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# P. PORTO

## Intensive Programme Legal Systems and the Evolution of the Profession: Translating and interpreting in diversity

POLITÉCNICO  
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DO PORTO



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**Intensive Programme Legal Systems and the Evolution of the Profession:  
Translating and interpreting in diversity**

# **Workshop on Remote Interpreting**

# Interpreting

# What is interpreting?

*Imagine two people [...]. They wish to discuss their work but speak different languages, and neither speaks the other's language [...]. So they call in someone else, who speaks both languages, to explain what each is saying in turn. That person is an interpreter. This scenario gives a better idea of what interpreting is all about than a pat definition such as 'immediate oral translation'. Interpreting is about communication (Jones 2002: 3).*

# Remote Interpreting

## 1. Background

# Digital Era – Interpreting

- development of sophisticated tools and equipment
- new forms of communication by distance mode
- transmission of HQ audio and video signals

 **alternatives to the traditional on-site interpreting mode**

 **new modalities of interpreting by distance mode**

 **interpreting on telephone**

 **videoconference interpreting**

 **remote interpreting**

# Remote Interpreting

## 2. First main events

# Remote Interpreting

## 1970s

- Paris-Nairobi (“Symphonie Satellite”) experiment – UNESCO, in 1976
- New York-Buenos Aires experiment – United Nations, in 1978

## • 1990s

- Several Tests within the EC, EU, UN, etc.

## • 2000s

- AVIDICUS Project – more specifically within the legal context (Braun & Taylor 2011: *Videoconference and Remote Interpreting in Criminal Proceedings*)



# Remote Interpreting

## 3. Forms and Features

# On-site interpreting

- the interpreter is physically present and gathers with interlocutors



# On-site interpreting

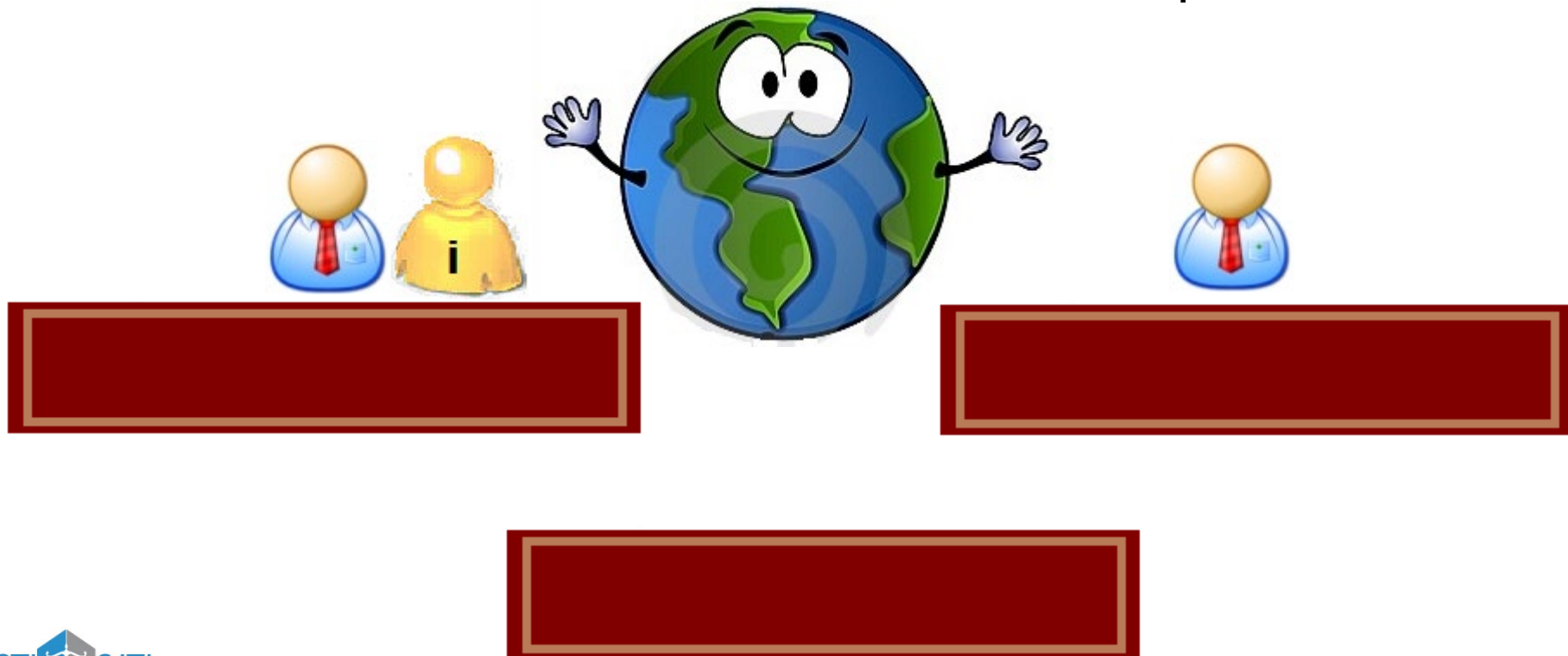
- the interpreter is physically present and gathers with interlocutors
- still physically present carries out interpreting tasks inside a booth



