

European Conference of Speech-to-Text Interpreters (ECOS)
Vienna 2022: PostPandemicPerspectives

CONFERENCE REPORT



ECOS Vienna 2022 Conference Report

01.10.2022

From 26 to 28 August 2022, the European Conference of Speech-to-text Interpreters (ECOS) Vienna 2022: PostPandemicPerspectives took place in Vienna. It was organized by the Centre for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna in cooperation with the Board of the Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters (ÖSDV).

After its first edition 2012 in Ermelo (the Netherlands), the 10th ECOS anniversary and its sixth edition took place in Vienna (Austria). It was planned and held as an on-site event and followed ECOS 2014 in Helsinki (Finland), 2016 in Berlin (Germany), 2018 in Stockholm (Sweden) and 2020 in Trondheim (Norway) – the latter being a mere digital conference due to the Covid crisis. In Vienna, the conference aim was to shed light on **PostPandemicPerspectives**; therefore, the Call for Papers was explicitly targeted on the working conditions of speech-to-text interpreters (STTI) and how they had changed in recent years because of mainly working online due to the pandemic, on best practices within the community for the different techniques and on how to charge for remote services. Furthermore, speakers were invited to present user requirements and preferences as well as new research data and possibilities of interlingual speech-to-text interpreting and further training possibilities.

On three conference days, held at two different locations in Vienna, ECOS Vienna 2022 was all about speech-to-text interpreting: practitioners, researchers, stakeholders, trainers, users and institutions – 14 speakers, more than 130 participants from 14 countries, 4 sponsors and one exhibitor reflecting the broad approach the organizers wanted to take, giving the participants the opportunity to meet in person and network as much as possible within the fast-growing international STTI community. The conference was the first of its kind held by an academic institution, the Centre for Translation Studies being engaged both in research and vocational training of speech-to-text interpreters at BA, MA and PhD level – it has also established a [postgraduate certification training](#) for speech-to-text interpreters with three training cycles so far. Thanks to that, simultaneous interpretation from English into German and intralingual speech-to-text interpreting in English was provided throughout the conference by MA students and graduates of the STTI certification training.

After the opening ceremony, hosted by Prof. Hanna Risku as Deputy Head of the Centre for Translation Studies, as well as Daniela Eichmeyer-Hell and Judith Platter as representatives of the Austrian Speech-to-text Interpreters' Association ÖSDV, the conference program offered enriching exchange opportunities during the Q & A sessions and the social program. The **keynote by Ursula Stachl-Peier and Ulf Norberg** (Stockholm University, Sweden / Graz University, Austria) was the kick-off for the first conference day on Friday; it was followed by the **keynote by Nancy Guevara** (AccessMundi, Australia) on Saturday – the two presentations introduced a broad spectrum of conceptual, methodological, empirical, and practical contributions from various backgrounds relating to the conference topic presented in four sections: settings and didactics, quality assessment, methodology and approaches as well as managing challenges. **14 speakers** gave **9** presentations on-site and partially online and called for more field research and collaboration within Europe in order to professionalize speech-to-text interpreting on a larger scale. The role of research was highlighted especially within the context of legal and financial directives –speech-to-text interpreting in some cases being borne by public financing, as well as international standards such as ISO standards.

Common ground and commitment were also expressed in fostering collaboration within the practitioner's and research community – during the Closing Session, many attendees actively participated in the lively discussion on learnings, takeaways, and reflections: Amongst others, the founding of a European Speech-to-text Interpreters' Association was mentioned as well as the launching of a STTI journal. From the researchers' point of view, the publishing of the conference proceedings was also suggested and coming from the more practical side, the need of trained STTI with multilingual backgrounds was a positive takeaway as well. Finally, the users themselves reminded the audience once more to also listen to their needs and perspectives, both in an on-site and a remote STTI setting.

As organizers, we hope that ECOS Vienna 2022 contributed to strengthening the STTI community as a whole by creating a room for exchange and further collaboration which is likely to continue at the next conference edition, ECOS 2024 – its venue is still to be confirmed.

