

International Report by Silvana Pavlovska

"In our age of globalization and Europeanisation, multilingualism is a fact of life shaping the dynamics of international and supranational law. An indispensable factor in the lawmaking process and ensuring access to justice, legal translation has acquired a human rights dimension. This makes it all the more important to take stock of challenges to translators in institutional settings who are under constant pressure to produce 'translated originals' of high quality with the goal of promoting legal certainty and guaranteeing equal results in practice." says Prof. Susan Sarcevic, a Professor at the University of Rijeka, in her opening of the Transius Conference 2015.

The Transius Conference 2015 which took place this July in Geneva, Switzerland was a three day conference on Legal Translation and Interpreting.

The conference, held for the first time in Europe and hosted by Geneva University, was attended by more than 250 participants representing many European countries, China, Hong Kong, the USA, British Columbia, Australia and Russia as university academics, practitioners of interpreting and translation, language service providers as well as representatives from the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Commission, the United Nations Office in Geneva, the European Court of Human Rights, the World Trade Organisation, European Parliament, the European Central Bank.

The aim of the conference was to offer the participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and network and this was achieved through the presentations and activities on many and varied subjects and topics presented at the conference. The conference included round table discussions as well as parallel sessions. One of the papers which stands out in the mind of your writer is the one given by Michael Crooks of the New York University titled: Problems in the design and development of specific training modules for improving the competence of professional legal translators. In his presentation he states that

" Legal translators, whether from institutions, industry or freelancers, are constantly encouraged to participate in continued professional development, yet are there appropriate courses available for those who already have years of experience and have reached the highest levels in their respective languages?" The paper focused on training options currently available for practicing legal translation professionals, from institutions, translation organizations and in tertiary education in the USA.

In response to this presentation, at the conference, yours truly was able to outline the extent and depth of the professional development training opportunities in Australia provided by Language Experts and in particular the training of interpreters and translators working in the legal and court settings. This response created an interest among the conference participants.

Language Experts provided information on its regular, high quality professional development training programs delivered in Melbourne and Sydney onsite as well as via on-line learning services. Participants were informed that one such program is the Short Courses program on Legal and Court Interpreting scheduled to take place on 28 and 29 August 2015 in Sydney.

The Conference was a wonderful opportunity to learn, exchange ideas and network with like minded professionals passionate about their work and its recognition.

According to the Transius Conference 2015 organizers " the plan is to organize such a conference on a regular basis, most likely every three years," says F.Prieto Ramos, the Convenor of the Organising Committee.

Further information about the conference can be obtained from the Centre for Legal and Institutional Translation Studies, Faculty of Translation and Interpreting at www.unige.ch/fili/transius.