# Interpreting on telephone



- the interpreter is on the same spot with one of the speakers of the telephone conversation
- is on a different spot from the speakers' location
- all intervenients are located on different spots



# Videoconference interpreting

- the interpreter is physically present at the same location of one (or more) interlocutor(s)
- another intervenient is on a distant spot



Videoconference interpreting is the form of interpreting that is used when the proceedings take place at two video-linked locations [...], with the interpreter being situated at either end of the link (Braun & Taylor 2011: 2).



# Remote interpreting



# Remote interpreting

- the interpreter is on a distant spot



# Remote interpreting

- the interpreter is on a distant spot



Remote Interpreting [...] will be used to refer to situations in which interpreters are no longer present in the meeting room, but work from a screen and earphones **without a direct view of the meeting room or the speaker** (Mouzourakis 2006: 46).





# Remote Interpreting

## 4. Impact

# • Reluctance towards Remote Interpreting

- technical failures in transmission of audio and/or video
- pragmatics of interactional communication in RI never the same
- modality which causes more stress
- technological paraphernalia
- strong feelings of isolation and alienation inside a virtual space
- tools and means often unable to eliminate perception of communication mediated by technology
- interpreters' performance and quality of tasks might be compromised

# • Remote Interpreting – AVIDICUS Project

- No difference found in the quality of interpreting tasks
- but...
- Too many technical problems (sound, delay of image transmission, sound and image not synchronized, who has the floor, etc.);
- Feeling of alienation and isolation within a virtual space;
- Remote interpreting not appropriate for longer court sessions.

# Remote Interpreting

## 5. Interpreting Exercises

## • **Remote Interpreting – Your tasks:**

- Group within two different nationalities (groups of 4 students or...);
- For example: 2 Romanian students and 1 Czech student (EN-speaking immigrant)
- Choose the interpreter (1 Romanian student);
- Read the instruction card received;
- Brief your interpreter about the crime scenario;
- Interpreters leave the room;
- Create a short dialogue (role-play) Romanian-English (about 7 min.);
- You are either a police officer, a lawyer, immigrant (defendant/ witness/ or victim at a CS) and the interpreter;
- You have 10 min. to complete this task;
- Dialogue interpreting tasks (in consecutive mode) will be done in:
  - On-site scenario,
  - Over the telephone,
  - Skype;
- Groups will rotate;

# • Remote Interpreting – Final debate

- Difference(s) between face-to-face and remote interpreting?
- Problems?
- Which ones?
- Any advantages in RI modality?
- ...?

**Thank you very much for  
your attention...**