




INTERSTENO ENEWS **105** | OCTOBER 2023

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## President's message



My dear Intersteno Friends,

This e-news is a look back at the Council/IPRS meetings in Bordeaux based on the topics discussed in the Board Meeting, the Jury Meeting, the Diamesic 6/IPRS Conference, the Scientific Committee and the Tiro Meeting. During the Council meeting, mainly jury matters were discussed and decided with a view to the conference in Katowice next year. The Board (Organization Committee) is working hard to make the congress in Katowice a success.

In addition to all the meetings in Bordeaux, Jean-Charles Le Masson and Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux had drawn up a program in which we could get to know the city and environment of Bordeaux. We sailed on the Garonne River while enjoying dinner and visited Saint-Emilion, where delicious French wines could be tasted. The farewell dinner was at Château La Dauphine. Many thanks to Jacqueline and Jean-Charles for their excellent program also from this place.

Unfortunately, we have once again lost a well-known member of the Intersteno family, namely Tzvetkov Vesselin. He died at the age of 83 in a hospital in Sofia. Attention is paid to who he was and what he did in this e-news.

The next e-news will appear in January 2024. The deadline for submitting articles and activities for the Event Calendar is at the end of December, to be sent to [marlenerijkse@intersteno.org](mailto:marlenerijkse@intersteno.org).

*Rian Schwarz-van Poppel*  
*Intersteno president*



## Intersteno Council & IPRS Meeting Bordeaux (FR), 21-23 September 2023

*By Henk-Jan Eras*

Under the watchful eye of the Virgin Mary and child, on top of the bell tower of the Saint-André cathedral, no fewer than 64 people from 14 countries and 4 continents gathered in the city of Bordeaux. They went to work in, among others, the Council Meeting, the Board Meeting, the Jury Meeting, the IPRS meeting, the Diamesic 6 Conference, the Scientific Committee and the Tiro Meeting. It soon became apparent that the humid transatlantic climate that produces such beautiful wines also guarantees great results in the various meetings!



Thursday's Scientific Committee, chaired by Carlo Eugeni, discussed Professor Tatsuya Kawahara's proposal to introduce a different conversion rate to achieve more equality between Japanese and non-Japanese participants in the various competitions. Also Andrea Wawryznek's proposal to set up separate typing competitions due to differences in reaction speed between men and women was also examined. This last proposal was discussed in the Jury meeting. The Committee also spoke again with Gabriele Sauberer of the European Certification and Qualification Association about the importance of certification of live subtitlers. The experience in Maastricht showed that the test of the various skills may need adjustment.

The Tiro Meeting of the same day, chaired by Eero Voutilainen, looked back on a successful edition of Tiro, no. 7, and in principle there seems to be sufficient material already available to fill editions 8 and 9. That's good news for loyal readers of Tiro, the Journal of Professional Reporting and Transcription!

However, the participants were also able to enjoy the beautiful city of Bordeaux, a guided tour of the beautiful wine-producing Saint-Emilion village and the delicious French cuisine, which is not without reason so highly regarded. On Thursday evening, for example, the participants enjoyed a welcome dinner during a boat trip on the Garonne. This included a delicious canard confit and a sleek white Bordeaux from Château Haut-Rian. The name of the latter raised the eyebrows of our chairman of the same name.

A lot of attention was of course paid to the IPRS Meeting/Diamesic 6 on Friday afternoon, where a multitude of topics was presented by a diverse group of professionals. Inclusion, Didactics and Technology were discussed in three consecutive sessions.

Eero Voutilainen's presentation from the Parliament of Finland, Verbatim or Not? Balancing between Transparency and Accessibility in Parliamentary Reporting, marks the kick-off of a forthcoming survey among parliaments. Eero is interested in the practice that parliamentary reports often show parts of a meeting as verbatim and other parts not. For many readers of Hansard, that difference will often not be clear at first glance.

