



SEZIONE  
TRADUTTORI  
EDITORIALI  
**SLC-CGIL**  
STRADE



## **Strade – Annual Report 2018-2019**

### **About the Association**

Strade has recently completed the process (lasting approx. 2016-2018) to become part of the national trade union SLC (which is part of CGIL, the most important workers' union in Italy), with which it had established a co-operation agreement in 2014. SLC is the union representing workers in the field of communication, ranging from cinema and television to postal services, from the publishing industry to telecommunications. Strade has thus become the translators' section of SLC and its name is now Strade-SLC (Strade = Sezione traduttori editoriali).

An independent association called StradeLab has also been created, in order to organize various cultural and training activities and to maintain relationships with book fairs and external partners.

As of today, Strade-SLC has a board of three coordinators, elected during the national CGIL congress in January 2019 for a four-year mandate. StradeLab has a board of three members elected by its general assembly in February 2019 for a two-year mandate. One person has been elected in both

boards, which – wherever possible – co-operate as a single body. A co-operation agreement between Strade-SLC and Stradelab has been written and is expected to be signed by the end of 2019.

All members of Strade-SLC, who pay a 35 euros fee, are entitled to become full members of StradeLab (with an additional 15 euros fee); translators who are not members of Strade-SLC can become associate members of StradeLab by paying a 50 euros fee, which enables them to get advice from the “help desks” on contracts and fiscal matters. Funding sources for StradeLab are members’ fees and free donations, while Strade-SLC has no own budget, but refers to the general budget of SLC.

After thorough reflection the Strade leadership decided to focus on unity of action and intent for both entities rather than on their different status, in order to become more effective in terms of communication and “branding”. Our membership campaign strongly recommends translators to subscribe for both memberships. After a critical period with fewer members (probably due to the big changes within Strade and maybe some general confusion about its status), a positive trend started in 2018 and is still keeping on. By the end of 2018, Strade-SLC had 190 members, and StradeLab 100 (30 thereof were associate members). On 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019, Strade-SLC has around 126 members and StradeLab has around 143 (42 associate members), but not all those paying their fee in 2018 have renewed their membership yet, so we trust these numbers will further improve.

Regular activities are the “help desks” on contracts and fiscal matters. Strade-SLC has also a price agreement with a law firm that offers advice to members in case of contractual twists. Among the important services offered to members, it is worth mentioning a health insurance plan named after “Elisabetta Sandri”, agreed between Insieme Salute and Strade-SLC, which is also available for StradeLab members.

## **Activities 2018-2019**

After devoting a lot of time and energy to defining the new structure of Strade (Strade-SLC union section and StradeLab cultural association) during several months, 2018 has been a time for settling and finding a new routine.

Strade continued some well-established local activities such as our cooperation with AITI both in Milan at Laboratorio Formentini, by organising several public events and “TableT” (informal meetings for translators launched in 2016-2017), and in Rome, by participating in the scientific committee for the Casa delle Traduzioni, which hosts a rich and interesting programme of events throughout the year. Moreover, we cooperate with AITI and ANITI (another translators and interpreters association) in planning and carrying out translation-related events during two book festivals in Palermo (Una Marina di Libri in June and Festival delle Letterature Migranti in October). Local-based activities are one of the big challenges that Strade is facing right now, but also an opportunity we need to take.

Generally speaking, Strade is investing a lot on visibility, especially during book fairs and festivals: apart from the above-mentioned events in Palermo, we organised important events at Più Libri Più Liberi (Rome, December 2018), Bologna Children’s Book Fair (April 2019), BookPride (Milan, March 2019) and soon Salone del libro (Turin, May 2019). Our programmes always try to combine professional-oriented meetings with events aimed at a general public. We see that such investment results both in more translators joining our association and in a stronger network and better public relations (with publishers, politicians and stakeholders).

Moreover, in 2018-2019 StradeLab organised a few peer-to-peer residential seminars for translators, based on the German “Viceversa-Programm” and funded by foreign foundations, the Italian Culture Ministry (via the centre for book promotion CEPELL) and the European Commission’s representation in Italy: “Laboratorio Nordico” for translators from four Nordic languages into Italian in November 2018, an English-Italian Viceversa in April 2019 and a French-Italian Viceversa in May 2019. The aim with such projects is to provide a low-budget, continuous training for “active” translators, which is not as easy to access in Italy (in spite of a wide-ranging provision of – often expensive – training opportunities for people who want to start their career as literary translators).

Last, but not least, Strade held its training seminar for members in February on the countryside not far from Florence. It was the second time since the new organisational set-up with Strade-SLC and StradeLab. In spite of a low participation in terms of numbers, the schedule was tight and intensive, including both general training sessions on actual trends of the Italian language and communication on social networks, and lots of information and fruitful discussion about fees and contracts, with a special focus on renewing rights for books translated more than twenty years ago. But most important of all was the good atmosphere: Strade members definitely need more and more chances to meet face-to-face, and find new energy and motivation to stay unite and keep up the good work!