

THE DIGEST

HAPPY INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY



This year's International Volunteer Day focuses on the power of collective action, something which keeps AIIC alive.

Each of you plays a vital role in the continuation of the Association, whether through volunteering on the groups or regional bureaus, hosting local events or taking time to attend meetings and sponsor new members.

For 70 years, AIIC has depended on the generosity of its members and their ability to work together for the benefit of the profession, which has never been more important than in these rapidly changing times.

ExCo applauds all of you for your efforts this year and celebrates everything you contribute to the life of the Association.

THE AIIC INTERVIEW

This month, we talk to the coordinator of the PRIMS Standing Committee and learn more about how AIIC supports members working on the Private Market and what members can expect at the upcoming PRIMS meeting.

For newer members who might not know what you do, or have problems remembering what the acronym stands for, can you give us an overview of what PRIMS is all about?

PRIMS stands for the Private Market Sector and it's the biggest of AIIC's sectors. Our job is to represent AIIC members who work on the private market, including those who split their time between the private and institutional markets.

In an international organisation like AIIC, representing everyone can be complicated. Fortunately, the current Standing Committee (**Federica Mamini**, **Ana Pleite Moreno**, **Leire Carbonell Aguero**, **Verónica Perez Guarnieri** and **Livia Cais**) started out with members working in Europe, the USA, Asia Pacific and South America, allowing us to focus on issues that were globally important to AIIC members.



Veronica, Leire, Federica and Livia in Lecce

What have been the priorities for this Standing Committee?

Firstly, we wanted to continue the work of the previous committee with the MICE industry. We felt that this was the right direction for us to take and this started with the joint meeting with MPI in Lecce. Since then, representatives of the MICE industry have been part of all our meetings. As a result, we've seen a change in the perception of conference interpreters. The event planners we've worked with have come to see us not as service providers but rather as partners in their events.

It was also important to show members that how we communicate content can have an impact on the outside world. This led to the recent 'Speak your Language' campaign, which was greatly appreciated by our partners in the event industry. For them, understanding the importance of interpretation in multilingual events means more effective meetings. For their clients, meetings are not only more effective, but also shorter.

Along the way, we have created some important advocates. Since meeting AIIC members in Lecce last year, the MPI (Meeting Professionals International) President from Washington DC actively promoted the use of interpretation at events to his colleagues and clients, as well as attending AIIC USA events.



What can members learn from all this?

PRIMS is here to lead the way, but to do that, we need input from the members. They need to tell us what they see as important in their market. One of the first things we did when we were elected was to launch a survey of members asking them what they wanted to hear more about, and we are always open to hear more suggestions.

There's only so much we can do and it's important for the regions to take what they learn from us and develop it locally. Some regions are already doing this, for example, AIIC Brazil has been doing a lot of work with MPI and MCI, for others, we set up the AIIC Task Force for MICE this year. The idea is to show MICE contacts best practices and how AIIC can be a partner for them. This has been an exciting project that all interested members were invited to be part of and we're about to send out our first newsletter.

Let's talk about the upcoming meeting in Bali. Is this just an excuse for a holiday or is there a serious side to the next PRIMS meeting?

We don't choose the destinations! We have to be invited by the local members and this time Asia Pacific stepped up and suggested Bali...

These events have to be social occasions as well as opportunities for debate and professional development. Interpreting can be a solitary profession, especially outside the institutions, so meeting each other and potential clients is an important part of the weekend, though there's a lot more to it than that.

This time we will be dipping our toes into the waters of AI. We all know this is a massive topic that will have a huge impact on our profession, so we see this as a first meeting and a chance to educate ourselves from experts and debate the impacts it could have on the event industry. To get a taste of what we have planned, [check out the video we put together with the Asia Pacific regional bureau \(RB\)](#).



You mentioned that Asia Pacific suggested Bali as a destination for the PRIMS meeting. If other regions are interested in hosting an event, how does it work?

PRIMS is here to work for all AICC members, so our one rule is that we alternate events between Europe, which has the highest concentration of members, and locations outside Europe. Our last meeting was in Ireland, now we're off to Indonesia, in the summer we'll be back in Europe (come to Bali to find out where!), then the final meeting of this mandate will be in Lima during the assembly.

Hosting a PRIMS event is actually very easy for the region as we do most of the work. The only prerequisites are an international airport and sufficient hotels, after that, we don't care how big your region is.

We need a formal invitation from the RB, who hopefully have some suggestions for venues. We do all the legwork, plan the programme and side events. The region is invited to host the welcome drinks, but they aren't obliged to agree. They can also promote what they do and attract more members, it's basically a win-win for them.



