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## EDITORIAL

Issue 28

Spring is in sight. The days are getting warmer and the nights are getting brighter, which can only mean one thing: you have made it through the beginning of the year and *Tradivarius* is here!

In this edition we will share some of the achievements of our colleagues. In our midst, we have IT specialists who have been working to make our computer systems accessible for everyone regardless of our abilities and an Eco Champion who has spent 25 years promoting an environmentally-friendly lifestyle.

This year marks the first EU presidency of Malta so we will take a look inside the smallest Member State's Language Unit. You will also hear from the Croatian Unit. Read how their sixth annual inter-institutional meeting went and find out more about their plans for the upcoming year.

Looking for new professional experiences and challenges? Read the testimonials of DG TRAD File Coordinators and look out for the latest call for expression of interest!

We have also interviewed our Finnish colleague, Katariina Edwards, to see how she got on during her secondment to PreTrad.

DG TRAD have been busy promoting external relations. Sonja Kostadinović from the Multilingualism Unit recalls how a presentation about our work with new lawyer-linguists from France went. We will also reveal what Mads N. Outzen and Kent Johansson found out at the CIUTI Forum 2017 in Geneva about the future of translation technology.

We all know our translation trainees, but did you know that DG TRAD also welcomes Schuman trainees? Find out what they have been up to for the last five months!

On a lighter note, read the article about the Carnival: its origins, history and traditions in Luxembourg.

We hope you enjoy this edition and we welcome any of your article contributions in the future.

Elina Apine-Despierris

## OUR SUCCESS STORIES

## HEAD OF ITS UNIT REWARDED FOR PROJECT OF INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY



Imagine getting to the office, turning on your computer and not being able to do your work because you could not use the applications or even read what's on the screen. This was often the case for translator Tanja Kleut who relies on

screen reading software to understand what the computer is doing, because Tanja is blind.

When the head of the ITS Unit, Erik de Becker, became aware of this problem he took it upon himself to ensure that the accessibility of IT tools should be improved.

Since Tanja joined DG TRAD as a trainee in 2014, changes have been made to computer tools under Erik de Becker's guidance to ensure that they are fit for purpose for everyone.

For his efforts in the field of accessibility of IT translation tools, Erik was selected

as the winner of the European Parliament's Equality and Diversity Award 2016.

After receiving the award, Erik thanked the selection committee for recognising the validity of the IT accessibility project and honouring it with this award.

Many of you may have seen Erik out and about at lunch time, either running or cycling, so it was no surprise that his acceptance speech included some reference to sport: "A marathon runner gets his medal when he crosses the finish line, we only did 2 km of the 42 to be done. But obtaining this award is a



*Tanja Kleut, Erik de Becker and the Vice-President Dimitrios Papadimoulis*

major step for the project because it recognises the need of making IT accessible, and the usefulness of the project.”

Erik accepted the award not so much as a sign of achievement for the project so far, but as a sign of encouragement and confirmation “that we are on the right track”.

Jurisconsult and Chair of the selection committee for this year’s award, Freddy Drexler, announced Erik’s unanimous victory on December 13.

At the ceremony in Strasbourg, Mr Drexler pointed out that “Erik wanted to solve problems and he did”. He examined the situation concerning the key IT tools in DGTRAD then got in touch with his colleagues in other DGs.

They found that many IT applications could be improved if adapted to be more inclusive. Mr Drexler then stressed that the general standards concerning our IT tools/applications have been raised as a result of Erik’s initiative.

Mr Drexler further pointed out that “sometimes a difficult situation can lead to great progress, progress which can be of benefit to all”.

Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Chair of the High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity and Vice-President of the European Parliament, presented a trophy and a certificate to Erik for this contribution.

While the original project started with an assessment of the IT facilities in DG TRAD, the scope has now been

widened to include software in use elsewhere.

Currently there are only two applications that fully meet accessibility requirements: Mina used by DG INTE and Sirius from DG TRAD.

However the next versions of internet and intranet are set to include improvements to ensure that those with disabilities can access the same resources as everyone else, thanks to Tanja’s guidance. Work is also ongoing on Streamline and even the JSIS platform.

In his speech, Erik shared his gratitude to Tanja who was an integral part of this project along with many others: “I want to thank Tanja for her dedication, hard work and detailed reports and courage; her ability to deal with frustration and the nice and friendly way she shares her very specialised technical knowledge.”

Tanja added: “I would like to invite everybody to continue working on the implementation of accessibility because a digital and accessible environment provides a better future for all of us.”

If you would like to know more about the project please come along to one of the learning visits at the ITS Unit.

