IO7 REPORT

IO7: Protocol for the implementation of ILS on TV and in social, educational and political settings and recognition of the ILSA course with ECTS credits

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Document title:
IO7 Report: Protocol for the implementation of ILS on TV and in social, educational and political settings and recognition of the ILSA course with ECTS credits

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Abstract:
This document reports on the development and completion of Intellectual Output 7 (IO7) of the Interlingual Live Subtitling for Access (ILSA) project (2017-1-ES01-KA203-037948), devoted to the implementation of ILS on TV and in social, educational and political settings and recognition of the ILSA course with ECTS credits. The report details all the steps taken to complete the IO and includes protocols for the implementation of interlingual live subtitling in the above-mentioned settings. This IO draws on the results from previous IOs, especially from IO1, IO3, IO4 and IO5, and is the final IO in the ILSA project.

Dissemination Level:

P	Public	X
C	Confidential, only for members of the consortium and the Commission Services	

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Introduction

The aim of the IO7 was to prepare protocols for implementation for interlingual live subtitling in different settings: education, live events and television. Based on the work on previous intellectual outputs (IOs) and multiplier events held within the framework of the project, the need for protocols that would support and enhance the implementation of interlingual live subtitling (ILS) is clear. Therefore, the ILSA team strove to provide such a resource.

The structure of this report is as follows. First, we detail the ways in which the implementation of previous IOs has contributed to the work on IO7. Next, we discuss in detail the aims of IO7. Then, we proceed to describe the methodology of work carried out within the IO7. The bulk of this report, however, is dedicated to the presentation of the protocols. Following from this, we conclude the report by discussing the transferability and sustainability of the work carried out as part of IO7.

This IO has been led by UWarsaw, given the experience of this partner in both teaching and providing live subtitles for different genres and in different settings. However, all partners have contributed to the outcome by surveying and providing best practices from their countries. Of particular importance were the contributions made by the non-academic partners of the project: INTRO PR in Poland for interlingual subtitling at live events and VRT for interlingual live subtitles in television.

Input from previous IOs

As explained above, IO7 benefits from all previous IOs that have been implemented as part of the ILSA project. However, of particular relevance have been the work carried out on IO1, IO3 and IO5. What follows is a brief description of the work carried out within all the previous IOs, with special emphasis on the above-mentioned three IOs, and its relevance to the goals of IO7.

The aim of IO1 was to provide a thorough overview and assessment of the current landscape of intralingual live subtitling training and practice at university and in the industry. In order to achieve this, the largest questionnaire ever compiled on live subtitling was prepared and disseminated to three target groups: professionals, trainers and broadcasters. The responses gathered from these surveys did not only shed light on the current practices and training programmes. They also demonstrated that an all-

encompassing training programme on interlingual live subtitling is lacking. This confirmed the idea that projects like ILSA are needed in order to train future interlingual live subtitlers and to improve future live subtitling. Also, it was clear from the survey that stakeholders wishing to implement live subtitling need clear guidelines on how to do it, what professionals do they need and what are the available workflows.

Also, as far as IO7 is concerned, the results of IO1 gave the ILSA team an insight into what are the needs of event organisers and broadcasters for smooth implementation of ILS in these different settings. In addition, these insights were supplemented by the discussions held with the participants of Multiplier Events (MEs) in Vienna (ME3: "Mapping the ILSA training course" held in February 2019) and Warsaw (ME5: "How to train interlingual live subtitlers" held in September 2019). This gave the team a thorough grasp over the real-existing needs of the market stakeholders and higher education institutions in terms of implementing interlingual live subtitling.

The aim of IO2 was to identify the professional skills from subtitling and interpreting required to perform interlingual live subtitling (ILS). This IO included the largest experiment conducted so far on ILS, with a pilot study and three 4-week experiments analysing the performance of interpreters and subtitlers in this new discipline, along with targeted focus groups.

The aim of IO3 was to define the profile and competences of the professional interlingual subtitler. After compiling and critically reviewing literature on the subject, the ILSA team drafted the first descriptive model and illustrative visualisation of the ILS competence profile. As far as IO7 is concerned, the results of IO3, and IO2, gave the ILSA team sound and scientific basis for suggesting and promoting professional standards for the implementation of interlingual live subtitling. Thus, the recommendations made in the protocols prepared as part of IO7 benefit from the scientific output of IO3 and IO2.