Veronica, Livia, Federica and Ana in Dublin

It sounds like you've done a lot over the last two years. Overall, what's your experience on the PRIMS Standing Committee been like?

It is a lot of hard work, but it's also very rewarding when you work with the right people. I know I've been lucky in the other colleagues on the Standing Committee. From the start we have always split the work between us, so we never feel alone. We have a great rapport, talk most days, and have become friends. We haven't yet managed to all be in the same place at the same time, but fingers crossed we'll finally get to meet face-to-face in Lima.

I've got to meet so many colleagues from around the world and have developed an international perspective that I didn't have before. One of our goals was to look outside AIIIC and to involve regions where AIIIC was less present and international participation in PRIMS events is certainly on the increase.

Finally, what can members do to be involved in PRIMS?

We want to hear from members, to know their ideas and their feedback on what we are doing. We welcome negative feedback as well, as long as it's constructive.

We believe that PRIMS should represent all its members equally, so even if your region is small, don't let that stop you from sharing your experiences and being involved. We are here to support you!

Dear Esteemed Volunteers,

On this special day, we celebrate your selfless service and dedication to making AIIC and the profession stronger.

Big or small, your individual and collective volunteering in governance, research, training, distance interpreting, artificial intelligence, mentorship, ethics, negotiations, improving working conditions, the development of international standards, admissions, technology, health, law, finance, communications, etc. have gone a long way to ensuring that AIIC stands strong 70 years after its creation.

Your ability to innovate, build networks, impart knowledge, learn new skills and give back to AIIC make volunteering worth the time and effort. We hope that this will be an inspiration for new faces to come forward to volunteer.

Let us endeavour to achieve more highs than lows by embracing volunteerism driven by respect, collaboration and collegiality. AIIC credits its success to you. You are AIIC's ambassadors and without you, the Association would not exist.

Happy International Volunteer Day!

Sylvia Amisi, AIIC Vice President
on behalf of the Joint Working Group on Volunteers

Happy International Volunteer Day!

Sans volontaires, l'AIIC n'existerait pas.
Without volunteers, AIIC would not exist.
لا وجود للإتحاد الدولي للمترجمين الفوريين بدون متطوعين
AIIC ntiyabaho nta bakorerabushake.
沒有志工，就沒有 AIIC。
Sem o voluntariado a AIIC não existiria.
ನವೋದಯವಿಲ್ಲದೆ AIIC ಅಸ್ತಿತ್ವವಿಲ್ಲ
Senza volontari, l'AIIC non esisterebbe.
Sin voluntarios AIIC no existiría.
Bila wajitoleaji, AIIC haiwezi kuwapo.
χωρίς εθελοντές η AIIC δεν θα υπήρχε.
Bez volontera, AIIC ne bi postojao.

Joyeuse journée internationale des volontaires !

NEWS FROM GERMANY

By AIC Germany's PR officer, **Susanna Bartilla**

On the occasion of its Annual Meeting on November 18th and 19th, the German region put on a spectacular gala event to celebrate the 70th anniversary of AIC.

In keeping with the theme of the evening, "AIC's Got Talent", members were called upon to showcase their hobbies, be it live on stage, like the Absolutely Incredible Instant Choir conducted by **Kristina Lange** and the singing duet **Susanna Bartilla** and **Hans Mikasa**, or on the big screen where a running slideshow entertained guests with exotic activities like carpentry or beach volleyball some members excel at.

During the course of the evening, the annual newcomer prize was awarded to **Charlotte Ahlgrimm** and a special honorary membership bestowed upon former AIC president **Gisela Siebourg**.

A delicious cake in the shape of an interpreter console baked by organizer **Elke Limberger** and **Esther Ingwers** was the final highlight of this memorable event.



ONE TRIAL, FOUR LANGUAGES

By AIIC Germany member, *Elke Limberger-Katsumi*

10 years of volunteering

I guess most AIIC members have heard about the exhibition 'One Trial – Four Languages' in one way or another, maybe even participated in organising it.

As was highlighted earlier this year the exhibition has been around for ten years. Read all about it on www.1trial-4languages.org. It is entirely the product of volunteer work. Firstly, to put it together and secondly, to manage and grow it so it can serve as a powerful PR tool for AIIC and the profession.

I had the idea at the time and was able to motivate colleagues at the various stages of the exhibition's evolution to invest time and energy. I think we did an amazing job that goes to show how much an extra effort and a good idea can achieve.

As of November 2023 the exhibition has a younger, smaller offspring – an exhibition on the history of the technology for simultaneous interpretation from 1928 to today. It will allow us to fill some niches that we could not fill with the big original exhibition and hopefully further enhance the positive image of AIIC – mostly thanks to volunteer work.