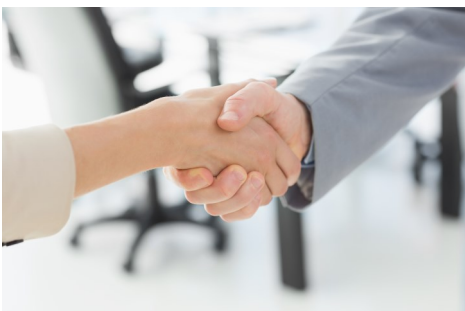
**Caitlin Webb**  
trainee

Multilingualism and External Relations Unit

Photos: © European Union 2016

## EXTERNAL RELATIONS

### VISIT OF ‘ASSOCIATION TOURANGELLE DES JURISTES-LINGUISTES’



As part of our cooperation with the Visits and Seminars Unit of DG COMM that was established a year ago,

Multilingualism and External Relations Unit gladly accepted the call from the *Association Tourangelle des juristes-linguistes* to give them an insight into our DG and the services we provide.

As their name would suggest, it is the association of prospective lawyer-linguists from the University of Tours, whose aim is to liaise with their counterparts at other universities and

learn more about career opportunities from companies or institutions. As part of their visit to the European Parliament, they were particularly interested in learning more about translation and work of lawyer-linguists, so I prepared a presentation with Marianne Salou, from the Directorate for Legislative Acts.

This enthusiastic group of 50 students was very fascinated by the work we do, the annual quantity of translations we

produce and especially by the multilingual environment in which we work. Apart from that, they wanted to know more about the biggest challenges that we as translators face, as well as our cooperation with other institutions. They were also curious about the studies and experience necessary to

become a translator or a lawyer-linguist. I also shared how important it is to keep text authentic and maintain an equal value for all linguistic versions.

This was just an example of how interested citizens are in the services that we provide. We count on continuing

our successful cooperation with DG COMM and welcoming other visitor groups throughout the year.

**Sonja Kostadinović**

Public Relations Officer

Multilingualism and External Relations Unit

## DG TRAD FOR YOU

### FINNISH COLLEAGUE GIVES THE THUMBS UP TO HER SECONDMENT TO PRETRAD



Every year six-month secondments to PreTrad are offered to assistants and translators of DG TRAD. **Katariina Edwards from the Finnish Unit**, who responded to the call of expressions of interest and was seconded to PreTrad, tells us about her experiences and encourages colleagues to use this opportunity.

#### Tradivarius: Why did you decide to take part in the programme?

Katariina: I have been working at the Finnish Unit since 2001 and I thought that it would be interesting to widen my horizons and try something different to my usual tasks as a translation assistant. I saw that PreTrad was looking for a secondment and I decided to apply.

#### Do you think prior technical knowledge is necessary if you want to work in PreTrad?

It helps if you already know the translation tools we use in Parliament but PreTrad will train you to use all the necessary tools and programmes.

#### Which tasks did you carry out during your placement?

I worked in PreTrad's Technical Conformity Cell (TCC) and my role was to check the technical quality of the

incoming documents before they were sent to translation units. My tasks included checking and correcting incoming originals, providing conversions from PDF to Word and drafting instructions to language units.

#### How will you use the knowledge and experiences acquired in PreTrad in your everyday work in the translation unit? Does it help to see how things work on the other side of the fence?



I have improved my technical skills with the tools (Studio, EuramisEditor, Abbyy FineReader, Word, Excel) that I was using during my placement in PreTrad. I have also learnt the best practices to find technical issues in the documents and the best ways to solve these issues. It was very good experience to see how PreTrad works in practice and how important PreTrad's role is in the whole translation process. It is very useful to know what PreTrad is doing and what kind of problems they can help me with to fulfil my tasks in the language unit.

#### How did you find the practical arrangements concerning your exchange?

I had no practical issues concerning the exchange. I had my new office ready and my computer was prepared with all the necessary tools installed, without any issues. When I returned to my language unit I also had no problems starting working with the translation tools in my office.

#### Was it difficult to integrate into the new working environment? If yes, what could be done in the future to further facilitate the integration?

My new multinational PreTrad colleagues made me feel very welcome and immediately I felt part of the team.

#### What would you say to those still hesitating to take part in the placement programme?

My placement in PreTrad was very successful and instead of staying for six months, I ended up staying for nine months. That must show that I really liked it.

I would highly recommend that everyone takes part in these placement programmes. The placement programme gives you the perfect opportunity to change your activities within the Parliament and in the end you still have your own post waiting for you after the secondment.

During the placement, you have the opportunity to work in a different environment, carry out new tasks, learn out how to use different tools and programmes and not to mention - you also get to know many new colleagues!



## ENVIRONMENT

### PRETRAD COLLEAGUE PUTS HIS PEDALS TO THE MEDAL



It is always good to know that sometimes those little things we do everyday have positive impact and do not go by unnoticed. For one colleague in PreTrad, his daily routine being noticed led to him being crowned an Eco Champion.