D'Arcy McPherson of the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia gave a presentation entitled Evolution of indigenous language representation in British Columbia Hansard. In it he discussed the history of parliamentary reporting from the perspective of indigenous language. The residents of British Columbia traditionally know dozens of languages. However, it took a



very long time for these languages to be recognized in Hansard, let alone represented correctly. Moreover, for some languages it already seems too late to become well acquainted with them, because the last speakers are already very old.



After the presentation For a New Didactic Approach to Intralingual Live Subtitling, by Martina Bruno from FIADDA, Tony Minichiello from the UK Parliament followed. Under the title Reporting Select Committees in the UK Parliament, he showed how much energy and attention is given to inhouse training of new colleagues. Over the years, it has been decided to abandon the somewhat school-based approach for one that seeks more dialogue. The fresh starting point is that you can continue to learn from each other.

Henk-Jan Eras from the House of Representatives of the Netherlands gave a presentation called: AI, Deepfake and the Video. He discussed the official video report of parliaments from different perspectives: image manipulation as a principle, deepfake as a threat, the introduction of cameras in parliament, the fundamental differences between Hansard and “electronic Hansard” and GDPR as a new challenge. Under the GDPR, it looks like requests for blurring or editing afterwards cannot be refused for videos of public meetings.

The presentation by Riikka Kuronen from the Parliament of Finland is called Improving Accessibility of Videos with Text Alternatives at the Parliament of Finland. She showed that, in an initiative to increase the accessibility of videos, Finnish reporters are also used to subtitle official videos. A good example of taking the relevant European guidelines seriously.

Finally, Tang Ji from the Chinese group gave a brief explanation entitled Development of Chinese Stenography Industry and Market Demand.

The meeting concluded with a real book presentation. The well-known Carlo Eugeni, from the University of Leeds, presented *La Traduction Intralinguistique: Les Défis de la Diamésie*, by C. Eugeni & Y. Gambier. His book deals with diamesic translation, or the translation from spoken to written language in the same language. It provides a useful taxonomy of strategies that are used to analyze three translation modes: parliamentary reports, live subtitles, and TV subtitles for the deaf.



For the farewell dinner on Friday evening, the participants were guests at the Château La Dauphine, where delicious wines are made, rosé and red, according to the principles of the biodynamic philosophy. That evening, the Château's kitchen produced a beautiful foie gras and a tender entrecôte for them. At the end of a particularly successful evening where many new contacts were made, Jean-Charles Le Masson and Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux of the French Intersteno group received a standing ovation. They managed to hold a well-organized and special event that will be talked about for a long time. Chapeau!



## Annual Convention and Expo of the National Court Reporters Association, July 27th to 30th.

*By Krystian Wawrzynek*

The National Court Reporters Association held its annual Convention and Expo in Houston, Texas, July 27th to 30th. Hundreds of reporters from the U.S. and other countries gathered for four days of seminars, workshops, and events.

NCRA is the American “National Court Reporters Association” and has as members stenographers working for US courts (both federal and state) as well as freelance reporters and captioners. It is the most important federation of speech-capturing professionals, with more than 3,000 members.

An Intersteno representative was invited by the NCRA’s immediate past president Jason Meadors. He welcomed me very warmly and introduced me to everybody during the NCRA Premier Session in the hall.

Among the highlights was keynote speaker Dennis Holmgren, a licensed attorney in both California and Texas who has been practicing law in Texas for more than 20 years. He is also licensed as a patent attorney by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. From his over 20 years of practicing law, Dennis Holmgren distilled compelling stories about situations in court when the report, its quality, its author or sometimes lack of the report influenced the final resolution of the court case.

With over 50 different seminars and workshops to choose from, it was a very busy time in Houston! The seminars and workshops were closer or further related to the court reporter’s work. Among topics like “What You Need to Know When Entering the Captioning Field” or “Work Efficiently; Enjoy Life More Fully” everyone could find something for themselves.

