

# DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGICAL COMPETENCES

REMOTE SIMULTANEOUS INTERPRETING EXPLORED

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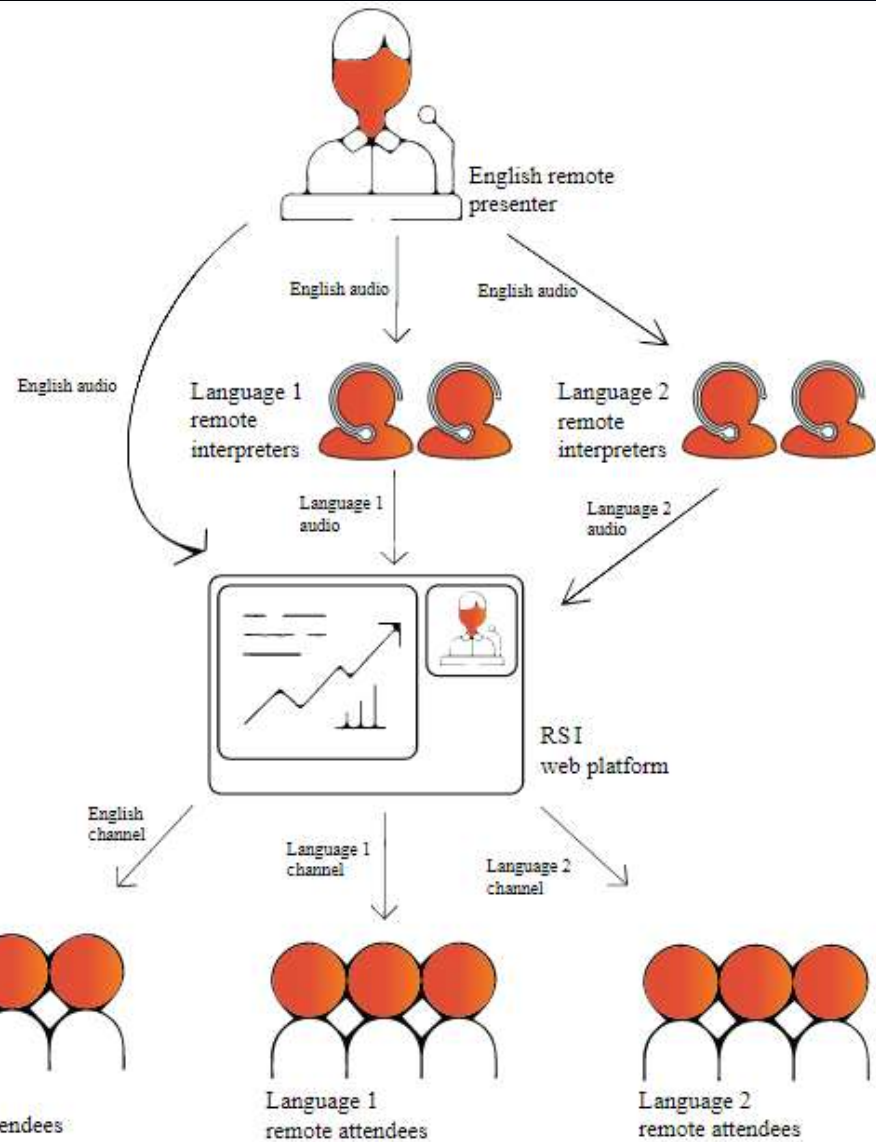
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## FROM ONSITE TO OFFSITE

In an RSI setup, the interpreters are located offsite and will join the event virtually via an RSI platform on their laptop to deliver interpretation simultaneously. Through the platform, they receive a live video & audio feed of the speaker(s) and deliver remote simultaneous interpretation just as if they were working with an interpreter console.

The participants can listen to the interpretation via the same RSI platform if they join virtually or via a mobile app if they are onsite.



# FROM ONSITE TO OFFSITE - Pros and cons

## PROS

- Provide multilingual support for virtual events
- More economical solution (no travel, per diem, equipment and associated onsite fees)
- The platform works like an interpreter console creating a more or less familiar conference interpreting booth experience for the interpreter
- Participants, speakers and interpreters can all join remotely reducing costs and carbon print
- Enable multilingual support in events that otherwise would not be able to offer it, i.e. lack of local interpreters, budgets, pandemic crisis...