Ever since he arrived in Luxembourg in 1992, Miguel has taken it upon himself to make our workplace more ecological. From campaigning for better bicycle facilities (more and better bicycle racks, more space reserved for bicycles and shower facilities), to collecting litter on his daily commute, Miguel has proven his commitment to reducing his impact on the environment. As recognition for this efforts, Miguel was nominated by his colleague Ibolya Rajka and was awarded one of this year's EMAS Eco Champion award.

This award came as a surprise to the PreTrad/Euramis Unit administrator, who was not aware of his nomination

until Dominiek Decoutere mentioned it to him.

Miguel said: "The first I heard of it was when Dominiek mentioned my candidacy for the award. I told him that I didn't know what he was talking about.

"I was then informed that my name had been put forward by a colleague. When I thanked her and asked her why me, she said that what had impressed her



was not just the fact that I cycle to work whenever possible, no matter what the weather (after all there are others who do likewise), but that during a period where I could not cycle for health reasons, she had repeatedly seen me picking up litter with a stick on my way to work in the mornings."

On top of his promotion of carbon-free transport and recycling, Miguel stopped eating meat 34 years ago and has lobbied Parliament to offer more vegetarian choices at the canteens.

As an IT coordinator, he also promoted the use of recto-verso printers to cut down on paper waste.

While these actions are not particularly extraordinary, Miguel has said how he believes that even small changes to your routine can have positive effects. He believes that if more people drove less and cycled or walked more, ate less meat, did not litter then the sum of all of these small changes could result in significant improvements.

"You do not have to live in a cave and eschew all modern conveniences to reduce your negative impact on the environment", Miguel added.

While Miguel could not make it to the ceremony in Brussels on January 12, he was presented the prize through a video conference.

On top of his trophy, Miguel was also given an EMAS thermos mug, a reusable canvas shopping bag and a book by Bea Johnson about living without producing waste.

## WHAT'S NEW?

### CIUTI FORUM 2017 — NOT A WORD ABOUT DISRUPTION



On 12 and 13 January, Mads N. Outzen, adviser to the Director General, and Kent Johansson

from the Multilingualism and External Relations Unit participated in the CIUTI Forum 2017 at the UN premises in Geneva. The theme of the conference was the short and long-term impact of artificial intelligence on language professions. There were a good mix of participants, mainly European and Chinese, from academia, tech companies, language industry and international organisations, which created the perfect

conditions for a highly interesting conference.

From the outset, it was clear that language technologies are developing at great pace. From the first speakers, reference was made to that week's Technology Quarterly segment in The Economist (7 January 2017) where conclusions were made on voice computing: "yet although language technologies are nowhere near ready to replace human beings, except in a few highly routine tasks, they are at last about to become good enough to be taken seriously".

All speakers at the conference agreed



Kent Johansson

that we need to see technology as an opportunity. They said we need to embrace it by focusing on how we can develop it to benefit our clients. This was also the conclusion of Mads'

presentation that stressed the need for a pragmatic approach to machine translation; looking at what works and what does not work in a perspective of quality and resource efficiency always remembering that it needs to work in all our 24 language. Other speakers, especially from Chinese tech companies, gave examples of great advances in speech-to-text and the development of neural machine translation.

As for the impact on language professions, it was commonly agreed that they were changing and still bound

to change in the near future. Despite expectations that future disruption would be mentioned, instead there seemed to be a mutual understanding that change is already here. The most advanced representatives from academia underlined that they saw translators and interpreters as professionals of mediation and intercultural competencies and they were organising their courses accordingly. The profile of the translator in the (near) future is seen as a quality-control expert, or, as we normally say in DG TRAD, an "editor in chief" with excellent linguistic mediation and text analysis skills.

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOOD REASONS TO BECOME FILE COORDINATOR!

*Our third call for expression of interest to become a File Coordinator has just been sent out. Why? Because this is a relatively new scheme and it has already turned out to be a great success! Should you apply? Definitely! Read the testimonials of some outstanding translators below and you'll understand why!*

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**RUTA BICKAUSKAITE**, File Coordinator for the House of European History

At face value, file coordination doesn't seem much more than a switchboard. The routine is very straight-forward - you take the information in and you pass it on. Unless a project is as busy as the House of European History (HEH).

The volume of information travelling back and forth is massive. I suppose, the least that is expected from a File Coordinator is just to keep a good track of it all and systematise it in some usable way (the platform we use for information sharing has always been an Achilles heel in this respect).

Then there are the little bonuses related to the process itself. When history is involved, people will always go the extra mile to prove a point. As all of us who work on the project come from different countries, we were subjected to different ways of teaching and learning

history. So there has always been a little bit of a "drama" on the both sides of the switchboard. I suppose it is not an exaggeration to say that many of us - after being very closely involved in the work over the museum's texts - have developed a certain sense of ownership over this project.

Being a File Coordinator for the HEH

document, but that is seldom the case. So the contribution of File Coordinators becomes even more useful because all this information is summarised on the File Coordinator Space for anybody to read. The cooperation with the committee administrators could still be improved but then again, the File Coordinator figure is quite recent so maybe in the future things will run more smoothly.

