



**HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS.-
HELLENIC ASSOCIATION OF CONFERENCE INTERPRETERS**
Member of the International Federation of Translators (FIT)
and the European Legal Translators and Interpreters Association (EULITA)

Established: 2014

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Interpreting in court and other legal settings

7 December 2021, 18.00 pm, at Goethe Institut, Omirou 14-16, Athens

The Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (SYDISE) is the only association of professional conference interpreters in Greece. Through its dynamic involvement, the Association seeks to enhance the field of court and legal interpreting to which it attaches great importance. In fact simultaneous conference interpretation was utilized for the first time ever in 1944 in order to facilitate the historic Nuremberg Trial. However, improvement cannot be achieved without training. To this end, since 2020 SYDISE has been organizing training courses on court and legal interpreting for its members in the context of continued professional development and further specialisation.

SYDISE has the pleasure of inviting you to an event on “Interpreting in Court and other Legal Settings”, which will take place on 7 December 2021 at 18.00 pm, at the Goethe Institut, 14-16, Omirou street, Athens. The event features a plethora of distinguished panelists from academia, lawyers, judges, notaries and mediators. The aim being to launch a serious dialogue that will pave the way for a thorough reform with a view to improving interpretation in court settings and set the foundations for fairer trials for all in Greece.

PROGRAMME

18.00 Registration

18.30 Kick-off

Title: Cooperation between interpreters and all professionals in a courtroom is instrumental to achieving a better procedural outcome.

Session 1

Moderator: Katerina Apostolaki, Conference Interpreter, Member of SYDISE

1. Presentation of the Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (by the President of SYDISE) 10 ‘
2. Welcome by the President of the European Legal Translators and Interpreters Association (EULITA), Ms Daniela Amodeo Perillo (remotely)
3. Address by the Ministry of Justice (to be confirmed)
4. Address by Prof. Dr. Sotirios Livas, President of the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting - Ionian University
5. *A successful example of court interpreting: the European Court of Justice.* Lila Kousosi, Conference Interpreter, Greek Booth, European Court of Justice; Eleni Papadopoulou-Thiessen, Lawyer-Linguist, European Court of Justice (remotely)
6. Short address by the Athens Bar Association (represented by Dr. Panagiotis Nicolopoulos, Head of the Legal Section of the Athens Bar Association, Assistant Professor at the School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
7. *Interpreters: a valuable ally in the preparation and the hearings of UK Court Cases and UK based Arbitrations* – Alex Clements, Director at Bond Solon (remotely)

Session 2

Moderator: Dr. Anthi Wiedenmayer, Associate Professor, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

8. Acquaintance with Public Service Interpreter SV 2810 (legal section). A piece of Science Fiction (Prof. Dr. Stefanos Vlachopoulos of the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpreting - Ionian University)
9. Court interpreting - the judge's point of view (Vasilis Portokalis, LLM, Judge at the Court of Appeal of the Aegean Islands)
10. *Interpretation at notarial offices* (Eleni Kontogiorgou, Vice President of the Notary Association of the Courts of Appeal of Athens, Piraeus, -Aegean and Dodecanese))
11. *Interpretation in mediation proceedings* (Aikaterini Kotsaki, President of the Hellenic Union of Mediators)

Closing address: Conclusions (Maria Petrocheilou, President of SYDISE)

A reception at the foyer of the Goethe Institut will follow immediately after the panel discussions. The recently renovated Goethe Institut, in the heart of Athens, is a venue known for its successful cultural events and once again open for in person meetings.

Attendance limited to holders of a valid vaccination or recovery certificate (issued in June 2021 and later) and/or subject to the health protocols in place at the time.

Please register [here](#).

The event will be live-streamed. The agenda includes remote speakers. Simultaneous interpretation Greek <> English will be available.

Registration link for webstreaming:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hxfgQ0gJRZ-V0XhAvQEtkw

Open only to SYDISE members and guests who have received an invitation.

The topics to be discussed include:

How do court interpreters work and cooperate with other professionals in the courtroom.

The need to establish a special court interpreter registry distinct from the list of expert witnesses. Is it enough to speak a language or do you have to be a trained professional interpreter?

The need for regulating the court/legal interpreter's profession.

The need for regulating interpreter remuneration with rates that differ from expert witness fees.

SPEAKERS' CVs

(in the order of appearance in the programme)

Katerina Apostolaki

Conference interpreter, full member of SYDISE

Katerina Apostolaki is a freelance conference interpreter, a member of the Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (SYDISE) and the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC). She has worked extensively in legal, business and diplomatic assignments. Legal work includes interpreting for civil cases, the Council of State, the Hellenic Competition Commission and the National Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT). Arbitration assignments include cases before the ICC in Paris, as well as the IDRC and ICSID in London. Recent assignments have been through video link and included cases before the LMAA, LCIA and Queen's Bench Division. She was the President of the Organising Committee for the 2021 Legal Interpreting Course organized by SYDISE and is currently the President elect of the AIIC Region of Greece and Cyprus.

