, we can see many fascinating examples of how our language has changed.

The pandemic alone gave rise to scores of neologisms that were rapidly adopted into the everyday vocabularies of many languages. As gender expression and the ways it is described have become more diverse, norms around inclusive language have also started changing, with formerly marginalised forms of gender-neutral language gaining recognition from authoritative language resources. Some of us may be tempted to resist language change and stick to tradition, or merely avoid engaging in the debates and discussions that arise from these vital shifts. But these conversations are exactly where



Ordre des traducteurs, terminologues et interprètes agréés du Québec

language professionals must be present if we are to take up our essential role in society, as we navigate the continuum between promoting and advocating for new terminology, remaining neutral, or arguing against it.

In terms of technology, the widespread adoption of new digital tools means that we must all continuously adapt to new environments and features. Deeper technological skills soon may well become indispensable. Despite these challenges, change can also open the door to new opportunities. We need only ask ourselves what new needs we will be able to meet as language professionals, and what new roles we will be able to play.

Moreover, these social changes are also giving rise to ethical, technological, social, and environmental challenges. What professional approach should we take when confronted with misleading or unverified information, or even rampant propaganda? The dangers of misinformation loom large over those who work in

communications, language professionals included. Meanwhile, increased productivity comes at the risk of compromising translation and content management.

As we navigate these changes, we risk losing our way from time to time. But our professionalism will be the beacon that ultimately guides us in the right direction. We are uniquely positioned to keep our skills and knowledge sharp, and we fully understand the ethical quandaries and challenges that come along with social change.

To submit a presentation proposal

- Complete the registration form in [English](#) or [French](#)
- Include a colour portrait photo (high resolution)
- Email your proposal for the attention of the “Conference Program Committee” at communications@ottiaq.org by Friday, 22 April 2022.

*Sébastien St-François,
Certified Translator*

SFT: looking back and thinking forward

New board elected

In November, the Société française des traducteurs (SFT) held its annual general meeting in Paris, with 90 people in attendance. It was a great occasion for members to meet, elect their new board, and take stock of the past year while looking ahead to 2022.

The 2022 SFT Board of Directors

Bruno Chanteau (Chair), Pierrick Jeancolas (Vice-Chair and Volunteer Coordinator), Sara Freitas (Treasurer), Solène Binet (Deputy Treasurer), Sabine Deutsch (Secretary General), Ségolène Busch (Deputy Secretary General), Suzanne Etter, Gaële Gagné, Corinne Milani, Ralf Pflieger, Marc Rebet.

Image: ©monaawad



2021 in review

Events that took place, despite the pandemic:

International Translation Day

International Translation Day, with its theme *United in translation*, was celebrated by the SFT's regional groups across France, with no fewer than twelve face-to-face events, online meetups, two translation slams, and four TRADTalks (inspired by TEDTalks). More [here](#).

SFT members from Alsace, Lorraine, Occitanie and Paris, along with ALTI members from Luxembourg and BDÜ members from Saar



Panel discussion

The SFT organised a panel on 7 October around the theme *Why you should hire professional translators and interpreters*. The aim was to promote the translation and interpreting professions among language service buyers or referrers. Two language professionals teamed up with two communications specialists to share a united message.

The speakers were:

- Pia Edström Bourdeau, translator and interpreter
- Débora Farji Haguet, translator, interpreter, and trainer
- Jason Métivier, Director of LA COM DE LA COM agency
- Jean-Baptiste Schmidt, press and content officer, Automobile Club de l'ouest.

You can watch the discussion [here](#).



:Of course
LE MANS

Public awareness event

The SFT worked with two specialist agencies to organise a treasure hunt highlighting careers in translation in Le Mans city centre on 25 September. It allowed members of the public to learn about the work we do in several specialist areas, including literary, marketing, legal, subtitling, dubbing, gaming, localisation, interpretation, and sign language. It certainly helped to raise awareness!

Image: Magens studio/Innov'Event



Plans for 2022

For 2022, the board intends to continue its work of bringing people together, keeping them informed, and supporting them with several specific projects, including a regular newsletter, publicising the new website, and working with new partners to further promote our professions.