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**ALEXANDRU MATEI**, File Coordinator for Troika INIs

I was approached in mid February 2014 to become a File Coordinator for a procedure regarding the role and operations of the Troika, a politically controversial issue at that time (and even now). Everything was to happen very fast, only in a couple of weeks. I believe it was one of the very first File Coordinator initiatives, Mads and Cathy\* barely had enough time to put together a "Survival guide for File Coordinators" and I was granted full freedom in choosing what and how to post on the File Coordinator Confluence space. During two blitz-missions to Brussels and Strasbourg, I had the opportunity to meet two colleagues from the ECON staff who explained a bit what was going on behind the scene. We also discussed some terminology and the importance of the ESM Treaty



has certainly never been boring. The job gives you an excellent opportunity to learn about the way things function on the client's side but also to get to know our own backstage better.

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**ILARIA FUSILLI**, File Coordinator for the Waste Package or Circular Economy Package

I found the File Coordinator role to be quite interesting. It allowed me to get more involved in the file's subject-matter, to follow the procedure from beginning to end and to better understand its different phases. Ideally, translators should have the time to do some background research for each

and I had the chance to learn more about the political negotiations and about the procedure. I think that the most interesting thing was to witness the voting time for the consolidated AMs in Strasbourg: a colleague from ECON was seated next to me and helped me understand what was going on. It was a highly interesting experience for me, it helped me realize how we are actually part of an intricate system, where everything needs to run smoothly in order to allow for this somewhat obscure, but magic moment happens: voting time! We are part of a democracy only when this particular little expression of free will happens, in the best interest of the citizen. It may sound unfashionable and dull, but it all comes down to this, in my view. I felt I can only encourage my other colleagues to express their interest in becoming a File Coordinator!

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**ELENA CIOBANU**, File Coordinator for Parliamentarium

I am a File Coordinator for Parliamentarium, the Visitor Centre of the Parliament. It has been an enjoyable, interactive experience. On the one side, I am there to compile and forward the questions to DG COMM that my colleagues may have relating to a translation document. Sometimes I raise questions even before the document is submitted to planning, which I think helps save time. I work closely with my colleague from the Planning Unit, Mária\*, for example by writing very specific clear translation notes that will be helpful to translators. With the Planning Unit, we have successfully organised a few collation meetings to tackle possible or existing problems and ensure a more direct communication with our clients and to better understand their demands.

What I have noticed as a File Coordinator is that if we all have something in common: our purpose to do the best possible job and provide excellent results. I have also noticed that people have taken up to using the Confluence page a lot more than in the beginning, so it has turned out to be a good communication tool. It allows us to

organise information with more ease and translators know they can consult it for answers anytime with one click, rather than writing innumerable emails. I think having a File Coordinator is good

You can express your  
interest until **MARCH 3!**  
Don't miss the deadline!

for the client as well - it's good to know that they have a specific person who asks questions and clarifications, it makes contact more human. All in all, it's a very positive experience!

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**ANTONIYA SUTTY**, File Coordinator for the Five Key Communication Projects

It all started in February 2015 with a copy of the Survival Guide for File Coordinators, a kick-off meeting with DG COMM and a perfectly-new Confluence page for the Five Key Communication Projects. Two years later, I consider this experience to have been really positive. Obviously, serious effort has been required regarding setting priorities and time management, as all other translation business had to be continue as usual. This mix of roles meant getting a better picture of what is going around in our DG and our house. It involved pushing past your comfort zone, perfecting transferable skills and what is especially enriching: getting to know colleagues in language and horizontal units and DG COMM better. As the work on the file goes on, benefits are evident: evolving partnerships, better communication, better quality of texts, increased visibility and mutual understanding of the other DG's work and constraints. Translation for communication purposes may represent a relatively small part of all translation work done in our DG but in most cases it is very trying. The register required can differ from one job to another, depending on whether texts are designated for a women's rights campaign; curious retired visitors of the EP building in Strasbourg, schoolchildren visiting Station Europe,

young people taking part in the EYE, or cinema critics and aficionados preparing for the local Lux Prize film events. Sometimes mutual understanding is a key factor. Here I can recall a translator being nonplussed at an instruction to use "sexy" language when translating Your EP Pocket Guide, or an argument in defence of multilingualism in the middle of summer over leaving a film festival's name in English, that might not be a good idea in certain countries that use a different alphabet or are known for their high concentration of language purists on the ground. Finally, what is the most important is having one clear message so that you can communicate better!

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**AGNES DIJK**, File Coordinator for the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI) file

In my experience, being a File Coordinator provides added value in a very concrete sense. All translators cope with similar questions regarding (sometimes confusing) originals, technical issues and content-related issues. Through his/her Confluence page a File Coordinator can provide answers to these questions centrally, so every translator doesn't have to reinvent the wheel. A crucial factor for the File Coordinator role to function is that this File Coordinator page should be used by as much translators as possible.