The aim of IO4 was to map the new ILSA course, based on the results delivered by the previous IOs and taking the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area into account. Our goal was to include the structure of the course (modules and units), learning outcomes, suggestions for methods of teaching/learning, suggestions for assessment, and suggestions for teaching materials (including blended learning). More specifically, we aimed at providing a course for the two different contexts proposed by ILSA (i.e. television and live events, including educational and political settings) and on

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two levels: a higher education institutions (HEI) master level course and a professional course suited e.g. for Life-Long Learning.

The aim of IO5 was to prepare training materials for the ILSA course, based on the insights from previous IOs, especially from IO4. The training materials can be used in the classroom in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) or as part of self-practice or life-long learning courses. These materials include, but are not limited to, video lectures, video tutorials, case study videos showing best practices in intra- and interlingual respeaking from different countries, interviews with researchers and practitioners, exercises, quizzes, reading materials, presentations, guides etc. These materials are made available on a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) platform built on the edX's engine. In addition, a repository of practice videos has been created to facilitate self-practice. All the materials are made accessible for people with different impairments. Notably, all the video materials are subtitled, whereas course materials were audited for their compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) standard.

IO4 and IO5, which are the core component parts of the ILSA project, interrelate with IO7. On the one hand, they provide material on the basis of which IO7 protocols have been prepared (including professional standards, workflows, needs of different stakeholders to the process). On the other hand, IO7 results refer to the results of IO4 and IO5 in order to ground them in teaching material that will allow interested stakeholders to deepen their knowledge about ILS. In addition, as far as the accreditation of ILSA course with ECTS points is concerned, IO4 provides clear guidance on how many ECTS points should be assigned to different modules of the ILSA course.

The aim of IO6 was to test and check for appropriateness and quality of the course design (mapped in IO4) and course materials (created in IO5). To that end, two types of assessments were carried out: (1) a summative assessment in order to monitor academic quality and real usefulness of the course as a whole; and (2) a formative assessment to monitor adequate learning process and knowledge and confidence levels of the students, as well as their satisfaction throughout the course. The results of IO6 gave the team valuable input for improvement of protocols. By including the needs and opinions of the ILS students.

The aims of IO7

The aim of IO7 was to distil the knowledge gained and systematised through the implementation of previous IOs into simple and easy-to-use protocols that will assist professionals to implement ILS. The protocols include technical requirements for live subtitles in different settings, checklists, Dos and Don'ts for event organisers / TV broadcasters / respeakers and other useful information. The materials would be presented in an accessible format, both in terms of its simplicity and in terms of its compliance with content accessibility standards. The target-group for the protocols will be, on the one hand, event organisers and broadcaster and, on the other hand, providers of interlingual live subtitling.

A supplementary goal of IO7 was to research the situation regarding the accreditation of respeaking courses at partner institutions and provide them with suggestions on further development in this field.

Methodology

The work on this IO has followed an action research approach. The choice of this methodology seems to be particularly suitable given the fact that its proponents have largely focused on educational contexts and research.

The protocols have been developed and then consulted in a multi-tear process with stakeholders. These consultations have, following the guidelines of action research, fed into the next stage of protocol elaboration.

The first draft of the protocols for general events and education have been prepared by UWarsaw. Given their experience in the provision of live subtitles on the TV, VRT has prepared the first draft of the protocol for this setting. These protocols have then been consulted with experts in the field and improved following their recommendations. UWarsaw took care of the unification of the protocol structure. However, all partners have contributed substantially to the elaboration of the protocols. In addition, the draft versions of the protocols have been presented at the online Multiplier Event organised by UAntwerp (ME6: "The present of future of ILSA" held in July 2020) and have thus benefitted from the feedback provided by the expert audience present at ME.

Protocols for the implementation of ILS

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As explained above, based on previous IOs and the experience of project partners in the field, the need for a document covering different aspects of the implementation of ILS was established. Following further discussions it was decided that protocols, rather than consisting of a general part and a second part dedicated to each particular setting, would be divided into three separate documents. It was concluded that this format would be the most accessible for the target group of this IO. Also, based on thorough review of best practices in countries represented by the project partners, no discernible differences have been observed between the political and social setting for interlingual live subtitling. Hence, three protocols have been prepared that deal with TV setting, general setting and educational setting for live subtitling.

