

## Translator Trainers' Meeting in the Heart of the Golden Prague

### 1. EMT and translator training

The European Masters' in Translation is a European network of university programmes in the field of Translation Studies. The network was launched in 2009 under the auspices of the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission (DGT). The idea of the community is to provide cooperation and exchange of ideas between experts on the translation profession around Europe. The members are selected every five years by an expert committee after meticulous reviewing process, the current members also have to re-apply to the network every five years and justify that they still meet the selection criteria. The network is expanding and includes currently 68 programmes from the universities of the EU and non-EU states (Switzerland and Lebanon).<sup>1</sup> The EMT Board shapes and oversees the activities of the EMT network, which are mainly carried out in the EMT working groups. The whole network meets twice a year. During the last decade the Spring meetings have been held in Brussels at DGT, online and/or in hybrid format, and the Autumn meeting at one of the member Universities. The Autumn meeting of 2022 was held at the Institute of Translation Studies of the Charles University in Prague on the 20–21 of October.

In fact, the meeting began a day before, on the 19th of October. Most representatives of the programmes had already arrived in Prague and met at an informal get together in the building of the Institute of Translation Studies. The guests had an opportunity to see the facilities of the Institute located in a historical baroque building (the Network meeting itself took place in the building of the Faculty of Arts) and to realise that indeed it would be difficult to find a more suitable place for a meeting of translator trainers. The Institute was one of the first centres where the new discipline was fostered. The director of the Institute Tomáš Svoboda and other professors and researchers introduced the almost 60 years long history of the activities of the institution and its role in promoting the translator's profession. The teaching and research at the Institute are closely connected with the work of one of the founders of Translation Studies, Jiří Levý. The guests visited an exhibition devoted to the life and heritage of this outstanding scholar.

EMT Network meetings are two-day events. The first day is the day of the official meeting and the agenda is devoted to the collaboration of the Network and the DGT. On the second day a colloquium is organised. The topic of the colloquium is connected with the areas of expertise of the hosting organisation but also is in the scope of the interests of the Network. All in all, the meeting and the colloquium are an important event for the academics from the EMT universities, local translator trainers and stakeholders of all kinds. The Prague Network Meeting was the second EMT meeting to be organised as a hybrid event: some of the members participated online.

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<sup>1</sup> There were 81 members accepted in 2019, but regrettably the 13 members from the U.K. had to leave the network due to the Brexit processes. They could not take part in the network together with other programmes from non-EU countries because UK was no longer among eligible countries (EU, EFTA, EEA, neighbourhood policy or Erasmus+ country).

## 2. EMT Network Meeting in Prague

The meeting started with the welcome words by Vice-Rector of Charles University **Markéta Krížová**, Head of the Commission Representation in Prague **Monika Ladmanová**, and acting Director-General of DGT **Christos Ellinides**.

The opening was followed by the **eMT challenge Award Ceremony**. The eMT challenge was a competition between the students of EMT programmes on evaluation of MT systems.<sup>2</sup> The three winners received the awards at the EMT Meeting. They were Mimosa Järvenkylä (University of Turku, Finland), Sonora Bogdanova (Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Latvia), and Martina Cocconcelli (University of Bologna, Italy).

**Adriano Ferraresi** (University of Bologna, Italy) spoke in his presentation about the perceived gap between the knowledge and skills acquired at universities and those required by the labour market. The purpose of an Erasmus+ project UPSKILLS is to study the current needs of the market and make suggestions for updating the university curricula.<sup>3</sup> The technological skills are becoming more and more important. Prices for basic translation services keep plummeting, and at the same time other language services become more remunerative due to low availability of adequately skilled resources. A corpus-based analysis of job ads was performed. The skills often mentioned in the ads were data collecting and analysis, annotation, building language models, testing tools performance, performing quality control, ensuring consistency of localizations, etc. The new professions required by the market are language data analyst, language data scientist, language data manager and language project manager.

**Oliver Czulo** (University of Leipzig, Germany) and **Victor Venema** (University of Bonn, Germany) told about the Translate Science project. The purpose of the project is to make scientific publications (books, theses, articles, abstracts, titles, etc.) in languages other than English more accessible, and this is done by means of volunteer and crowd-sourcing activities.<sup>4</sup> Translations help science by making results of research available to scientists around the world and at the same time translations improve the impact of science by providing access for the people interested. Translations done by professionals and non-professionals are shared via the website of the project. Participants can take part in translating and/or in quality control.

**Jeroen Aspeslagh** (DGT) spoke about editing at the DGT. The main task of the Editing Unit is to ensure transparent and clear language in the documents. At the moment, the work is done by 18 English editors and one workflow coordinator. In 2021 the unit edited 31,000 pages. The documents to edit are of various kinds: policy documents, reports, speeches, minutes, brochures, etc. The Unit is interested in collaboration with EMT universities: Blue Book traineeships and virtual collaboration.

In her talk **Věra Kloudová** (Charles University, Czech Republic) spoke about using corpora, translation tools and technologies in the M.A. and Ph.D. theses at the Institute of Translation Studies. She stated that corpus-based research and translation technologies still do not occupy the attention they deserve. Corpus-based theses usually belong to the

<sup>2</sup> [https://commission.europa.eu/resources-partners/european-masters-translation-emt/2022-emt-challenge\\_en](https://commission.europa.eu/resources-partners/european-masters-translation-emt/2022-emt-challenge_en) (access: 1. 6. 2023)

<sup>3</sup> <https://upskillsproject.eu/> (access: 1. 6. 2023)

<sup>4</sup> <https://translatescience.org/> (access: 1. 6. 2023)

field of comparative studies or translation universals. The influence of CAT tools and MT on translation process and output is another topic covered in M.A. theses at the Institute.