On a personal level, my role as a File Coordinator gave me a broader insight to our work: the procedures and the politics behind it. In this sense, it made my work as a translator more interesting and easier, as background knowledge is crucial for a good quality translation. Moreover it's very inspiring to meet the people working at the parliamentary committees in Brussels and to work together with them.

Testimonials collected by **Emma Charlotte Hartkamp**, advisor, Directorate B

\* *Mads N. Outzen and Cathy Waibel, advisors to Mr Mavrič*

\* *Mária Missenard-Horváthová*



## TRAINEE PERSPECTIVE

### SCHUMAN TRAINEES REFLECT ON THE PAST FIVE MONTHS



(from the left) Yuliya, Ana Baudot, Ana Jimenez and Caitlin Webb

Meet the four Schumann trainees who have been working behind the scenes in DG TRAD for the last five months.

Chosen from around 8,000 applicants, these trainees have experienced working life inside ITS, TermCoord and the Multilingualism and External Relations units since October 1.

Trainees Ana Baudot and Ana Jimenez came from Spain to perfect their communication skills and have been doing so by promoting Terminology on the internet.

While Miss Jimenez, who has a Master's in Business Communications, does have experience in this field and has a BA in Translation and Terminology under her belt, this was her first experience putting what she had learnt into practice.

She said: "I didn't have much experience before I got here. I have learnt a lot from my fellow trainees and from my colleagues. I have learnt how a big organisation like the European Parliament works - this I could not learn out of a book."

"It's one of the best internships around because of its prestige but also because it gives you the possibility of seeing first-hand what it is like in the institutions. This is something that I

have wanted to do for a long time and it has shown me that I would like to work for the institutions."

Journalist and social media expert, Miss Baudot, shared her knowledge of communications with the unit and in return took a glimpse into the world of Terminology.

"It has been a really insightful internship. I have learnt how the European institutions work and the rigor and preciseness that is needed here.

"We can't just write about everything, we need to be really rigorous. I have experience working in communications before but during this traineeship I learnt a lot about terminology since this was my first experience in this field," she said.

"The job itself is quite flexible and it changes from day-to-day. I do all that is needed at the time from creative projects with photo editing software to sharing interesting terminology articles. Every day is different and we get to both show off our skills and practice."

During her time in Luxembourg, trainee Yuliya Lyubenova, from Bulgaria, has helped to complete a two-year project within the IT service.

Recent Master's graduate of New

Media and Society in Europe, Miss Lyubenova has said that this experience has been "an eye-opener".

She said: "Learning how the IT service in the biggest DG in the European Parliament works has been an eye-opener. I have enjoyed this internship because at first I didn't know much about it, but now I know a lot more.

"Everyone in the team has been so great and I don't feel like a trainee here at all but a real colleague with responsibilities.

This experience has been amazing. It has been very useful after my master's degree specialising in the EU. I knew before that we are part of the EU but I didn't quite know about all its functions and how it impacts small countries like Bulgaria.

I would recommend this traineeship to people that are interested in the EU and multiculturalism - it's a very useful inside view. Everyone should have the opportunity since you learn a lot and it helps with job aspects."

Contributor of Tradivarius, Caitlin Webb, has been working behind the scenes to edit and fill the pages within the Multilingualism and External Relations Unit.

She said: "Ever since I stepped into the hemicycle in Strasbourg ten years ago (as part of Euromed Scholar) I wanted to come back to the European Parliament. That experience then inspired me to study Politics and International Relations with French at university in a multicultural environment and I loved it.

"After university I trained to become a journalist and landed a job in a local newspaper but I felt like an outsider in the newsroom. Leading up to the referendum and Brexit, I was seen the go-to expert on the EU and I realised that I wanted to learn more."

She added: "In spite of the

referendum result and thanks to this traineeship I feel more and more European. I am very glad that I have had the opportunity to work with some incredible people - before it is too late. I have had such a great time learning about new languages, different cultures and testing my English literacy. These last five months have

gone by too fast!"

Three of the trainees have enjoyed this experience so much that they looking to continue their EU careers and are planning to take the EPSO exams. Miss Jimenez will stay in the city, working in content management for a consultancy firm and Miss Baudot is heading back to Madrid to

work as a Documentation and File transfer in a multinational company.

Miss Webb has been offered a job working for a Communications agency in Brussels.

**Caitlin Webb**  
trainee

Multilingualism and External Relations Unit

## LEISURE VIVONS LE CARNAVAL !

Sortez confettis, masques, déguisements et autres accoutrements loufoques, le carnaval est arrivé ! Mais connaissez-vous seulement son histoire et sa signification ?