We were, indeed, very happy to host this conference and would like to thank everyone who attended and made the conference so enjoyable and fruitful!

Judith Platter and Agnes Tauscher

For the Organizing Committee

Marianne Bogner-Romanik, ÖSDV – Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters

Daniela Eichmeyer-Hell, ÖSDV – Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters, University of Vienna

Tina Mannsbarth, ÖSDV – Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters

Anja Pfneisel, ÖSDV – Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters

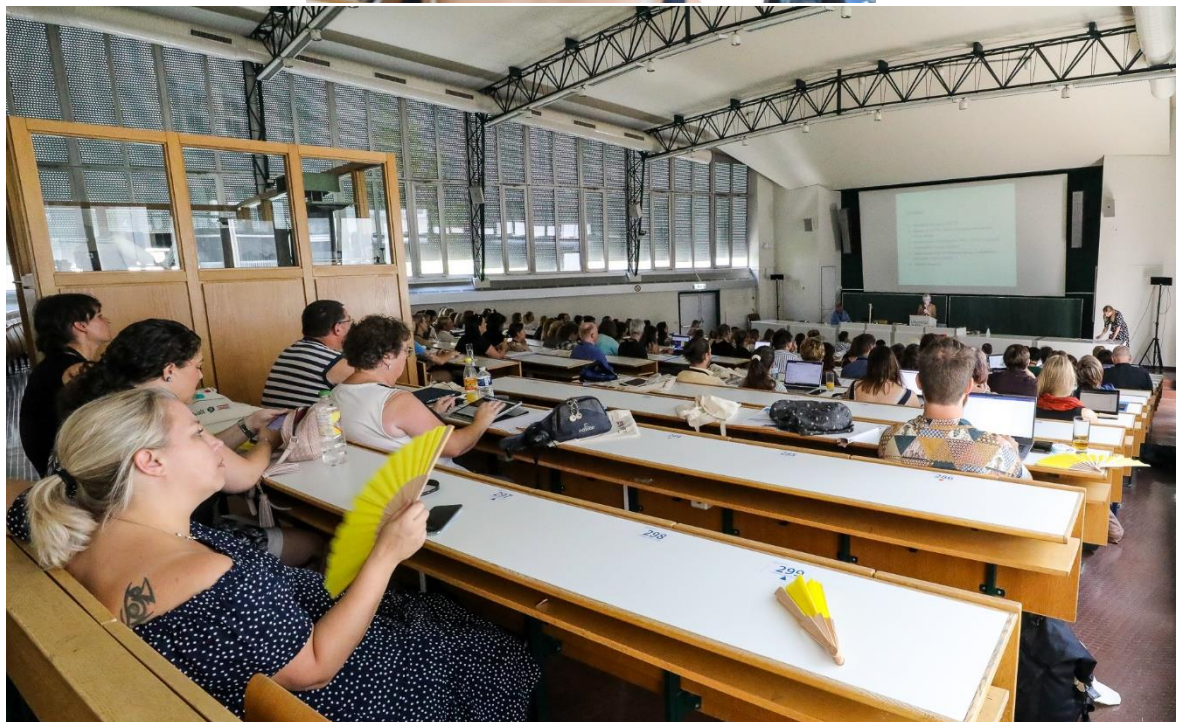
Judith Platter, ÖSDV – Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters, University of Vienna

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Agnes Tauscher, ÖSDV – Austrian Association of Speech-to-text Interpreters, University of Innsbruck



