**Kalle Konttinen's** (University of Turku, Finland) presentation (delivered by Leena Salmi) was devoted to translation company simulation in translator training (Konttinen 2022). The course *Multilingual translation workshop* is part of the curriculum of the Multilingual Translation Studies degree programme at the University of Turku since 2015. A longitudinal monitoring of students' progress and achievements has been performed (surveys, essays). The research combines quantitative and qualitative methods. The study thus promotes the working life component in the translator training.

**Tomáš Duběda** (Charles University, Czech Republic) demonstrated the importance of teaching translation into the second language, the L2 translation. In the present-day university curricula the courses in translation into native language clearly dominate in spite of the fact that the demand for translation into English is growing and the numbers of English-speaking translators are not sufficient. The speaker stressed that the existing myth on the 'impossibility' of translating into a non-native language should be confronted.

**Ingemar Strandvik** (DGT) invited the EMT universities to take part in the research project *Evaluation of eTranslation output on multilingual platforms*.

**Leena Salmi** (University of Turku, Finland) together with **Nicolas Froeliger** (Paris 7, France) and **Alexandra Krause** (University of Vienna, Austria) presented the results of an EMT competence survey distributed in summer 2021 to translators working for the public sector. The survey showed that the typical tasks of the respondents were translation (95,1%), bilingual editing (73,3%), proofreading (47,8%), and MT post-editing (40%). The highest rated competence was complying with deadlines, instructions and specifications. The lowest rated competence was approaching existing clients and finding new clients. The respondents considered important the following competences. Translation: implement the instructions, style guides, or conventions relevant to a particular translation; translate general and domain-specific material, producing a 'fit for purpose' translation. Technology: make effective use of search engines, corpus-based tools, text analysis tools as well as CAT tools; use the most relevant IT applications, including the full range of software, adapt rapidly to new tools and IT resources. Personal: plan and manage time, stress and workload. Service provision: complying with professional ethical codes and standards and networking with other translators and language providers. The detailed results of the survey are available in Froeliger et al (2023) and Svoboda & Sosoni (2023).

**Mikhail Mikhailov** (Tampere University, Finland) presented the results of his survey of using corpora in translator training (Mikhailov 2022). Most of the responses received come from the EMT universities. The survey demonstrated that corpora are still viewed upon as a research instrument, not as a practical tool for writers, translators, and editors. Some of the responses show that the situation starts to change due to the expansion of Sketch Engine, the service that makes collecting and using corpora much less challenging.

**Tomáš Svoboda** (Charles University, Czech Republic) presented the results of his survey on using MT post-editing in examinations together with, **Sophie Léchaugnette** (University of Lille, France) and **Ralph Krüger** (University of Köln, Germany), who shared good practice in the area.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Cf. article by Tomáš Svoboda and Šimon Schwarz in this volume.

### 3. Colloquium 'Translation in a Changing Europe'

The EMT Network meeting was followed by a colloquium organised by the host.

The colloquium started with the welcome words by Vice-Dean for International Relations of the Faculty of Arts **Milan Žonca**, Director for Resources of the DGT **Jörgen Gren**, and Director of the Institute of Translation Studies **Tomáš Svoboda**.

**Vanda Obdržálková** (Charles University, Czech Republic) delivered a talk on Czech Tradition in Translation Studies, from Czech Structuralism (Prague Linguistic Circle) to Jiří Levý and his influence on developing of the present-day Translation Studies and translator training (see also Obdržálková 2016).

The panel 'Synergies between the academia and local market/network: further cooperation possibilities?' saw a frank conversation between representatives of the academia and stakeholders on how to make the various actors in the translation sector collaborate more efficiently. The panellists were **Michal Chuchút** (Chamber of Court Appointed Interpreters and Translators of the Czech Republic), **Daniel Svoboda** (Association of conference interpreters), **Anežka Charvátová** (Czech Literary Translators' Guild and senior lecturer at the Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University), and **Tomáš Svoboda** (Director of the Institute of Translation Studies, Charles University, also representing Czech Union of Interpreters and Translators on the panel). The discussion showed that there is no real gap between academia and the industry and that synergies are possible, once collaboration and exchange prevail over lack of information and mistrust.

A special topic for discussion was the impact of the war in Ukraine on the translation industry.

**Kateryna Bondarenko** (Volodymyr Vynnychenko Central Ukrainian State Pedagogical University, Ukraine) spoke about the impact of the war on the developing of the translation industry and translator training in Ukraine. She informed the audience on the translator training at the universities of Ukraine (see also Marczak & Bondarenko 2021) and on the changes due to globalisation and development of technologies (CAT tools, digitalisation) and political issues (breaking of relations with Russia, developing relations with EU and USA, the war).

**John O'Shea** (Chair of FIT Europe) spoke about the actions performed by the FIT (International Federation of Translators) in response to the challenges in the translation industry caused by the war in Ukraine. Translators and interpreters are playing an important role in the work with refugees, translation technology experts are training MT models with Ukrainian language. The language services in Europe were severely affected with the war.

### 4. Conclusions

The EMT Meeting and Colloquium was an important event for translator trainers and scholars. The colleagues from many universities of Europe could get together for exchange of experiences and ideas. The main concern of the previous EMT Meeting hosted by a university (in Leipzig in 2021) was the impact of the pandemic and remote work. The challenges on the agenda of the Prague Meeting were the integration of machine

translation into the translation process, digitalisation and the related emergence of new profiles and the war in Ukraine. The current situation makes communities like the EMT even more important than they were before the war and the Covid-19 pandemic. The next EMT Network Meeting will be held in October 2023, in Salamanca, Spain.

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