Commençons par un peu d'étymologie : le terme "carnaval" vient de "*carne levare*", qui signifie "ôter la viande". Cette fête, souvent associée au Carême, est à l'origine une tradition populaire païenne. En effet, durant l'Antiquité, l'année débutait en mars, mois du réveil de la nature. Cette étape devait être précédée d'un retour au chaos, d'un renversement de l'ordre établi, représenté par le carnaval.

Au Moyen-Âge, cette coutume est reprise par l'Église catholique. Elle commence à l'Épiphanie et prend fin le premier jour du Carême (le mercredi des Cendres), précédant ainsi la période de jeûne de 40 jours avant Pâques. Le carnaval est alors synonyme de dérision et de bouleversement de l'ordre social. Des bals masqués, des défilés et d'autres animations égayaient les rues jusqu'au mardi gras.

Aujourd'hui, le carnaval a une signification quelque peu différente. Il marque le passage de l'hiver au printemps, de la mort à la vie, et indique un renouveau de la nature dans l'exubérance et l'imagination. Il porte les symboles de l'autodérision, de l'humour, de la satire et de la

fantaisie. Pour un instant, on casse les règles sociales, les codes et les étiquettes. À la fin de la période du carnaval, de grands feux sont allumés dans les villes et les villages. Ils permettent de brûler les péchés et ont une fonction purificatrice. Des bonshommes de tissu ou de paille sont parfois embrasés au-dessus de ces feux : Carnaval est mort, emportant l'hiver avec lui.



Cette fête est très populaire en Europe, et certains pays possèdent des traditions bien spécifiques. Par ailleurs, plusieurs carnivals de notre continent jouissent d'une notoriété mondiale. Ainsi, à Nice, le thème change chaque année et les grosses têtes en carton-pâte envahissent les rues, tandis que les fleurs volent au cours de la "Bataille des fleurs". Lors du carnaval de Venise, renommé pour ses masques et ses costumes resplendissants, on retrouve les personnages de la comédie italienne tels que Colombine, Pierrot et Arlequin. Enfin, c'est le burlesque qui domine durant plusieurs jours à

Cologne, notamment le "Lundi des Roses", zénith du carnaval de cette ville allemande.

Le Luxembourg honore lui aussi cette tradition. Le pays vit pendant quelques temps au rythme des bals populaires et des "cavalcades", à Diekirch, à Esch-sur-Alzette, à Schifflange et à Pétange, entre autres. Le mercredi des Cendres, à Remich,

on brûle le *Stréimännchen*, c'est-à-dire un grand bonhomme de paille ensuite jeté dans la Moselle pour enterrer le carnaval, même si les festivités s'étendent au-delà de cette date.

Par ailleurs, le carnaval luxembourgeois n'existerait pas sans ses diverses spécialités culinaires typiquement dégustées à cette occasion. Essayez donc les *Nonnefäscht* et les

*Verwurrelt Gedanken*, respectivement des nœuds de pâte et des beignets saupoudrés de sucre glace, les *Täertelcher*, (d'autres beignets), les *Maisercher* (beignets en forme de souris) ou encore les *Stretzegebäck* (petits gâteaux de pâte échaudée passés au four).

Bref, le carnaval contient tous les éléments pour vous en mettre plein la vue, titiller vos papilles gustatives et vous faire passer un excellent moment de divertissement !

**Sarah Tribolet**  
former trainee, Directorate B



## INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

### CROATIAN TRANSLATOR GET-TOGETHER



The sixth annual inter-institutional meeting of Croatian translation and language units in the European institutions took place on January 26<sup>th</sup> in the Schuman Building. The event was attended by around 80 participants, mainly Croatian translators and lawyer-linguists from all EU institutions, but also experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Croatia.

This all-day meeting was opened by Mr. Valter Mavrić, who spoke about the direction in which the DG is developing: more communication and mediator tasks for translators, external accreditation of translators and changes in technology (Cat4Trad, machine translation). He also stressed the importance of inter-institutional cooperation and meetings like the Croatian inter-institutional meeting.

Marijana Nikolić, Head of the Croatian Translation Unit in Parliament, welcomed the participants and introduced guest speaker Mr. Domagoj Peranić, Deputy Head of the Office of the Speaker of Croatian Parliament and expert on nomotechnics, i.e. legislation drafting rules and transposition of EU legislation into Croatian legislation.

Mr. Peranić explained the underlying principles of nomotechnics and

highlighted the importance of rigorous text structure, the hierarchy of drafting requirements, appropriate language and linguistic accuracy. He also gave some concrete examples from the Croatian legal framework and emphasised that the work of translators and lawyer-linguists in the EU institutions had a great impact on Croatian legislation, the legislative technique applied and even on Croatian language in general.

In the second part of the Croatian inter-institutional meeting, three panels were held dealing with terminology, quality of translation and an Inter-institutional style guide.

