

Happy Birthday from Luxembourg!

I met Ivana in one of the General Assemblies of the European Masters in Conference Interpreting (EMCI) Consortium when I took over the role of coordinator for my university (Eötvös Lóránd University, Budapest, Hungary) in the early 2010s. Ivana was already one of the leading figures in interpreting practice, training and research. I myself was a recent EMCI graduate and was beginning my career in conference interpreter training and academia. She soon became president of the Consortium and, to my greatest surprise, she asked me if I would like to become her vice president. Now I can admit that I felt simply not up to the job but I said to myself if she thought I could do it, I would take it. After all, she would not make such a big mistake.

This is how our close professional cooperation and friendship started. For me it was an exciting and enriching journey: general assemblies at different member universities, SCIC Universities conferences in Brussels and, of course, the EMCI train the trainer seminars in Prague, for which she invited me as a trainer. I succeeded her as president of the EMCI, whose activities I had the pleasure to coordinate for six years between 2016 and 2022. During these years I could always count on her kind help, frank and straightforward advice, which made me feel secure and confident in this new role.

Ivana is an exceptional person, trainer and scholar. I was always amazed at how much she can fit into her day. It has to be said that her days start early and end late. I remember her going back to the hotel and working after long and tiring days of meetings or trainings to review an article, read master theses of her students, or organize an external lecturer's visit. This is probably possible because not only is she a quick thinker and decision-maker but also a person with a strong work ethic.

Ivana is a master of multitasking: she is probably the best I have ever seen. We might be discussing complex budgetary issues with her checking her emails in the meantime, but we could be sure that she did not miss any figure in the exercise. Furthermore, she is curious, always on the outlook for new projects for her students, faculty and larger community. She is also reliable and supportive: I could not send her an email without receiving an answer in a couple of hours, at most. And more often than not, these were complex issues which asked for complex explanations.

At the beginning of 2022, I left the Consortium to become the director of the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union, an EU agency based in Luxembourg. This is where we met a couple of months ago. This was a very nice occasion to catch up on our personal and professional life. And I must say that I am still amazed at Ivana, at her incredible energy, perseverance, sense of humour as well as the quantity and quality of her work. It goes without saying that I feel immensely privileged to know her and to have had the chance to learn so much from her.

Happy birthday, Ivana!

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