What follows is a description of the general structure of the protocols. Each of the documents starts with definitions of all the relevant concepts that will facilitate the use of the protocol by the non-expert readership. As explained in the guidelines, "Different terms are used to talk about the provision of live subtitling and speech-to-text services in different countries and markets. In the ILSA project, we attempt to clear up the current terminological confusion". Then, the documents describe the users of the service. Depending upon the setting, users may vary, but in general ILS will benefit the deaf and the hard of hearing as well aso those who, for different reasons, cannot access spoken text. Furthermore, each guideline document presents the benefits resulting from the use of ILS services. It is expected that these benefits, which concentrate on enhancing the accessibility in a given domain, will help to convince the relevant stakeholders about the need to provide (and pay) for the service. The core of each of the documents consists of a thorough and clear description of the workflow for each setting covered by the guidelines, accompanied by relevant pictures and images (most of which have been specifically designed for the purpose of these documents). The guidelines also describe the necessary tools that allow for the provision of the ILS service and challenges for each interested party involved in its provision. The documents conclude with practical information, such as tips for improving the quality of the provision of ILS, advice on what to do and what not to do when providing this service and checklists for different stakeholders in the process. Checklists will be useful not only to improve the quality of the service but also to raise awareness of the ILS services among different stakeholders.

The master version of the protocols have been prepared in English. The authors, in line with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG), provided alternative text contents

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for all the pictures and graphics within the documents. In line with project application, this version was translated into the languages of the project partners, i.e. Spanish, Dutch, German and Polish. All the protocols are available from the [project Web site](). The English version of the guidelines is available in PDF format. In addition, the Polish version of the guidelines is available in accessible PDF format (i.e. fully compliant with WCAG standard). This will pave the way for the preparation of fully accessible, WCAG-compliant versions of guidelines in all the relevant project languages, a task that goes much beyond what was promised in the application form.

Below are reproduced the three guidelines prepared as part of ILS.

How to implement speech-to-text interpreting in live events

How to implement speech-to-text interpreting in educational settings
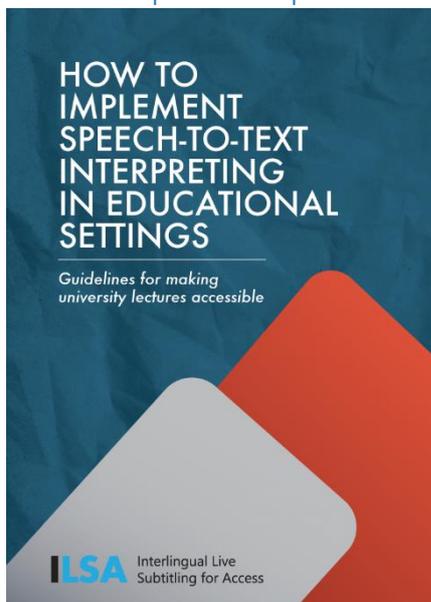
Recognition of the ILSA course with ECTS credits

As explained above, in IO4 the ILSA team prepared a general recommendation on the number of ECTS credits that should be allotted to different modules of the course. What follows is a summary of this proposal:

	Module	ECTS
Foundational components	1a: Media and live events accessibility	1
	1b: Pre-recorded subtitling	4
	1c: Simultaneous interpreting	4
Core components	2a: Intralingual respeaking	4
	2b: Interlingual respeaking	4
Applied components	3a: Intralingual and interlingual respeaking for TV	2

	3a: Intralingual and interlingual respeaking for live events and education	2
	TOTAL	**21**

In order to carry out this part of IO7, a survey has been conducted among the partner universities to get an insight into their practices regarding the accreditation of the ILSA course and its components. Currently, all the institutions in question offer ILS courses. What follows are the best practices from each of the HEI involved in the project.

- **UVigo** offers a specialist course in interlingual respeaking (English-Spanish). It is an online course that has been on offer over the last two years for students all over the world. The only two requirements students have to meet is (1) to hold a university degree (in any field of knowledge) or be enrolled in the final years of a university degree and (2) to pay the fees of the course. The group normally consists of maximum of 10-12 students. The course consists of three modules: ((1) simultaneous interpreting, (2) intralingual respeaking and (3) interlingual respeaking). In line with the ILSA course, the next edition of the course will include a component on accessibility. Students are in close contact, and therefore, closely monitored by their tutors, who provide feedback for improvement all the time. In terms of credits, the whole course is 20 credits, theory (T) 4 credits + practice (P) 16 credits, divided as follows: simultaneous interpreting (1T + 5P), intralingual respeaking (1T + 5P), interlingual respeaking (2T + 6P). In terms of hours, the course takes up between 180 and 200 hours. The third edition of the course will most start by mid-January 2021. As demonstrated above, the course materials have benefitted from those developed for the ILSA course.

