

## Introducing our guest speakers



### Bianca Prandi

Bianca Prandi is a postdoctoral researcher and lecturer in Interpreting Studies at the University of Innsbruck, where she teaches computer-assisted interpreting. She is a conference interpreter by training and holds a PhD in Translation Studies from the University of Mainz. Her doctoral work explored the process of computer-assisted interpreting (CAI) through eyetracking and derived its methods from Translation Process Research.

Bianca has been a CAI tool trainer for several years and has taught workshops and seminars on this topic for professional associations and training institutions. She was a guest lecturer for the Certificate Course on Interpreting with new technologies at the Postgraduate Center of the University of Vienna.



### Haris Ghinos

Vice President of the International Association of Conference Interpreters (AIIC) and Project Leader for ISO 23155:2022 on Conference interpreting services. CEO of ELIT Language Services and the Athens Interpreting Hub (AIHub). Former staff conference interpreter with the European Commission (SCIC). Has covered more than 4,000 meetings at the highest level, including the State visits of US Presidents Clinton and Obama to Athens. Has held managerial positions in the environmental sector as well as with advertising agencies and PCOs.

Holds degrees in Physics, War Studies, International Politics and Finance.



### Gorazd Čad

A seasoned meeting planner with over 25 years of experience in the meetings and event industry. He has witnessed the fall of Yugoslavia, the establishment of independent Slovenia, adapted to the internet revolution of the '90s, overcome the economic crisis of 2008, the 2010 eruption of an Icelandic volcano, the 2019 meetings industry burnout, 2020s corona crisis and more. He is the founder and director of the marketing and event agency Toleranca Marketing, a family business that is most widely known by the Conventa project, which has been successfully connecting the regional meetings industry since 2007. He has authored numerous articles and acts as Editor in Chief of Kongres Magazine.



### Frédéric Pirotte

After having worked for 13 years as a freelance sound engineer, he started his career in the EU institutions in 2007: first in the EESC and then in the DG SCIC. In 2012, his expertise brought him to the Technical Compliance Team whose remit is to ensure a compliant technical working environment for interpreters. Throughout the years, he has surveyed thousands of meetings and conferences outside EU premises and almost 25 Presidencies of the Council of the EU. He is a technical expert in the ISO working group dealing with facilities and equipment for interpreting services. In 2019 he was appointed team leader of the Technical Compliance Team, and in March 2020, he also became the project manager of the simultaneous interpreting delivery platform (SIDP) integration at DG SCIC. More recently, he was appointed project leader for drafting the new standards for the interpreters' working environment.

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### **Michelle Hof**

Conference interpreter and trainer at the master's program of the University of La Laguna (Spain) and the Glendon MCI in Toronto (Canada). She is a frequent contributor to panels on interpreting technology, having spoken at industry events in Berlin, Ottawa, Geneva, Brussels and elsewhere. She also offers short courses and workshops for interpreters and trainers through AIC and other partners. As Coordinator of AIC Training and Professional Development, she fosters training opportunities for interpreters worldwide. Michelle speaks English, French, German, Dutch, Spanish and Portuguese. Originally from Canada, she now calls the beautiful island of Tenerife home.



### **Barbara Krajnc**

Entrepreneur, freelance consultant and strategist, owner of a boutique firm, Aurora Borealis, studio for strategic communication and business consultancy. She advises senior executives on corporate and public affairs with the aim of improving their knowledge and understanding of the regulatory and wider business environment. She has extensive experience in sales, government administration, worked in corporate affairs in a large international corporation, business management in the field of external advertising and is a member professional organisation in the field of advertising. She served as Executive Director of the international advertising festival Zlati boben.

She is a lecturer in Slovenia and abroad, participates in research projects, publishes articles, works as a career and entrepreneurship mentor and is a certified facilitator of the LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® method.



### **Marjana Rupnik**

After graduating in English and German Studies with a degree in translation, she first worked as a freelance translator and conference interpreter and as a TV presenter. In 2002, she started teaching interpreting at the then-newly established conference interpreting programme at the University of Ljubljana. In 2003, in preparation for EU enlargement, DG SCIC of the European Commission offered her the post of pre-accession coordinator and interpreting teacher. In 2004 she also joined DG SCIC as a conference interpreter. During these years, she was appointed Coordinator of the first Slovenian Presidency of the EU Council in 2008 and Head of the Slovene Unit at DG SCIC in 2009. Since 1 October 2022, she has been appointed Head of Department II in Directorate A.



### **Amalija Maček**

Conference interpreter and literary translator from German. She coordinates the Master's degree in Conference Interpreting at the Faculty of Arts in Ljubljana. She teaches interpreting from German into Slovenian. She is active in the EMCI association and, together with her colleagues, runs the Professional Training of Interpreters for Courts and Offices at the Faculty of Arts, and is working for the inclusion of Slovene sign language. She is also an accredited interpreter for EU institutions. Her great love is literature. She has translated more than 30 works from German. As a programme consultant, she is currently also involved in the important national project Slovenia, Guest of Honour at the International Frankfurt Book Fair 2023.