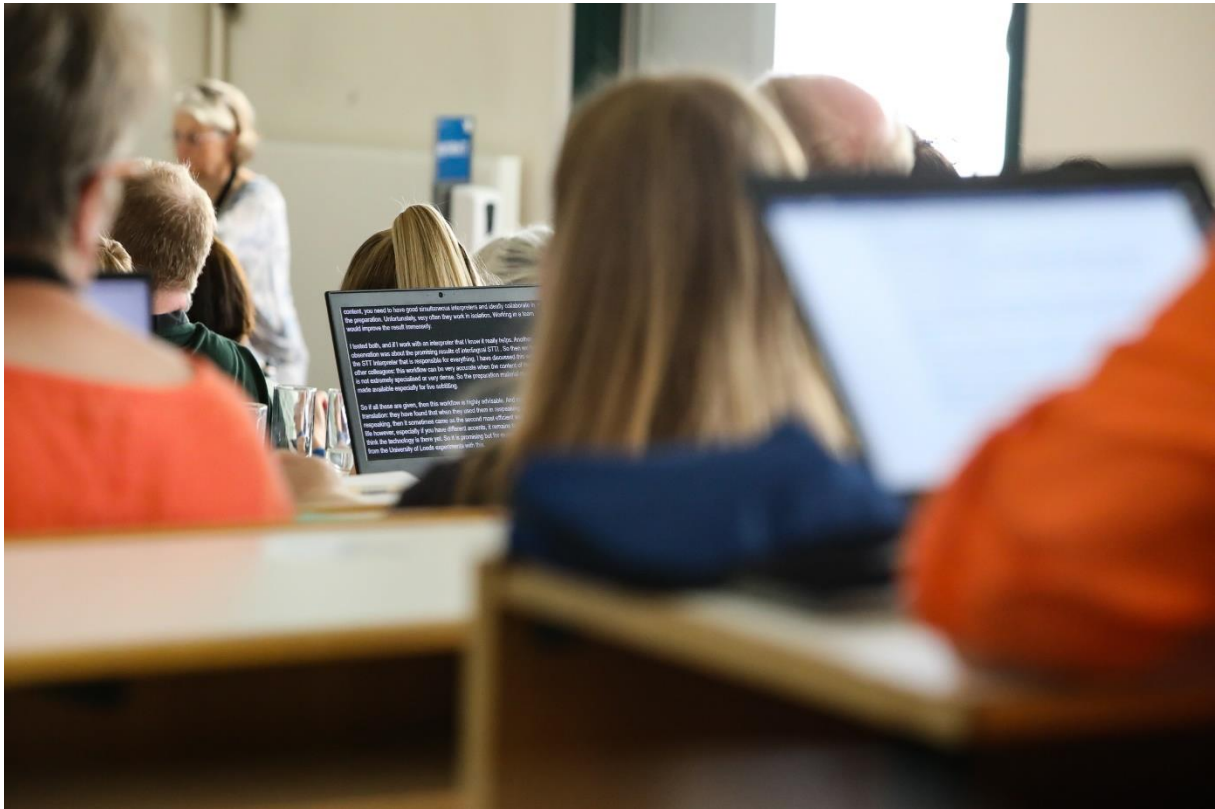












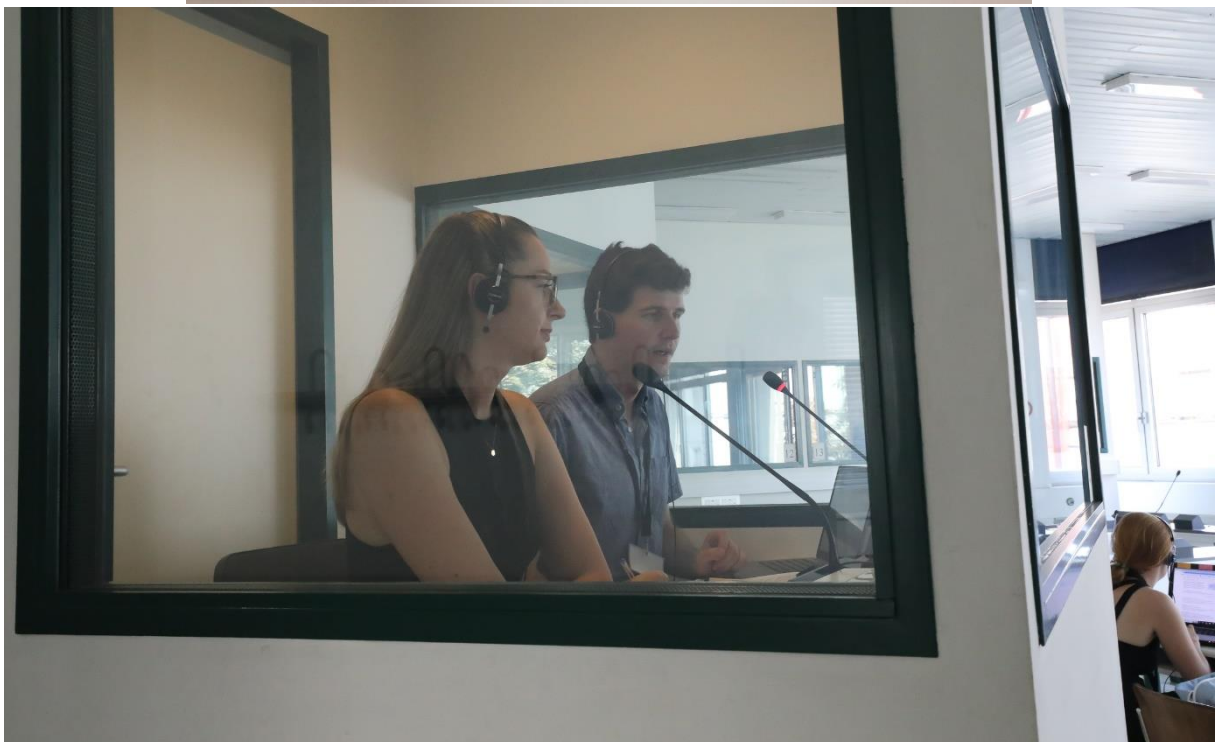