Maria Petrocheilou

Conference interpreter, Interpreters' trainer, President of SYDISE

Maria Petrocheilou a graduate conference interpreter from the School of Translation and Interpretation of the University of Trieste (1998). She also holds two post-graduate degrees, one in Modern Greek studies from the Freie Universität in Berlin (2003) and one in interpreters' training from the School of Translation and Interpretation of the University of Geneva (2007). She specializes in legal interpreting (having attended a course in court interpreting at the ETI of the University of Geneva) and has given lectures and written papers on this topic. She has been working as a

professional translator since 1996 and as a conference interpreter since 1998 in Italy, Germany and Greece. From 2005 to 2011, she taught conference interpretation at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpretation of the Ionian University. She has cooperated with private colleges as a translators' and interpreters' trainer. Between 2016 and 2018, she trained community interpreters to work in asylum services, the public sector and the courts. Since 2018, she has been training conference interpreters for the Master's interpreter's programme at SCG, a branch of the Strasbourg University in Athens. She is currently finalizing her PhD thesis on the theory of interpretation. She is a full member of the Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (SYDISE), a regular member of the Italian Association of Professional Conference Interpreters (ASSOINTERPRETI) and a certified translator (full member of PEEMPIP). Last but not least, she is a member of the Hellenic Society for Translation Studies.

**Daniela Amodeo Perillo,
President of EULITA**

Born in Trieste (Italy) Ms Amodeo Perillo has been a conference interpreter since 1977. She has worked at the European Commission and the European Parliament and has read law at the University in Trieste. Permanent interpreter at the Court of Justice of the European Union from 1982 to the end of 2016, she is a member of the Italian Association of Legal Interpreters and Translators ASSITIG and has been President of EULITA since April 2017.

**Sotirios Livas,
Lawyer, President of the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and
Interpretation of the Ionian University**

Sotirios Livas is a lawyer practicing in Athens and a professor at the Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpretation of the Ionian University. He is the president of the Department since 2018 and director of the post-graduate programme "Politics, Language and Inter-cultural Education" and coordinator of the internship programme. He teaches, amongst other subjects, Translation of Legal and International Politics Texts in the framework of the Translation Sciences post graduate programme of the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpretation. To date he has written six books and has translated another four. He is also the editor of two books and the Spanish-Greek and Greek-Spanish Dictionary of Legal Terms. Furthermore, he has contributed articles to collective editions and scientific journals and has presented papers in conferences.

**Panagiotis Nicolopoulos
Head of the Legal Section of the Athens Bar Association, Assistant Professor at the
School of Law, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**

Panagiotis Nicolopoulos is a member of the Bar Association of Athens, Head of the Legal Section of the Bar Association of Athens and Assistant Professor of Civil Law at the School of Law of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. Furthermore,

since 1994 he has been actively involved in ISOKRATIS Legal Informatics Data Base of the Bar Association of Athens.

He is the author of the following books “The Division of Property Acquisitions of Husbands” (doctorate 1993), “Law firm as an association of civil code” 2021, “Succession in copyright” 2016, “Rescission in sale contracts”, 2007, “Jurisprudence evaluations in the Division of Property Acquisitions of Husbands”, 2011, “The transmutation of family” 2011, “Division between State and Church” 2006, “Individualisation of religion and secularization of Church” 2005 “Book publishing contracts and retroactive application of law 2121/1993” 1996 and more than 60 articles, comments on court decisions and papers at legal conferences.

He is a member of the Executive Board of the Family Law Society, member of the Union of Civil Law Jurists, member of the Association of Copyright (ALAI) and member of the International Society of Family Law (ISFL).

Alex Clements
Director of Bond Solon

Bond Solon, based in the UK, is the world’s leading witness familiarisation training company. Each year they work with thousands of witnesses, ahead of hearings ranging from English court proceedings through to complex cross-border litigation and international arbitration. Witnesses play an instrumental role in these cases and it is crucial that they are informed about giving evidence and the role of all professionals in the courtroom, including interpreters. Alex heads up Bond Solon’s Witness Familiarisation division, where he leads a 25-strong team of lawyers who run the familiarisation sessions. Bond Solon’s clients include top 100 UK law firms, international legal practices, corporate and public bodies, and each year they deliver training for some 2000 witnesses, regularly involving interpreters in the process.

Anthi Wiedenmayer

Associate Professor of the Theory and practice of German - Greek literary translation and interpretation, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

Anthi Wiedenmayer is an Associate Professor at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and President of the department since 2020. Her field of study is Theory and practice of literary translation and she teaches translation, interpreting and subtitling. She has organized and coordinates the Interpreting Specialisation of the Interdepartmental Masters in Interpreting and Translation of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She studied translation at the University of Mainz, Germany with German, Spanish and English as her working languages. She holds a PhD on the translation of poetry from the University of Athens. She also works as a conference interpreter and translator and has served as Chairman of the Greek Association of Translators (2002-2006), where she is an Honorary Member since 2012. She is a Founding Member and Board Member of the Greek Society for Translation Studies. Her latest research programmes include “Portraits of Translators” with interviews of translators who translate foreign literature into Greek, the European programme

ORCIT with online training material for interpreting and the European programme TRAMIG on training community interpreters.