Curator + designer exhausted after setting up the exhibition in Geneva in 2019

NEWS FROM UK & IRELAND

By AIIC UK & Ireland's PR officer, *Emmanuelle Rivière*

AIIC UK&I organised AIIC's 70th anniversary regional celebrations around the theme of linguistic justice and the role of interpreters. The well-attended, hybrid, free event took place on the 7th of October in London, and the video is now accessible on demand here: <https://aiic.co.uk/site/uk-ie/AIIC-70th>

The event was a panel discussion on human rights and languages in courts, linguistic justice and what happens when "rare" languages are needed. Guest speakers were Eleanor Sharpston KC, **Andrew Constable** AIIC, Maria Cocis of Amnesty International and Besmir Fidahić, UN interpreter. The discussion was moderated by **Elena Edwards**, our AB representative, and was followed by a screening of Eliane Esther Bots' film *In Flow of Words*, an award-winning short film relating the experiences of three interpreters of the ICTY (also available on the link).



NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS

By AIIC Netherlands Regional Bureau

The Hague Legal Symposium at the Peace Palace in The Hague

On the 11th and 12th of November, the Dutch Region held its traditional legal symposium. This year, to celebrate our association's 70th birthday, AIIC Netherlands was very proud to host the speakers and participants at the International Court of Justice seat in The Hague, the Peace Palace.

The topic this year was Ethics in Law and Interpreting: Lawyers and Interpreters talk Ethics, Mutual Expectations and Shared Experiences.

With more than 80 participants and a panel of prestigious lawyers, such as Philippe Sands, KC Hon FBA, Michael Karnavas and judges like Judge Korner, from the ICC, Judge Mettraux, Judge Kumin from the ECJ, and colleagues **Monicka Kokoszycka**, **Kate Davies** and **Christiane Driesen**, we had a deep and thought-provoking exchange on what ethics mean for our respective professions. We found that common concerns and principles governed our practice.

And we had a very interesting exchange on the increasing role of AI in our respective spheres of work.



NEWS FROM GREECE & CYPRUS

By Greece & Cyprus member, [Elli Katsarou](#)

AIIC Greece & Cyprus / SYDISE hybrid event on Conference Interpreters and their Hearing

AIIC Greece & Cyprus and the Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (SYDISE) hosted an extremely interesting conference on November 25 on the subject of "Conference Interpreters and their Hearing: Anatomy, Pathophysiology and Care".

The event included presentations by an impressive panel of leading experts in the field of auditory health, allowing participants to gain a better understanding of the science behind our auditory system, including practical tips on protecting our ears and vocal hygiene at work and beyond. Particular emphasis was placed on the issue of hearing loss, tinnitus and hyperacusis in professional interpreters, which is the subject of an ongoing study run by a research team under ENT Professor A. Bibas from NKUA.

Special thanks go to our excellent team of AIIC volunteers - [Tatiana Anagnostopoulou](#), [Theo Kominis](#), [Georgia Tsiliki](#), [Nellie Apostolopoulou](#), [Irina Pipis](#) (pictured) - who did a wonderful job of interpreting everything that was said into English, allowing hundreds of participants to join online from 37 different countries and to engage in a lively and stimulating conversation.

We would also like to thank AIIC President, [Jenny Fearnside-Bitsios](#), for coming to Athens for this event and addressing the audience on behalf of AIIC, and the other regional volunteers who helped make the day a success: [Katerina Apostolaki](#) and [Nora Cambas](#), the AIIC members on the organising committee with SYDISE and [Maggie Sotirianou](#), who helped with translations.



NEWS FROM FRANCE

By AIIIC France bureau 2020-2023

AIIIC France held its annual regional meeting on Saturday 18 November at ESIT.



As it is International Volunteer Day, we would like to thank the following AIIIC members for their dedication to the association.

Let's start with **Hans-Werner Mühle**, twice president and member of the outgoing bureau as former president. In those 10 years in office at regional level, he created an open, welcoming and warm atmosphere that the present bureau will endeavor to uphold.

We also thank **Sergio Alvarez Rubio**, PRIMS representative in France and **Sarah Combette**, coopted member of the Bureau representing the South of France for their long-standing support.

Thank you to **Maura Pollin**, our outgoing regional secretary for her positive outlook and energy!

Behind the scenes, doing thankless work that we should highlight more often: ISO representatives **Tomas Pereira Ginet-Jaquemet**, **Peter Withey** and **Clare Donovan** as well as **Lenaïg Thoraval**, our webmaster, who took on this task when she was still a precandidate. She is now a fully-fledged member and deserves all our gratitude for

dealing with one of the association's greatest assets in the eyes of members, the online directory... and its many glitches.

