

Translating Europe Forum Brussels, 29-30 October 2015

# Young Talents and Translation The Model of the Dresden Excellence University

Scientific Committee: Prof. Dr. Luisa Giacoma • Prof. Dr. Maria Lieber • Dr. Simona Brunetti • Rebecca Schreiber M.A.

## The Project

„The translator has only two real obligations: one toward the author, and the other toward his or her own language.“ (Moshe Kahn) These obligations, however are extremely difficult to meet and the translator's job is a delicate matter. Excellent skills and a thorough training are required for the translation from one language to another.

On May 20-21, 2015 the University of Excellence Technische Universität Dresden hosted the workshop „Translating Europe, Understand in Order to Make Sense/ A Creative Dialogue Between Germany and Italy“ which aimed at improving the translation skills of young, talented students. A select group of 20 Italian and German native speakers was given the chance to meet renowned professional translators from different branches of the business, to learn from their expertise and experiences, and to garner specialist knowledge.

In the afternoon sessions the students put their new skills into practice with access to a lexicographical platform like Ubidictionary and other online resources. By means of a tandem translation, in pairs of two, they translated German and Italian literary texts, the best three of which, judged by an international jury, were awarded a prize.

The project was to pursue the development of interlingual and intercultural competences and to prepare students for communication and mobility in a socially and politically interlinking Europe. Central topics included cultural transfer, international relations, and societal transformations which find their reflection in translation. In fact, „translation isn't a matter of words only: it is a matter of making intelligible a whole culture.“ (Anthony Burges)

„The texts were very challenging but it's been lots of fun and a great experience to work in teams of two.“

## The Participants



## The Training



## The Chairman

„The English ‚pay‘ attention while Italians ‚lend‘ it. Germans are so generous as to ‚give‘ it“



**PROF. DR. LUISA GIACOMA**

She is Professor at the Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy), visiting Professor at the Technische Universität of Dresden (Germany) and also works as a lexicographer for German and Italian publishers like Zanichelli, Klett, Buske. Additionally she is a honorary member of AITI (Associazione Italiana Traduttori e Interpreti). This all makes her the ideal point of contact between university, translation industry and translator associations.

## Special Thanks to

### SABINE SCHEIDEMANN

She represents the Directorate-General for Translation of the European Commission in Germany. As one of the greatest language services of the world the DG translates the documents of the European Commission into all 24 official languages of the European Union.



„A translator has to be a curious person and should always be ready to learn about new topics.“

## The Award Winners

and an excerpt of their translation from the novel „Vor dem Fest“ by Saša Stanišić

Unter einer Buche, am Rand des alten Waldes, liegt still auf dem Laub die Fähe. Von dort, wo der Wald auf Felder trifft, Weizen, Gerste, Raps, sieht sie auf die kleine Ansammlung von Menschenbauten, die auf einem so schmalen Streifen Land zwischen zwei Seen stehen...



**ENRICO RIZZI**

Sotto un faggio, ai confini del vecchio bosco, riposa la volpe fra il fogliame. Da lì, dove il bosco incontra i campi - grano, orzo, colza - la volpe osserva la piccola cerchia di costruzioni umane, che sta su un così sottile lembo di terra tra due laghi...



**ANNA GRETSCHEL**

„The words of a language are not freely combinable, there are always lexical restrictions.“



**MOSHE KAHN**

He is a renowned literary translator, especially of Italian authors. His most aspiring work is the first translation of "Horcynus Orca", by Stefano D'Arrigo, for which he won the German-Italian Translator's Award 2015. His credo is that thorough knowledge of literature is vital for producing excellent translations.



**FRANCESCO URZI**

He has been a translator for the EU Parliament, Luxembourg for more than 30 years. In the course of his work he found a lack in dictionaries of collocations. Therefore he became a lexicographer and author himself and created the first Italian Dictionary of Lexical Combinations (Dizionario delle Combinazioni Lessicali)

## The Experts

### SIMONA BELLINI

Subject Specialist at the TU-Dresden

### DR. SIMONA BRUNETTI

Senior Lecturer at the TU-Dresden

### REBECCA SCHREIBER, M.A.

Senior Lecturer at the TU-Dresden

### GESINE SEYMER

Freelance Translator of Technical Texts