**Stefanos Vlachopoulos,
Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpretation, Ionian
University**

Stefanos Vlachopoulos teaches Inter-language Communication in a multi-cultural environment at the Department of Foreign Languages, Translation and Interpretation of the Ionian University. He holds a degree in translation (1991) and interpretation (1993) and holds a PhD in Translation Theory from the Ionian University (1999). Over the last decade he has been involved in research in the field of interpreting in court and public service settings. He coordinated the following research programmes: Legal Interpreting in Greece (DIDI) and Community Interpreting in Greece (CiGreece). He is the author of a book entitled “Multilingualism in Law” (Nomiki Vivliothiki - 2014) and has written a large number of scientific articles on the same subject.

**Vasilios Portokallis,
Judge at the Court of Appeal of the Aegean Islands (Civil and Criminal Law Section)**

Vasileios Portokallis graduated from the Law Faculty of the University of Athens and holds an LLM in International and Commercial Law from the University of Kent at Canterbury. He is fluent in English, French and Italian. From 1994 to 2001, he practiced law specializing in Commercial Law and was a member of the Athens Bar Association.

As of September 2021, he is based in Ermoupolis (on the island of Syros) where he is serving as Judge of the Court of Appeals of the Aegean Islands (Civil and Criminal Law Section). Previously he served as a judge at the Athens Court of Appeal (2018 - 2021) and President of the Athens Court of First Instance (Commercial Law Section) from 2011 to 2018. He has specialized in insolvency law and dealt with cases covering the entire spectrum of commercial law, including intellectual property, international transport, corporate law, etc. From 2001 to 2011, as a judge at the court of first instance, he dealt mainly with cases related to commercial law and insolvency law.

He has participated in a large number of courses and conferences on commercial law in general and insolvency law in particular, organized by the European Justice and Training Network (EJTN) and other European and International organizations. Moreover, he is a member of the Judicial Wing of INSOL Europe and of International Exchange of Experience in Insolvency Law (IEEI).

**Aikaterini Kotsaki,
Lawyer, President of the Hellenic Union of Mediators**

Aikaterini Kotsaki studied Law at Athens University and also graduated from the Department of International Law and Political Sciences of the same University. She practiced law in Greece and abroad for many years and specialized in commercial/financial law and corporate law in general. In 2008, she trained as a mediator at CIArb and was accredited by the Ministry of Justice and in 2013 she was trained and certified as a mediator trainer by the Dutch company TOOLKIT. Since 2010

she is the President of the Hellenic Union of Mediators and from the beginning of her career she has participated actively in international conferences on the topics in which she has specialized, including Mediation. She systematically organizes conferences and lectures on Mediation on behalf of the Hellenic Union in collaboration with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Promotion Organization (OPEMED).

A FEW WORDS ABOUT SYDISE

The Hellenic Association of Conference Interpreters (SYDISE) is the only association in Greece exclusively representing conference interpreters. It is also the only association in the field of language professions to be recognized as a professional association by the Court of First Instance following the recent amendment of its statutes in 2019. Its members are independent, self-employed interpreters that fulfill strict objective admission criteria and all the required fiscal and social security requirements. SYDISE provides support and collective representation to its members, as well as information regarding conference interpretation and interpreting conditions to those interested in recruiting interpreters, including the public sector. Only trained, highly qualified and experienced conference interpreters that fulfill a series of demanding criteria may be admitted as SYDISE full members.

As of 2017, SYDISE is a member of the International Federation of Translators (FIT) that represents associations/unions of translators, interpreters and terminologists with more than 80,000 members in 55 countries worldwide. SYDISE members are however also active legal interpreters. With that in mind, at the beginning of 2020, SYDISE was admitted as full member to the European Legal Interpreters and Translators Association (EULITA).

Court interpreting is an extremely demanding line of work. Nonetheless, the Greek state has set the bar low in terms of qualifications, and the rates paid to court interpreters are similarly low, resulting in the quality of court interpretation being far from satisfactory. In Greece, court interpreters are not required to have any training, which is a prerequisite in other countries. Their working conditions are unacceptable. Mostly interpreters are not given the opportunity to study the court brief, which makes their work even more difficult. SYDISE believes that, following the example of countries such as Switzerland, Germany and the US, only trained interpreters having passed relevant exams should be included in the registry of court interpreters.

SYDISE steadfastly promotes life-long learning and continuous professional development. Since 2020, it has been organizing courses and seminars on court/legal interpreting for its members, who are highly qualified conference interpreters, university graduates and holders of post-graduate degrees, with many years of experience and / or accredited to work in various international organizations and agencies.

We firmly believe that court (or legal) interpreting in Greece is in need of a radical reform. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Inspiration can be drawn from the models adopted in other countries in order to organize anew this sector. This has

become an even more pressing need following the refugee crisis and the arrival of a large numbers of foreign nationals in in Greece. Correct interpretation is the only way to ensure a fair trial to everyone irrespective of their native language or origin. The highly qualified members of SYDISE are ready to contribute to the reform of this vital sector with their in-depth knowledge and experience.