- At **UWarsaw**, a respeaking course has been offered as part of the Master's programme for three years. This is a direct consequence of the implementation of the ILSA project and previous research projects in this field. The respeaking course is offered as an optative class. Starting from the academic year 2019/20, it is part of an accessibility optative class and students can choose it among other options (such as audio description, subtitling for the deaf and the hard of hearing or live events accessibility). A student who takes part in the respeaking class is awarded with 2 ECTS points. The course has 30 contact hours. The language of

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instruction is Polish, but students are invited to respeak from their foreign languages (English, Spanish, German, French, Russian, Japanese, Swedish). The course has proved so popular among the students that two groups had to be arranged for the academic year 2019/20. The next edition of the course will start in February 2021. In connection with the COVID pandemic, the course has completely switched to online training and the trainer has made extensive use of ILSA course materials. Many students who completed this course have successfully applied for jobs in respeaking for the television and during live events.

- At **UVienna**, in direct connection with the implementation of the ILSA project, an elective course in 'Respeaking and Live-subtitling English-German' was offered in the 2019 Autumn term and 2020 Spring term. The course was offered within the 2-year 'MA in Translation and Interpreting' programme. The course had 22.5 contact hours and was allotted with 4 ECTS. It has to be stressed that many students who have taken the course (some 20-25 per group) have started working as live subtitlers for a Vienna-based company. The course contributed to these students being offered a job, despite the fact that they did not complete their MA in translation and interpreting.

- At **UAntwerp**, there is a course on interlingual live subtitling. Teaching materials prepared for the ILSA project (especially modules 2b and 3a) constitute the backbone of the course.

As can be seen from this brief summary, the implementation of the ILSA project and the development of the course contents have had a direct impact on the development of teaching practices at the partner institutions. In the coming years, there will be more initiatives related to teaching ILS, notably, the ILSA course will be offered and supported by the partner institutions. As shown by the results of the IO1, which clearly demonstrate a need to provide such teaching materials, the ILSA project is tapping into a growing demand and its outcomes have played and will continue to play a pivotal role in the training of interlingual live respeakers.

Impact, transferability and sustainability

Many organisations and institutions are looking for the standardisation of their practices in the field of live subtitles. This need is addressed by the protocols prepared within this

IO. Thus, as this IO has been concerned with the preparation of material addressed to external stakeholders, it is likely to have a major impact in the future.

As demonstrated by previous IOs (e.g. the research carried out as part of IO1), there is a growing demand for access services and training in this area. This was confirmed by large interest in the ILSA Multiplier Events held in Warsaw in September 2019 and online Multiplier Event organised by UAntwerp in July 2020. It has to be stressed that members of the project come from both higher education institutions and industry. All the project partners have had experience with teaching/implementing interlingual live subtitles. As far as live subtitles in education are concerned, HEI participating in the project will undoubtedly benefit from the protocol prepared in IO7. Also, they will be able to offer this knowledge to other HEIs interested in providing live subtitles in education. As for the live subtitles in television, both industry partners of the project (VRT and INTRO PR) have been providing live subtitles in this setting. Thus, the protocol for the implementation of live subtitles in the TV will undoubtedly benefit their own practice. Through project dissemination among respeakers working for different broadcasters and broadcasters themselves, the protocol is likely to have an impact on an industry-wide level. As for ILS for live events, INTRO PR, as a non-academic partner of the project, will benefit from the protocol in this area. The protocols will also help respeakers working during live events to further professionalise the service they provide and improve its quality. It is important to stress that, since interlingual live subtitling is a fresh profession, there have been no standards for working conditions and remuneration – a gap that the protocols prepared in this IO attempt at addressing. Last, but not least, with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic many events have moved online and there is a growing realisation on the part of event organisers of the need for live subtitling. The protocols that have been prepared within this IO will undoubtedly assist in the provision of this service.

When it comes to the sustainability of IO7 results, all the protocols prepared within this IO can be accessed for free on the project's web site and will continue to be available after the project. UVigo guarantees the continuous access to the project's web site and its alias (the latter will be available until 2025). In addition, the PDF versions of the documents have been audited for their compliance with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines and are thus accessible for all.

Conclusions

This report has presented the work carried out in IO7 within the framework of the ILSA project. It started by outlining the work carried out in previous six IOs of the project and the way they contributed to the implementation of IO7. Next, it proceeded to the presentation of the aims of IO7 and the methodology of activities carried out within its framework. Then, it presented the contents of all the protocols. Finally, it concluded by pointing to the impact and transferability of this IO.

With the completion of this last IO of the ILSA project, we believe that interlingual live subtitling with speech recognition is the future of access services. Situated at the intersection of accessibility, interpreting and audiovisual translation, interlingual live subtitling offers not only a chance for a more accessible environment for the deaf and the hard of hearing but also an opportunity for professional development and career to those who wish to study and practice it.

Disclaimer

How to quote this document

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