

# The Role of FIT and its Professional Associations in Crisis Settings



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The Social Role of a Translator in Peace,  
War and Humanitarian Crisis

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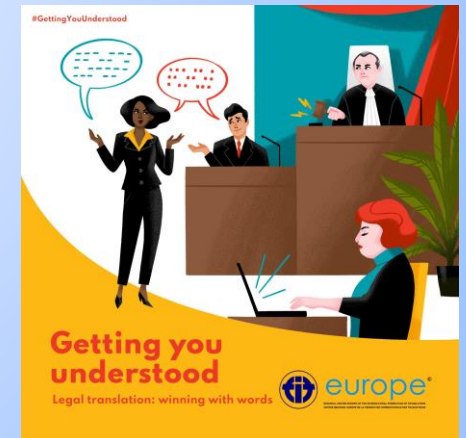
# Overview

- FIT - profile, key objectives and how we work
- Crisis settings and their challenges
- The potential role of FIT
- Action items



# FIT - profile

- Established 1953 in France, registered in France
- 3 official languages - English, French, Spanish
- 108 professional associations with over 90,000 TTIs
- 28 associate members - unis and training institutions
- 87 countries
- 3 Regional Centres - Europe, Latin America, North America
- Regional Centre Africa in development



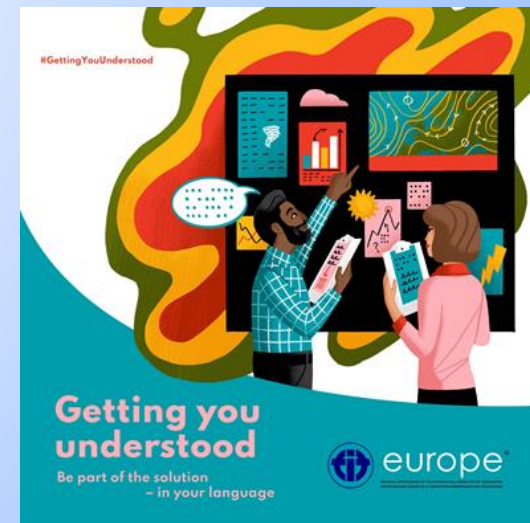
# FIT - key objectives

- To promote the recognition and enhance the status of linguists in society
- To link existing FIT member associations and facilitate the formation of new associations
- To provide information about work conditions, technology, training, and other matters relevant to our professions



# FIT - how we work

- ▶ Council of 17, Executive Committee of 6
- ▶ Standing Committees and Task Forces
- ▶ International Translation Day
- ▶ Foster and maintain relationships with external bodies at global level (Red T, AllC, etc.)
- ▶ Increased involvement with Industry
- ▶ Regular publications



# Crisis settings

- ▶ Humanitarian
- ▶ Conflict zone
- ▶ Natural disasters

**Common keywords:** Urgency, emergency response, vulnerable people, humanitarian aid, fast-moving, need for information, two-way communication, artificial intelligence, collaboration, trust.



# Crisis settings - the challenges

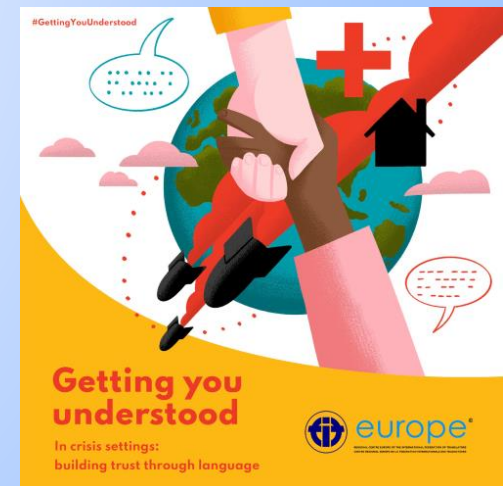
- ▶ Availability of resources - including language
- ▶ Frequent lack of understanding of actual needs
- ▶ Need for preparation, pre and post event
- ▶ Need for a collaborative approach

Challenges will vary, depending on the setting



# FIT – role in crisis settings

The member associations are well placed to understand the needs, the culture and the languages of their people.





# FIT - recent work on crisis settings

Conflict Zone Field Guide for T&I with RED T

FIT Europe - TEW Athens 2019:

- ▶ Takeaways: collaborative approach vital; power and status an issue; specific role definition required; training;
- ▶ Chapter in *Translating Crises* (eds. Sharon O'Brien/Federico M. Federici)

FIT Europe / UCL 2022:

- ▶ Survey on support / training pre and post assignment provided by associations to their members



# FIT – action items

- Map the current, global situation to plan for the future
- Draft language-in-crisis policy assessment paper to be provided to individual associations
- Once assessment is complete, individual associations will design strategy to lobby their governments
- Support associations to access relevant, existing handbooks & guidelines, including information from other sectors





Thank You !

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