

Review of the Language Accessibility Committee (2021-2022)

Members : Ginette Berteau, chair, Sophia Marquardt, co-chair, Mamadou Seck, Helene Fillion-Onserud, Carol Cohen and Ingrida Rasciuviene

Highlights include:

- Membership: we have representatives from the major languages spoken (German, Lithuanian, Spanish, French and English).

- Translation: we have been able to do the translations requested by the Symposium Planning, Nominating, Virtual Standards Work Committee

- Partner Development: We currently have two collaborations with educational institutions.

o Formal agreement with a Spanish university: IASWG has signed a collaboration agreement with an interpretation program at a Spanish university, which has allowed for the interpretation of all Spanish communications into English as well as the interpretation of some English and French communications into Spanish. This is a great step forward. Thanks to Linda.

o Informal agreement: for a second year in a row, we were able to recruit Montreal students for an English-French translation program at Concordia University. These eight students translated all the French abstracts into English

- Interpretation during the Symposium: A team of interpreters is beginning to emerge. Several interpreters who worked at Symposium 2021 have happily agreed to return in 2022. More time slots were translated, which allowed for a mix of languages and cultures.

- Challenges encountered:

-The scarcity of interpreters for certain languages (e.g., Spanish-German).

- Recruitment of the required number of interpreters: although we start as soon as possible, it is difficult to complete the recruitment of interpreters at a good price in advance. The closer to the Symposium date, the more expensive it is to hire an interpreter. The committee needs to keep a close eye on the costs. We have stayed within the budget of \$5,345.00/\$6,000.00.

- Overall, the committee is pleased with what has been accomplished. It is becoming increasingly clear that language accessibility is a priority for IASWG. We still need to improve our processes for recruiting interpreters for the Symposium.

We would like to thank the committee members for their work in translating and finding interpreting resources. This is often behind the scenes work, but so important to our mission. Thanks also to Emily for her flexibility and availability.

Ginette Berteau pour le comité