# FROM ONSITE TO OFFSITE - Pros and cons

## CONS

- Risks associated with remote setup (internet connection drop, interpreters' hardware reliability, platforms' server downtime...)
- Audio quality is not as reliable as an onsite traditional system
- Interpreters may find it harder to incorporate necessary clues to provide quality SI if not onsite
- Data security, breaches and confidentiality associated with the use of cloud-based systems
- Additional pressure put on interpreters to manage their hardware and the platform while interpreting

# NEW COMPETENCES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SCREEN

The interpreters

- Headsets features:
  - Wired better than Wireless
    - Internet
    - Headsets
  - USB better and jacks
  - Noise cancelling
  - Mute & unmute controller
  - Frequency response (125 to 15,000 Hz)
    - More is received but not understood by the ear
  - Impedance (16-32 Ohms)
  - Mics (Condenser Vs Dynamic)
  - Mics (Desktop Vs Headsets)
  - Uninterruptible Power Supply

## NEW COMPETENCES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SCREEN

The interpreters

- Hi-Fi Mode in Zoom

In its report "Evaluating Simultaneous Interpreting Platforms for ISO Compliance", AIIC examines the compliance of different RSI platforms with the standard, including two modes of use of the Zoom platform for simultaneous interpreting: "standard" and "advanced" modes. In this report, only the advanced high-fidelity sound mode in Zoom meets three of the five requirements established by the ISO PAS 24019 standard: a latency of less than 500 ms, STI speech intelligibility of more than 0.64 and total harmonic distortion of less than 1 %.

According to experts such as Andrea Caniato, it could meet all five depending on the microphone used by the speaker, which would add up to a frequency response between 125 Hz and 15 kHz and acoustic protection of up to 94 dB(A).



Settings

- General
- Video
- Audio**
- Share Screen
- Chat
- Virtual Background
- Recording
- Profile
- Statistics
- Feedback
- Keyboard Shortcuts
- Accessibility

**Speaker** Test Speaker Speakers (3- Focusrite Usb Audio) ▾

Output Level:

Volume:

**Microphone** Test Mic Analogue 1 + 2 (3- Focusrite Usb...) ▾

Input Level:

Volume:

Automatically adjust volume

Use separate audio device to play ringtone simultaneously

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Automatically join audio by computer when joining a meeting

Mute my microphone when joining a meeting

Enable Stereo sound

Press and hold SPACE key to temporarily unmute yourself

Sync buttons on headset

Advanced

Settings

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Advanced

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< Back

Show in-meeting option to "Enable Original Sound" from microphone

**Audio Processing**

[Restore Defaults](#)

Suppress Persistent Background Noise ?

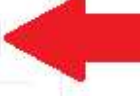
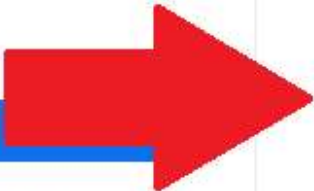
Disable ▾

Suppress Intermittent Background Noise ?

Disable ▾

Echo cancellation

Auto ▾



## NEW COMPETENCES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE SCREEN

The clients

- Mics separated from the cam
- Webcam
  - Best quality will always be underrated
    - 720
    - 1080
    - 4k
- ‘Share your screen’ steals your limelight
- Videos get adapted to bandwidth
- Natural Vs Artificial light
- Distance from the cam
- Gestures on screen
- Management of silence and the use of the technology is a personal responsibility

# BE AWARE OF THE ACOUSTIC SHOCK

- Physical symptoms
  - Headaches
  - Tinnitus
  - Nausea
  - Hyperacusis (a collapsed tolerance to usual environmental sounds)
  - Muffled hearing
  - Vertigo
  - Numbness
  - Burning sensations around the ear
- Psychological symptoms
  - Post-traumatic stress disorder
  - Anxiety
  - Depression.

## SOMETHING TO TAKE HOME

- Communication technology is always advancing and falling behind means not keeping up.
- Controlling sound and audio is a new skill that interpreters need to be trained in.
- We must invest in the best equipment to offer the best service to our clients.
- But watch out! The best equipment for my booth partner may not be the best equipment for me.
- Interpreters are curious by nature, settling into old systems is not for us.

We live in a new world  
but a very exciting one

THANK YOU

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