A very interesting event was the Opening Reception in Expo Hall. Everyone was able to talk and find out more about a wide range of services offered by almost 30 exhibitors. By wide range I mean range starting from litigation services, through videography for depositions, steno machines, software, up to “9 Leaves Cannabinoid Therapy.”

During the Awards Luncheon, the National Court Reporters Association bestowed its highest honor, the 2023 Distinguished Service Award, on Heidi C. Thomas, a captioner and CART provider from Kennesaw, Georgia. The NCRA DSA recognizes the distinguished work and service by an individual member for the benefit of the court reporting and captioning professions, including service to NCRA as a member, a committee member, a director, or an officer of the Association. The full description of her achievements you can find [here](#).

2023 Jim Bouley Family Lifetime Award for Altruism was received by Nancy Hopp, a retired



*Former President Jason Meadors and Krystian Wawrzynek*

court reporter from St. Louis, Missouri. A wide description of the many reasons why she deserved such a reward you can find [here](#).

Also the results of the Speed and RealTime Contests were revealed at the luncheon. This year's champion RealTime is Mark Kislingbury with an overall result of 97.47%. The best in speed is Patricia Nilsen with overall 98.932%. Congratulations for such great results!

Also, congratulations to the new NCRA's president, Kristin Anderson. We wish her a good, fruitful and calm year as a president.

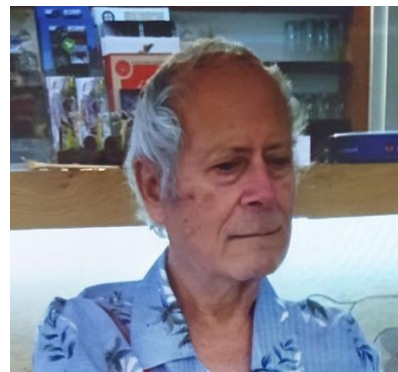




## Vesselin Tzvetkov † (1940-2023)

We received the sad news from Daniela Bianchi (Switzerland) that Vesselin Tzvetkov has passed away. He was the organizer of the 1985 Intersteno Congress in Sofia and honorary president of Intersteno. Below is a look back at Vesselin's life, taken from the Intersteno website.

'After a master's degree in nuclear physics (University of Sofia, Bulgaria – 1965), he continued to study throughout his life: BS - International Business (1975 - Higher Business School, Sofia), Associate degree computer information systems (1988 - Oakton College, Illinois), Bachelor's degree computer science (1990 - Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois), Computer-assisted survey design (2000 - University of California Berkeley) and Master's degree in Spanish descriptive and theoretical linguistics (2004 - University of Illinois, Chicago). While he was a freelance professional translator from 1965 to 2012, he also carried on several professions in Bulgaria (physicist at the Institute of microelectronics 1965-1975 and information analyst at the Science and technology agency 1975-1990) and in Germany (application programmer at BASF 1990-1994).



He moved to Chicago, Illinois to become a teacher in German and French (Berlitz – 1994-1997), court interpreter (Circuit Court of Cook County – 1994-1997), consultant (Quinox Corporation – 1994-1998), computer system coordinator (First Union Corporation – 1997-1999) and finally senior research programmer (University of Illinois – 1999-2010). He was champion of Bulgaria in shorthand for juniors in 1957, then in 1968. In 1971 (congress in Brussels), he was at the first place of the Intersteno shorthand competition. From 1970 to 1998, he worked on the Stenkey machine shorthand project in Bulgaria and in the United States. He attended the Intersteno congresses from 1971 (Brussels) to 1991 (Brussels) and organized the congress in Sofia in 1985. He was a member of several associations: Intersteno, German Translators Union, American Translators Association, Chicago Area Translators and Interpreters Association (CHICATA), Bulgarian Translators Union and Bulgarian Stenographers Union.'

We wish his family and friends strength in coping with the loss of their loved one. May he rest in peace.