Société française des traducteurs, [sft.fr](#)

SFT offices and a job appointment

The SFT did not have its own premises until last year, when it decided to rent an office so it could host its members (as a workspace, and for training, meetings, etc.) as well as visitors keen to find out more about translation careers. It decided to set down some roots in Le Mans from 1 April 2021. Along with this move, it also took on a member of staff, primarily to promote the SFT and support the board's projects.



Upcoming forum: APTIF 10 – Beijing, 25–26 June 2022

APTIF is pleased to announce that the 10th Asia-Pacific Translation and Interpreting Forum (APTIF 10) will be held at the Beijing Foreign Studies University on 25–26 June 2022, with the theme of Collaboration in the World of Translation and Interpreting: New Changes and New Modes in the New Era.

Over recent years, the event has grown from strength to strength, establishing itself as an important regional platform for Asian translators, interpreters, and other language professionals to share their knowledge, outcomes, and experience in the T&I field.

Formerly known as the Asian Translators Forum, APTIF is a triennial event launched in 1995 to provide a platform for exchange and cooperation within the translation and interpreting community in the Asia-Pacific region.

In 2016, the APTIF Joint Committee was formed to oversee the forum, fostering fruitful outcomes for the Asia-Pacific translation and interpreting community. The increasing level of achievement, combined with the changing international situation and landscape, have made a forum for sharing of information between associations, universities, and professionals in this region essential to build effective cooperation and partnerships.

Following the success of APTIF 9 in Seoul, South Korea in 2019, APTIF 10 in Beijing welcomes researchers, practitioners, and trainers in the field of translation and interpreting, both within and beyond the region to discuss the impact of changes and new modes in our new era, a theme that is both historical and current, scholarly and professional, and relevant to the translation and interpreting community as well as society at large.

Working Languages:

English and Chinese



Important Dates:

Registration opens: 1 April 2022

Early bird registration closes: 30 April 2022

Regular registration closes: 30 May 2022

Forum: 25–26 June 2022

Email: aptif10@163.com

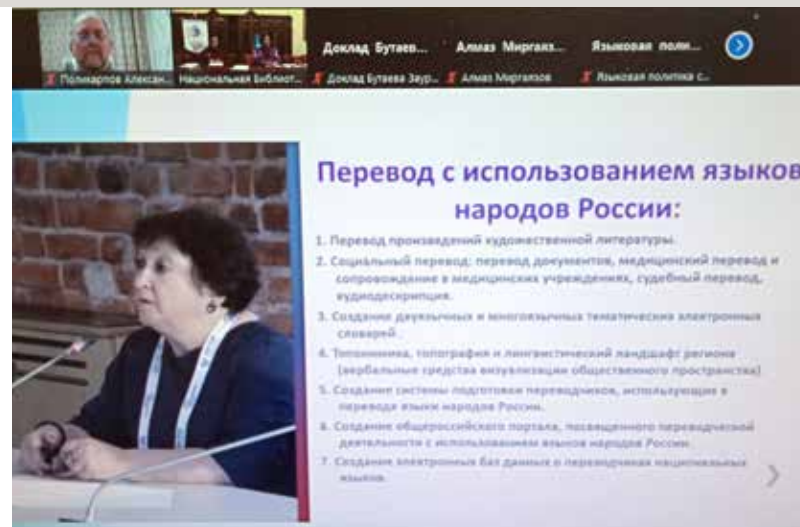
For further information, please email the forum organisers.

Indigenous languages in Russia as a tool

Being multinational and multilingual, Russia currently has around 250 languages and dialects within its borders. Many Indigenous languages are still used in social, intercultural, and international communication, in the media and in business, and in fiction, poetry, and film. To facilitate translation, bilingual and multilingual electronic dictionaries are actively being developed for a number of Indigenous languages in Russia.

To develop effective shared translation principles for using these languages at the federal and regional levels, the UTR board created the Council for Translation Activities Using Russia's Indigenous Languages in 2019. A regulation on its activities and a ten-year plan were developed to coincide with the UN's International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

The council is made up of active Indigenous-language translators, scholars, and representatives of local and regional organisations. Council members participate in discussions and resolve



Council members at an online forum organised by the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs

issues related to regional intercultural communication and Indigenous language instruction, including the development of translation activities. They have participated in creating an effective training system and certifications for qualified Indigenous-language translators, and they have worked with government agencies to provide special training programmes and create a digital translator database.

