

## **Resurgence after the pandemic: ISATT National Representatives' coordinator's report 2022-2023**

### **The National Representatives' Project**

Although the COVID-19 pandemic years looked very grim with a lot of uncertainties and day-to-day challenges to cope with, it was not without its opportunities. It saw the birth of the online National Reps Project that gave the participants a sense of community in the quarantined space they were forced to inhabit during the height of the pandemic. National reps from over 35 countries shared their narratives and response to semi-structured interview questions about the ways in which they managed the exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic. This became the base data for a study with participants learning from the similarities and differences in their situated cultural and institutional contexts. The project got a shot in the arm with the call for contribution to the ISATT's 40th Anniversary Yearbook. It led to the production of a full section on teacher education during COVID-19 with participants working collaboratively, meeting virtually every month for over a year.

The ISATT Regional conference at Bordeaux in October 2022 was a much-awaited comeback to in-person meeting. The national reps participated in a hybrid mode at this conference for a live presentation of the findings from their studies.

Moving on, we are now continuing our conversations by reflecting on our experience to investigate the social process of collaborative learning and open to discussion the rough path we negotiated by posing questions (uncomfortable) about the challenges a collaborative learning effort raises. We had a diverse array of contexts and participants in our project providing an ideal opportunity to experience first-hand what learning from and teaching to diversity means. However, there were also several constraints to getting the best out of this opportunity both for our individual and collective development as professionals. These contentious aspects of a collaborative enterprise form the theme of the National Reps symposium at the ISATT biennial conference at Bari, July 2023.

We plan to continue our National Reps collaborative work beyond Bari and all other national reps who wish to join this project are welcome to do so.

### **Other ISATT related activities**

ISATT connected activities planned by NRs have been slowly gathering momentum post pandemic as reflected in the yearly summaries I received from the national reps. Most of them

have been using every opportunity to promote ISATT through newsletters, through talks in various academic platforms, meetings and conferences, identifying potential members and talking to them one on one.

### Conferences

1. Marie-Cristine Deyrich, the former ISATT National rep of France and Magdalena Kohout-Diaz, the current national rep jointly organized the ISATT regional conference (6-7 October 2022) at Bordeaux.
2. Loredana Perla, the national rep of Italy, is organizing the Biennial ISATT conference (3-7 July 2023) at Bari, Italy
3. Several National reps have contributed to various chapters in the four volumes of ISATT 40th Anniversary Yearbook. Besides, the following National reps have worked as Editors and section Heads.
  - A) Co-Editor, Juanjo Mena, Spain
  - B) Head, Section on Technology, Daniela-Roxana Andron, Romania

### Awards

Heidi Flavian, national rep of Israel, received the Emerald Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2022 for the book chapter, “Teachers’ role and expectations: processes versus outcomes” in Ratnam, T. & Craig, C.J. (Eds.) (2021). *Understanding Excessive Teacher and Faculty Entitlement: Digging at the Roots, Advances in Research on Teaching Vol. 38*. Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1479-368720210000038006>

### Expanding ISATT’s presence globally

I am happy to say that we have added two new countries to our ISATT map this year, Sri Lanka and Morocco. Anoma Satharasinghe is the National rep for Sri Lanka and Laila Bensalah for Morocco. Besides, we have new national reps Karen Marangio, Australia, Magdalena Kohout-Diaz, France, Jing Li, China and Heidi Flavian, Israel.

Gabriela Jonas-Ahrend from Germany and Samuel Oyo from Kenya have each recruited two new members from their respective countries.

With increasing global presence, the issues of diversity have been coming to the fore that need consideration. One of these issues is accommodating multilingualism to facilitate communication with/of non-English speaking members.

Before I conclude, I'd like to thank the ISATT administrator, Daniela Hotolean, who has supported me in carrying out my ISATT work. Her response rate to my email queries has remained high despite the health issues she has suffered in the recent past.

I am very thankful to Cheryl Craig for her unfailing support. She has a way to fill her co-workers with the positive energy she exudes. With her, everything is possible and nothing impossible.

I like to thank the ISATT Secretary, Ruth Kane, Treasurer, Juan-José Mena and all other members of the Executive Committee, National Representatives and Members.

Thank you

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May 3, 2023