## The Role of Technologies for Greater Accessibility of Parliament

By Victor Gonzalez

Within the framework of the IV Forum of Legislative Powers 2023, a panel addressed the topic of tools and experiences for a more efficient and accessible parliament.

The activity included the participation of Carlo Eugeni, professor of Audiovisual Translation at the University of Leeds, England, and president of the Intersteno Scientific Committee; and Joshua Foley, American stenotypist.

The talk particularly touched on the topic of respeaking, a tool that enables realtime subtitling of parliamentary sessions.

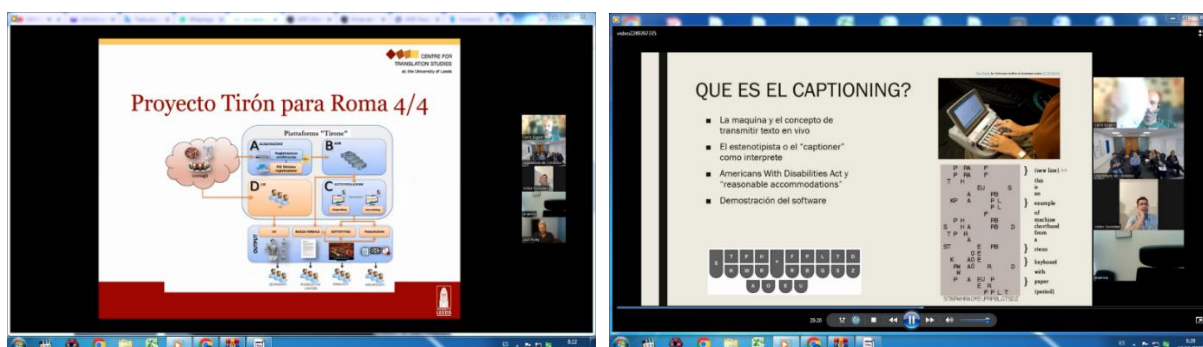
This innovation is based on the purpose of building parliaments that are more accessible to people with disabilities, in this case hearing disabilities. Respeaking technology already works, for example, in the Parliament of Rome, where stenographers work in a booth overlooking the chamber, as Carlo Eugeni detailed in his speech. Thus, resignedified by technology, the task consists of repeating what the legislators are saying in order to produce subtitling that is reproduced in realtime on the session monitors.

In combination with sign language, this advance ensures that the information discussed in the facility is accessible to all people on equal terms. In turn, this subtitling is then used by the stenographers' office, which allows the stenographic version or report of the entire plenary meeting to be prepared.

For his part, Joshua Foley shared his career as a stenotypist. He currently lives and works remotely from Brazil, and he narrated his current occupation in the service of a hearing-impaired official of the North American government.

His task is to reproduce all the information shared in the meetings in which that official participates so that all of what was discussed is accessible to that official, despite his disability, so that he can perform equally.

From the Legislature of the Province of Córdoba and from the AATP, we thank these professionals who contribute and share their experiences to develop our professional activity at the forefront of new knowledge.



### Inclusion Table in the Legislature of Córdoba

As of Law 10,728 "Inclusive Córdoba", training of State workers on appropriate treatment of people with disabilities is provided.

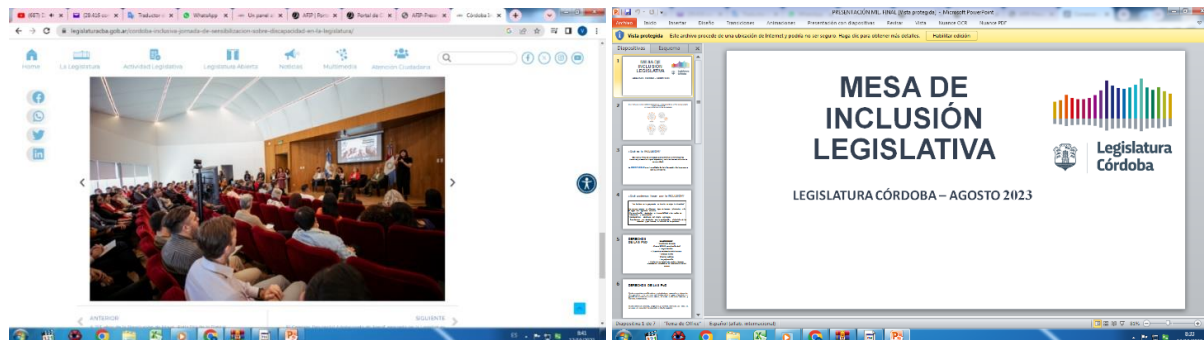
In coincidence with the policy of carrying out an open and inclusive parliament towards the community, the Inclusion Table was created within the Legislature of Córdoba in order to make it

