

# How FIT fits into the world of standards

John O'Shea, Chairperson / FIT Europe

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europa

REGIONAL CENTRE EUROPE OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS  
CENTRO REGIONAL EUROPA DE LA FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE TRADUCTORES  
CENTRE RÉGIONAL EUROPE DE LA FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS

# Disclaimer

Not on Standards Standing Committee but information in this presentation obtained from current members and accurate as at end of May 2023. Information and position likely to change as FIT develops its own position

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FIT's position within the  
standards system

# Liaison Status

## Guidance for ISO liaison organizations Engaging stakeholders and building consensus

work. **Effective and cooperative consensus standards development must be built on a foundation of mutual respect and constructive collaboration among all parties engaged. Therefore, ISO, NSBs and liaison organizations benefit from diversity of thought and approach and from mutual respect.**



- 3.1 P7** NSBs should seek input that represents organizational perspectives (e.g. companies, organizations, trade associations, government agencies, consumer interest groups, etc.) and/or the perspective of individual experts.

# Liaison Status

- ▶ FIT's voice should be heard when standards are being developed
- ▶ Regional / global organisations should make a contribution to development of ISO standards relating to translation, terminology and interpreting

# Liaison Status

- ▷ Drafts sent by ISO to NSBs
- ▷ NSBs alone can comment and vote on the text
- ▷ FIT Cannot vote but can attend ISO meetings and be heard



*“Those in the profession should write the standards”*

*“If you are the author of a standard, the power is in your hands” (ASI President)*

*How?*

# FIT encourages its member associations to nominate representatives/experts to NSBs

“Professional associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists are also encouraged to delegate representatives to their respective national mirror committees to provide grassroots support to the work of FIT in matters of standardisation”

FIT position paper on  
International Standards

Is that always possible?



# FIT's Position Paper

- ▶ Standards have clear advantages for professional translators, interpreters and terminologists
- ▶ Better than simple codes of conduct
- ▶ More structured / broader scope
- ▶ Set common parameters and processes
- ▶ Inform those using the services of professional translators, interpreters and terminologists
- ▶ Ensure a form of consumer protection

# FIT's Position Paper

- ▶ Positive impact on the public image of these professionals.
- ▶ Set out the minimum requirements
- ▶ For example that translators or interpreters need to have a formal education or at least long-term experience to be able to do a good job
- ▶ Promote the image of a highly demanding and responsible profession

# FIT's Position Paper

- ▶ TTI-related standards provide definitions and ensure clarity of terminology
- ▶ Familiarise clients with the basic parameters of the profession
- ▶ Protect against unrealistic work conditions + assist client in finding a competent professional
- ▶ Certification of translation service providers allows access to the growing number of translation assignments for which clients demand compliance with standards – **who benefits from this?**
- ▶ Full documentation of a translation project from start to finish allows on to find out what went wrong
- ▶ Can be beneficial in dispute resolution

# Standing Committee

- ▷ Reconstituted after last Congress in Cuba 2022 / wide geographical coverage among members - Also a Technology Standing Committee which is relevant

## Focus:

- ▷ Developing standards relevant to translation, terminology and interpreting / Commenting on drafts / revisions to standards
- ▷ **Outreach:**
- ▷ Explaining how standards benefit our sector
- ▷ Educating stakeholders



*How?*

## Developing standards relevant to translation, terminology and interpreting

**Focus on a few standards**      **ISO 17100**

Not just ISO as in past but      **ISO 11669**  
now also ASTM                      **F2575-23**

Focus in particular on  
those up for review



*Key question is the position of MT in these standards and stance on use of raw MT output*

# Explaining how standards benefit our sector / educating stakeholders

## FAQs

Ensure translators know their obligations under the standards to avoid undue burden on them

Summaries /  
Translations thereof

Disseminate best practices / guidelines about service provision

List of benefits in the position paper

Position papers can change and be updated to reflect new circumstances

Events for translators on standards / CPD

Articles in *translatio*

Sharing of news/developments



## A critical stance

**“Translation is not a commodity but a creative service that can never be fully standardised”**

## What does the future hold?

**Expect FIT's views on TTI standards that are up for review to be widely disseminated**

**Expect the position paper to be updated at some point**

# Thank you

## Any questions?

You can find me at:

[chair@fit-europe-rc.org](mailto:chair@fit-europe-rc.org)

[www.fit-europe-rc.org](http://www.fit-europe-rc.org)