The discussion on terminology, which was the third consecutive session over the past year, was led by terminologist Vanda Mucić (EP). A series of terms were sent to the participants of the panel in advance for preparation and an agreement was reached on final translation versions which will be added to IATE, with common arrangements available on the Croatian wiki page.

The discussion on quality of translation was chaired by Sanja Vukotić, Quality Coordinator (EP). This began with a presentation by Valentina Herlah (EC) who introduced the Commission's machine translation

project "MT@EC". Ms Herlah pointed out the rapid development of machine translation, its benefits and the need for developing of new skills, i.e. the revision of machine translations. She also pointed out that in May, the Commission will host a lecture by prof. Nataša Pavlović on this topic.

In the following, Maja Kušan (EP) presented the work on the collocation dictionary, which stemmed from an idea during last year's inter-institutional meeting. This project was completed with the help of other institutions, translators and assistants from the Croatian translation unit in Parliament in the course of 2016. Now, there are around 250 references in the collocation table. During the discussion, a similar project was mentioned which is currently conducted by the Institute for Croatian language and linguistics and refers to the most frequent collocations in the Croatian language. The Council, the hosts of the next inter-institutional meeting, will continue to work on the collocation dictionary.

Furthermore, a workshop on revision in practice was led by Ana Pranjković Karas (EC), who presented the conclusions of a similar seminar held in the Commission. Subsequently, the participants discussed their observations on the basis of a revision prepared in advance.

The discussion on the Croatian inter-institutional style guide was facilitated by Branka Sinčić (EP) and Tena Gnjatović (EP). In this context, Olga Marín Blasco, guest from the Publications Office, talked about the implementation of this style guide and noted that all future changes and amendments will have to be agreed upon by all institutions and sent to the Publications Office.

Lawyer-linguist Lidija Stopfer (Council) presented the joint practical guide of

the European Parliament, the Council and the Commission for people involved in the drafting of legislation within the Community institutions. She also presented the joint handbook for the presentation and drafting of acts subject to the ordinary legislative procedure. This handbook includes translations of standard formulas used to harmonise and speed up translation. It should be published in February.

Once the Publications Office has

finished the final version of the Croatian inter-institutional style guide, members of the Working Group will once again revise the text before print. The style guide will continue to be updated and new content will be added as and when required. Moreover, a proposal has been made for drafting an inter-institutional handbook for the translation of standard phrases. In the final part the chairs of the panels briefly presented their conclusions.

Marijana Nikolić thanked all the participants and organisers for their contribution. She recalled that work in the thematic groups will continue throughout the year, now under chair of the Council, the host of the next Croatian inter-institutional meeting in 2018.

**Edi Zelić**

translator, Croatian Language Unit

## UNIT FOCUS MALTESE UNIT



### SOME HISTORY

Our Unit started off small (like our country ☺) sharing the floor with the Italian translators at the Conference centre. Of the original three people recruited into our Unit in April 2004, one colleague still works with the unit, while the other two are now back in Malta.

The unit was initially located in Tour B, but by 2006 and as the number of colleagues grew steadily, we were allocated the 18th floor, as well as part of the 17th Floor in Tour A. We regularly receive visitors - mainly colleagues and their families - who come to admire the views from the "Maltese Floor".

From the very beginning, the Maltese unit shared a strong sense of belonging to a community, whereby many colleagues forged strong bonds which could be likened to a substitute family. It's common for colleagues to bring Maltese sweets and delicacies to share upon returning from holidays and visits in Malta.

This sense of community can also be felt in our sense of fun. A memorable occasion was April Fool's day back in 2006 or 2007, when one of the Maltese colleagues

emailed all to inform about the "opening of a gourmet fish restaurant on the 19th floor of Tour A" ☺)

### PRESENT

Today, our unit is certainly much larger than it was in the beginning. It comprises 11 assistants, 25 translators, one quality coordinator

a healthy male/female ratio. Given that our country is a small archipelago of three inhabited islands, our unit includes a majority of colleagues from Malta, the "largest" (relatively) island, as well a healthy minority from the second-largest island, Gozo. The tiny island of Comino (population 5) remains unrepresented - a sad case of lack of geographical balance.

Currently Malta is hosting the Presidency of the EU. It is the smallest country of the EU, and also the country with the highest population density. Our language, Maltese, is the only Semitic language spoken in the European Parliament. We are linguistic djs "mashing it up" - listen to Maltese and you'll hear top notes of English, Italian motifs, and French pulsations, all superimposed on and integrated with a recognisably Arabic base drone.

### INTERESTING FACTS

Look at a map of Europe. All right, look again, we're actually there, even though you probably need to magnify your viewer and the name of our country occupies an even bigger space than the country itself. But, hey, we're fun, and come on size isn't everything - websites list us as one of the best countries to live in, to retire in



*Team building*

and one head of unit. Unlike the pre-2004 units who are experiencing the retirement of several colleagues, the Maltese unit is relatively young, and most of the colleagues are in their thirties and forties. Our educational and professional backgrounds are quite mixed, including, apart from a few linguists, colleagues who studied and/or worked in education, finance, the legal professions, meteorology, pharmacology and tourism. We have



and to have a jolly good time in. To drive in – eh, no, that's a big no no, unless you're secretly planning to join a mission to Mars and need to get used to dodging craters.