During the regional meeting, **Tatiana Kaplun** successfully launched the French iteration of the Vega mentoring programme: it's been a long journey but her unflappable enthusiasm made it happen!

The Region also thanks **Damien Fan**, member of ExCo, for joining us virtually at this regional meeting to present the "Interpreters and technology" survey results: a great way to follow up on AIIIC activities and reach out to members.

2023 was election year for AIIIC France: **Camille Mercier-Sanders** and **Kudret Süzer** were reelected respectively president and treasurer. We welcome a new regional secretary, **Agnès Debarge**. Good luck for the upcoming mandate! Also, new volunteers came forward to manage AIIIC France communications on social media and our regional website content: **Katherine Vanfasse** and **Sara Reguagui**, setting an excellent example for fellow members!

As for AIIIC France projects, the results of the AIIIC France-SFT survey on interpreting practices in France will be available shortly, watch this space!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The project to revamp the website and portals is nearing completion and we're looking for volunteers to help test them in the coming weeks, before they go live early next year. This will involve reading the content from the perspective of different users, checking everything works across different devices and providing constructive feedback on the usability.



If you are interested in helping out, please email the Communications Officer, with details of the device(s) and operating system you use at communication_officer@aiic.org.

NEWS FROM BRAZIL

By AICC Brazil bureau member, [Renata Perrone](#)

70th Anniversary party

To celebrate AICC's 70th anniversary, AICC Brazil hosted an epic evening in grand style. Members, non-members and potential members joined in on the fun, grooving to the irresistible beats spun by a DJ who knew how to cater to every age group. The night was truly unforgettable! Check out all the pictures of the evening on [Google Drive](#).



Celebrating Volunteers

To celebrate the work of its many local volunteers, AICC Brazil posted a video on their social media channels, which was put together by [Renata Perrone](#). Click [here](#) to see what they've been up to in 2023.

NEWS FROM THE LEGAL INTERPRETING COMMITTEE (LIC)

By LIC committee member, [George Drummond](#)

AIIC Africa Region - LIC webinar forum on the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Continuing the series of webinar seminars organised by the Legal Interpreting Committee, the fifth meeting was held on the 28th of October 2023 in cooperation with the AIIC Africa Region. The webinar was a great success with more than 80 participants from around the globe.

Thanks to our colleagues, Vice President [Sylvia Amisi](#) and [Moudachirou Gbadamassi](#) from the Africa Regional Bureau, we were able to invite two eminent speakers. Our first speaker was the Registrar of the Court, Dr Eno, eminent academic and international lawyer.

Dr Eno presented the Court as the only judicial organ of the African Union, and went on to describe the Court in terms of its mandate, its composition, its structure, the role of the Registry and the jurisdiction of the Court.

Our second guest speaker was Mr Emmanuel Obong Oji Agbor, Head of the Language Unit of the Court. Mr Agbor gave a detailed description of the Language Unit as part of the Registry and its composition of translators, interpreters, revisers and secretaries. He informed us of the official languages of the Court, English, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish and Kiswahili, the main working languages being English and French.

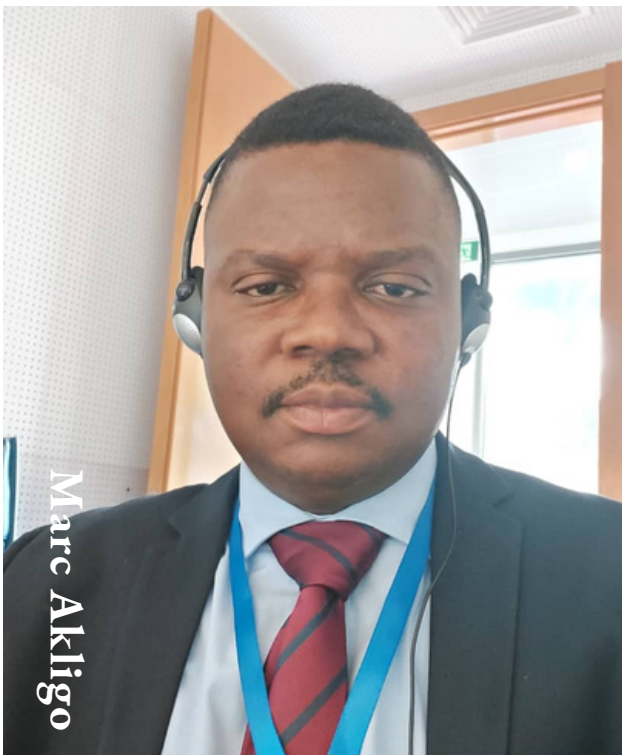
In addition to the team of staff translators and interpreters the Court is also an important employer of freelance linguists. For more information on the Court go to: www.african-court.org



Click on the image to watch the recording of the forum, or visit AIIC's YouTube channel

NEWS FROM AFRICA

Interpretation for the joint AIIC Africa - LIC Forum was provided by members of the Africa region: **Bruno Oliveira**, **Sara Barbosa Sefande**, **Marc Akligo** and **Francis Eke**. Thank you for all your hard work that helped participants from around the world attend the Legal Interpreting Forum.