accessible in all its aspects, both in terms of infrastructure and information, and from an internal point of view of the institution as well as towards the population.

This is a project in which several areas of the Legislature converge, all making a valuable contribution.

This is where stenographers take part through delayed subtitling of the various meetings, and in the future it is also planned to have realtime subtitling.

In this instance, short-, medium-, and long-term objectives have been set that are intended to achieve the noble purpose of equalizing opportunities for all.



## Some Thoughts about the Bordeaux Council Meeting

*By Anita Dobos*

We registered from 20 countries, not only from Europe but also Asian, North and South American countries and Australia, too, but colleagues from Cameroon did not arrive. Unfortunately, Bernadett Berencsi (or as most of us know her, Detti) from Hungary couldn't take part, so my responsibility was huge because I wanted to do the best. There was a Hungarian colleague who said it's much easier for two people to achieve goals. (It happened earlier when I took part with another Hungarian colleague, with mentioned colleague's almost full support). At the same time this year in Bordeaux, I had to work alone. I did, of course, everything that I could, but it would have been much easier and better to work together with my Hungarian colleague in Bordeaux as we did in the previous meetings. I'm very grateful to Detti for her support and her advice before my work in Bordeaux.

I'm sure that several reports were posted (or will be posted), so I would like to write just a short article from my point of view about this meeting.

First of all, I'm very grateful to our French colleagues/friends Jean-Charles Le Masson and Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux, who were very understanding and patient when my participation was 'in danger'! They helped me effectively when I needed it.

Thank you to our amazing Intersteno president Rian Schwarz-van Poppel, our secretary treasurer Danny Devriendt, and our Jury president Georgette Sante. Very special thanks to Helena Zaviačičová and Jonáš Vala for all their help and advice.

Of course I'm most thankful to the French group – Jean-Charles, Jacqueline, Damian – for the huge work, perfect organizing and for their hospitality and kindness. Thank you very much to all of you. You made these days in your wonderful city truly memorable for us.

Thank you, Krystian Wawrzynek, for your useful information regarding Katowice. Thanks to all Intersteno colleagues and friends for their support in the jury and/or in the council.

I'm very grateful for all the good people and good friends, making a family atmosphere during these days and for the tolerance, harmony, friendship, and helping each other. Last, but not least, I'm grateful to everyone in Hungary who from the first minute to the last supported and helped me!



*Argentina and Hungary @ registration desk*

In addition to the meetings, the participants took part in several events and we got to know this beautiful city. We had a very rich program, just to name a few: a boat trip on the Garonne, guided tour of Saint-Emilion village, dinner at Chateau La Dauphine, a visit to the Pilat dune between land and sea, a cruise on the Arcachon Bay with picnic onboard, the Canon village and its charming houses and Arcachon village tour. Everything was unforgettable.

Hopefully we can meet all our colleagues and friends in Katowice at the 54th Intersteno congress!



*About Katowice*



*Botanic garden*



Grosse cloche



Cathedral





*Anita Dobos with Georgette Sante and with Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux*



*Anita Dobos with Jean-Charles Le Masson and Damien Hivert and with Virgene Biggers*



*Dune du Pilat – Anita Dobos and Jacqueline Bertin-Mahieux*