The council has worked with the Federal Agency for Ethnic Affairs, the Chamber of the Russian Federation, the Institute of Linguistics of the Russian Academy of Sciences, the Russian Academy of Education, the Ministry of Digital Development and Mass Communications, and other government agencies.

As laid out in its ten-year plan, the council will monitor the status of Indigenous language translation and identify the most urgent areas for development, including legal translation, business translation, medical translation, audiovisual translation, audio descriptions, the creation of specialised multilingual dictionaries, localisation, and more.

The council has also successfully implemented a project aimed at fostering inter-regional cooperation that involves a series of round tables on Indigenous translation. Two round tables on Udmurt and Buryat translation have already been held.

Prof. Alexander Polikarpov
UTR Council Chairman
org@rutrans.org



Professor Polikarpov, Head of the Council

Bargaining for better rates

Competition law may not be the most interesting of topics for our professions, yet within the European Union, it's deeply relevant and about to become even more so.

Individual translators and interpreters are classed as entrepreneurs. EU competition law prevents them from engaging in anti-competitive activities, such as banding together to unilaterally fix rates because doing so distorts competition.

However, the situation is changing, and a new path to negotiating better rates has opened up.

The European Commission recently conducted public consultations on how competition law impacts freelancers generally and their ability to defend their collective interests. The reasons are numerous: the pandemic and the impacts it has had on the self-employed all around Europe, and the rise of platform technologies – and the clearly weaker position that the self-employed have compared to the platforms – to mention just two. In short, the EC has come to realise that freelancers need assistance and that altering how competition law applies is a relatively easy way to put freelancers in a stronger bargaining position.

The upshot is that the EC, as guardian of the treaties and the EU's competition watchdog, has issued guidelines saying



europe

that if freelancers collectively “negotiate” better rates and conditions with a “counterparty,” then it will assume competition law has not been infringed.

What does all this mean for translators and interpreters?

Basically, a group of freelancers could negotiate with a group of persons procuring their services to mutually agree to better rates. The EC's guidelines make it clear that groups of freelancers can negotiate, though not much detail is given as to how this works practically when you have existing, established professional associations. The guidelines are useful because they provide examples of how these rules will work and what practices are acceptable, but the examples are too focused on loose groupings coming together (such as Uber drivers in a particular city).

Because there are numerous points that need more work, not just the issue mentioned above, FIT Europe submitted its views on the guidelines, identifying areas where more clarity from an association viewpoint is needed.

We asked:

- for more examples of how the guidelines apply to established associations
- what happens when there are several associations within the same country (quite a common occurrence in Europe)
- what happens if one association reaches a collective bargaining agreement with better rates
- whether all freelancers within a country can benefit from such an agreement, regardless of association membership
- for a clearer definition of “counterparty” (is it a selection of the biggest translation agencies in a country, all agencies, or a representative body, say a national member of the EUATC?), and
- whether a pan-European organisation could negotiate on behalf of its member associations.

We hope to see the answers to these important questions incorporated into the final set of guidelines, which will be published in a couple of months' time.

FIT Europe

FIT NA webinar on MT

The FIT-NA Regional Centre held its first quarterly webinar on 20 January 2022, titled *A Conversation on the Impact of Machine Translation on the Economics of Translation*. A panel of experts led a discussion responding to a [provocative article](#) in *Multilingual* magazine by Jaap van der Meer, who claimed that MT would soon render current economic models of translation obsolete. The panelists addressed the following questions:

- Is the current “mixed business model” (nearly free raw machine translation on the one hand and paid translation from LSPs on the other) sustainable?
- Will human translators still be around in 2030?
- Is this a binary question, or should use cases be brought into the discussion?

The panel worked to illuminate the reality of MT: its uses, challenges, and how and when human translators must stay “in the loop.” Moderated by Dr. Bill Rivers, Chair, FIT-NA, the webinar attracted more than 400 attendees from around the world. Readers can find a list of panelists and watch a playback of the webinar [here](#).

FIT-NA will continue its quarterly webinar series, with the goal of providing thoughtful, exciting, and timely discussion of issues of vital import to TTI professionals globally.

Additionally, the current mandate has seen FIT-NA membership grow to six member associations, as the Association of Translators and Interpreters of Alberta, the New England Translators Association, and the Mexican Association of Literary Translators have joined FIT as Candidate Members. We welcome them to FIT and FIT-NA!

FIT North America



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