NEWS FROM EXCO



All members and pre-candidates will shortly be receiving an invitation from ExCo to join them for another online update.

Find out what has been happening inside the Association, what's coming up in early 2024 and how the ExCo strategic projects are progressing.

Keep an eye on your email for the registration link, and remember you can update your preferred email address for AIC correspondence at any time in your portal.

NEWS FROM THE STATISTICS GROUP

*By The Statistics Group Co-ordinator, **Mary Fons I Fleming***

The AIC Statistics Group has been working hard to relaunch the workload statistics exercise early next year. A statistics provider from Spain has already been selected from a total of five bids. Compliance with personal data protection legislation (GDPR and Swiss Data Protection Act) is ensured, no AIC members will have access to individual responses, and anonymity will be preserved at all times. Deliverables include the data, a final report, and a tool to generate tables or charts with some degree of customisability.

We are currently fine-tuning the survey questions with the provider. We will then have a pilot trial with 10 participants to make sure everything is working smoothly. We are all enthusiastic about AIC getting reliable statistics again! We hope to provide a collection tool to make your calculations easier, but a simple structured spreadsheet table listing of all your assignments would be a good starting point if you don't have something of the sort already. Get ready to participate in the Workload Survey!

THE RESEARCH GRANT

The winners of the first AIIC Research Grant that was launched in 2020, Agnieszka Chmiel and Nicoletta Spinolo, have concluded their project 'Inside the Virtual Booth' and have submitted their findings.

Members can find [the full report](#) in the Library.

The infographic below summarises the main recommendations for each stakeholder.

Inside the virtual *booth*

RSI Platform Developers



Prioritise optimising sound and video quality and educate clients and speakers on the importance of good quality for optimal setup.

Design interfaces that are simple and lean.

Facilitate easy communication with boothmates, potentially through separate video and chat channels, along with quick commands for chat, easy dual listening, and relay functions.

Ensure speakers are always visible on RSI platforms, educating clients on the importance of this visibility.

Allow interpreters access to all event chats simultaneously.

Make booth chat straightforward to use when boothmates are not co-located.

Conference Interpreters



Seek advice on optimal home workspace setups, understanding that setups can vary in complexity.

Work with a co-located boothmate or in a virtual booth setup to ensure efficient communication.

Be aware that initial anxiety and frustration typically decrease as familiarity with the event context increases.

Use a virtual booth for better communication when boothmates are not co-located.

Use relaxation techniques like breathwork to manage anxiety levels.

Speakers



Ensure written audience questions are read aloud for interpretation.

Stay visible during events to aid interpreters, and remind speakers to stay within camera view.

Use high-quality equipment to support interpreters' needs for sound and video quality.

EVENT CALENDAR

- 9 December [How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments](#)
- 10 December [AI Powered Interpreting](#)
CPD workshops with Josh Goldsmith
Location: São Paulo, Brazil - **FULL**
- 9 December [AIIIC France - Edgar Weiser: Parution de l'ouvrage Secret Professionel](#)
Book presentation
Location: Paris
- 14 December [How to use technology to prepare for interpreting assignments](#)
- 15 December [AI Powered Interpreting](#)
CPD workshops with Josh Goldsmith
Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil - **FULL**
- 16 - 17 December [Training interpreters in the Digital World](#)
Training of Trainers workshop with Josh Goldsmith
Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- 16 December [Smart Consecutive Interpreting](#)
CPD workshop with Julia Poger
Location: Online - **FULL**
- 12-14 January [PRIMS Meeting in Bali](#)
Hybrid meeting on AI and interpreting
Location: Bali / Online
- 27-28 January [The Rome Seminar: Managing Vicarious Trauma in Interpreters](#)
Location: Rome - **FULL**

THE LAST WORD

On the occasion of International Volunteer Day, a much deserved THANK YOU to the members of the ExCo Communications Group, **Jenny Fearnside-Bitsios**, **Paco Garcia Hurtado** and **Damien Fan**, who fact check, proofread and advise on the content of The Digest every month.