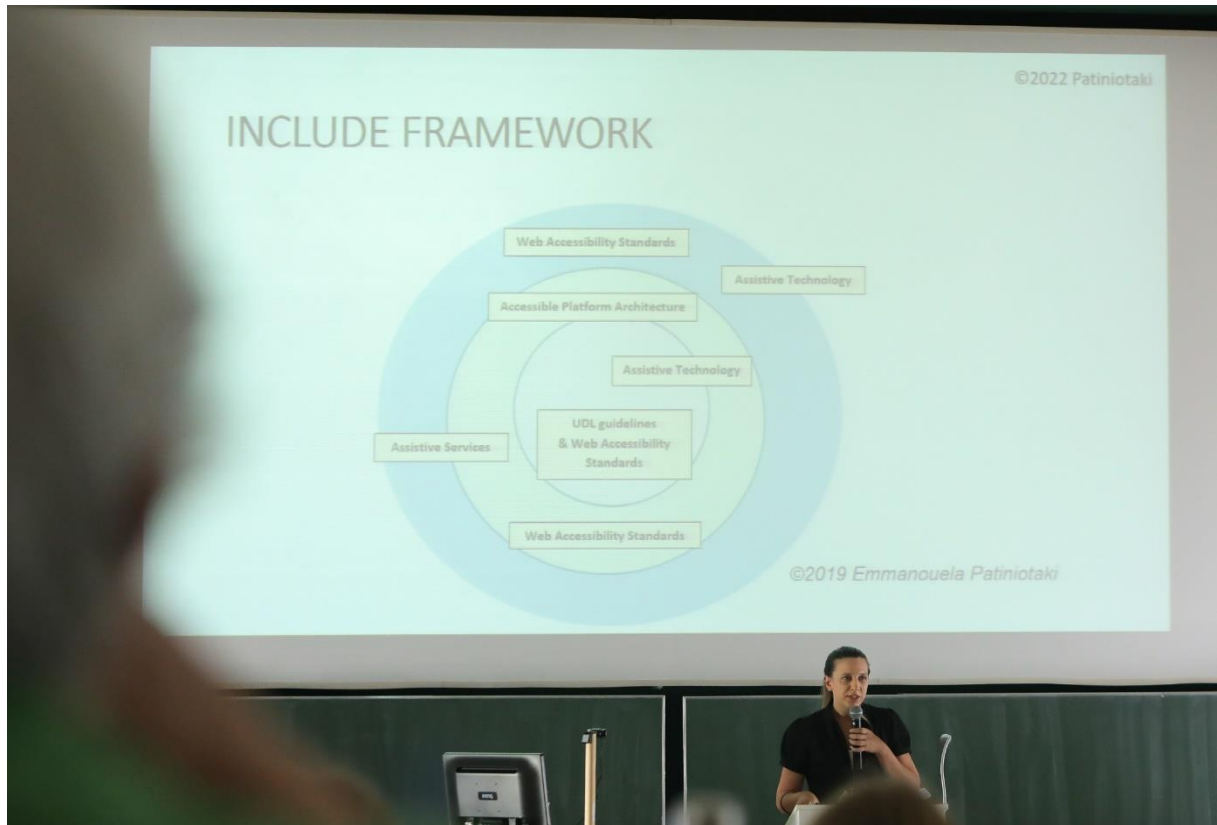


























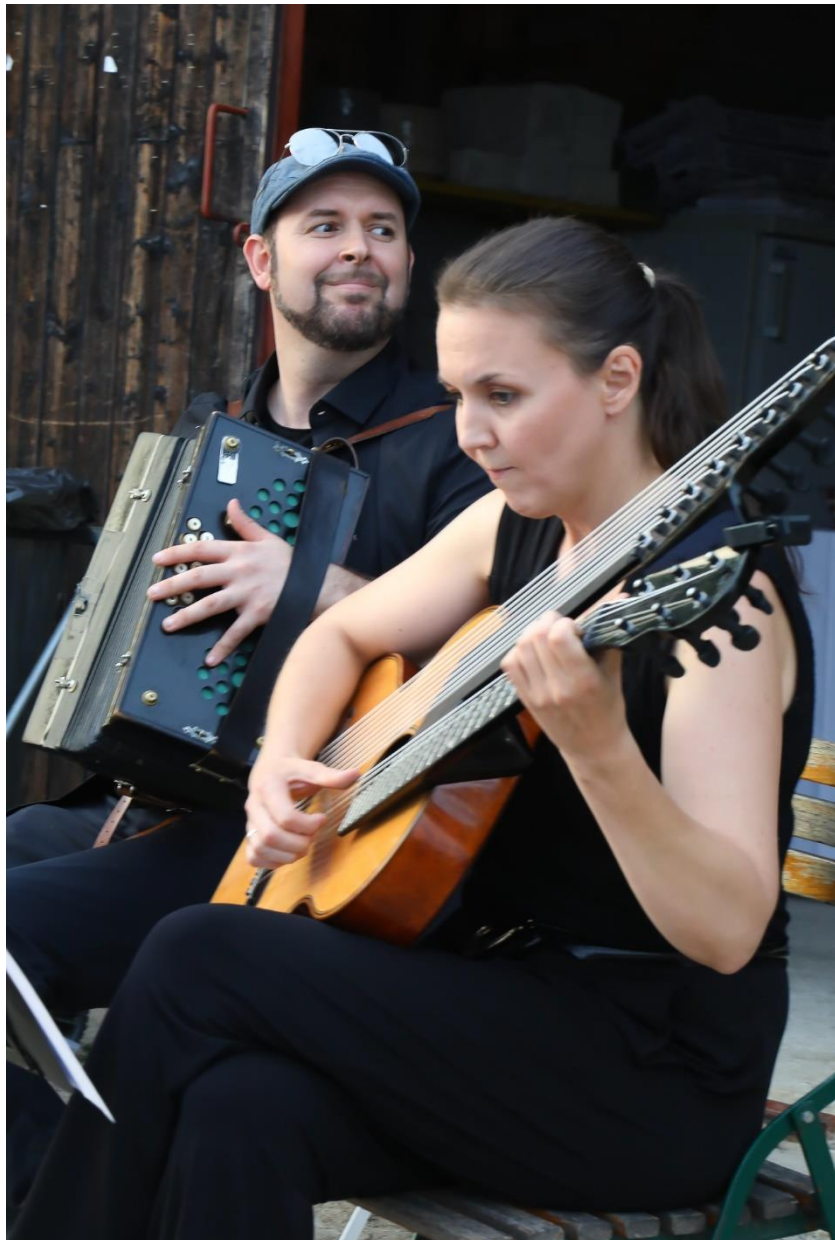








































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