Are we equally fun in Luxembourg? I guess that the weather does dampen our spirits a bit. But we are still a jolly bunch and up on the 18th floor we have a pretty nice commanding view of Luxembourg (notice the emphasis on 'commanding' – for once we feel pretty high up in the scale of things.

Here are a couple of fun facts about our unit:

- \* Looking at our unit from above, the stars tell us Sagittarians rule. However we have yet to bump into a half horse-half human in the corridors of Tower A. Ironically, the twin Gemini only pertains to one colleague. – the next EPSO concurs will be solely for Geminis.
- \* 12.5 % of the unit are lefties... a percentage which exceeds the world average of 10 %. We will never reveal who the 0.5%



*Farewell party for a colleague*

belongs to.

- \* An ex-colleague won a gold medal at the Small Nations Games held in Luxembourg. Oh, that tastes so sweet.
- \* One of our ex-colleagues, who has since retired, is one of Malta's best playwrights ([orestecalleja.com](http://orestecalleja.com)).
- \* A Luxembourg – Malta football match at the Stade Josy Barthel, which Malta WON 0-2 – attracted more Maltese supporters than locals. Ah, sweet, sweet taste of victory. Do you know what winning Away is like for us?

Winning at all is pretty rare – we're talking about a national side that lost to the Faroe Islands - twice!

- \* One of our colleagues (now working for a horizontal unit) organises a pub quiz every year, in January ([gozoquiz.eu](http://gozoquiz.eu)).

It's worth giving it a try, because it's good fun, it's a good dose of general knowledge and it's all for a good cause ([guatemala.org](http://guatemala.org)).

- \* We are notorious for our love of food – at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., there is always something to nibble or munch, thanks to our dames of charity who always bring enough food to feed an army. And have you ever noticed the mass migration of a gaggle of Maltese colleagues on their way to and from KAD at lunchtime?

One final fact – YES, there is another floor above ours. NO, we don't charge for it. NO, it is not a gym or a walking track, but YES it has some nice views. So come along and visit whenever you want, we welcome all visitors. Unlike you-know-who, we're not into building walls.

**Alison Roberts**  
**Fiona Sciberras**  
**Marco Spiteri**

translators, Maltese Language Unit

Photos from the Unit's archives



*Party food*



## RECIPE CORNER

### MALTESE BAKED MACARONI

Everyone knows how delicious the Greek, Portuguese, Spanish and Italian dishes are, but few know that Maltese dishes might be as exquisite as any other Mediterranean dish.

Let's try Maltese baked macaroni! Pasta is (obviously) a typical Italian dish. In fact Maltese inherited this dish from Sicily and with a few tweaks here and there went on to adopt as their own.

**Ingredients** serving 4 persons (as main course) or 6 persons (as starter):

- 100g beef liver
- 100g bacon
- 600g macaroni
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 medium sized onion, diced
- 1 cup peas
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 200g minced beef
- 200g tomato purée
- 200g minced pork
- ½ teaspoon oregano

#### Preparation

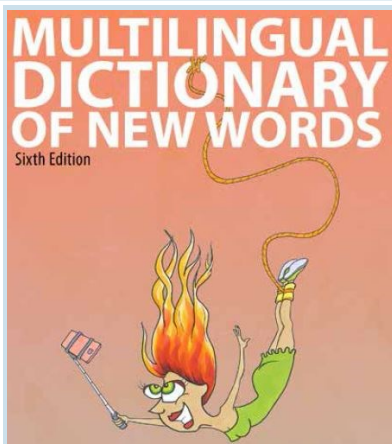
Boil the macaroni in salted water until al dente and in the meantime fry the onion and the garlic gently until golden. Add the minced beef and pork, finely sliced bacon, beef liver and the tomato paste. Stir well and cook for approximately 10 minutes. Add pepper, oregano and purée and cook for another 30 minutes. Mix well this sauce together with the pasta in a large dish. Add the peas, eggs, milk and sprinkle grated cheese on top. Bake at 200C for about 30 minutes.



Photo: Peter Verdnik

*Maltese stand at the Babel party*

- 100g grated cheese
- ½ cup milk
- Salt and pepper



The sixth edition of the **MULTILINGUAL DICTIONARY OF NEW WORDS** has arrived!

You can now grab your own copy from your unit's secretariat.

Please note that you can choose between the English and the French version. The only difference between the two is the language used for the translations of the definitions.

Have fun discovering new words and should you have comments, please share them with us at [dgtrad.mdnw@europa.eu](mailto:dgtrad.mdnw@europa.eu)!

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