**logo here**

Shortly after the pandemic struck, we started wondering how to go about organizing the June evaluation tests, should they take place remotely (which ended up being the case). During the first few weeks of lockdown, we tested several platforms with a view to identifying the one that would best suit our needs. Even though they were all good enough for training purposes, it turned out that most of our students were nevertheless faced with connection problems. We therefore concluded that we could not run the risk of putting them under such stress in exam conditions. After a great deal of discussion, we reckoned that the only way out was to allow our students to download the speech and interpret it without the burden of depending on a good and reliable connection. But then, another issue had to be taken on board, that is, preventing students from listening twice to the exam speech or fiddling with their own recording.

After due consideration, we agreed on the following modus operandi. For the simultaneous test, all students were asked to connect to Teams with their cameras on. Then a download link to the speech was sent to them. We made sure that their microphones were on, which enabled us to be sure that they would not start listening to the speech before all of them had received the file. When all of them had the speech downloaded on their computers (information transmitted via chat), the trainer told them to put on their headphones, cut the Teams microphone, and then start listening and interpreting while recording themselves. Once the interpretation test was completed, students were required to post their recordings on the Moodle platform (a platform used by the University for courses and exams). Having the students on screen all along and having them interpret the same speech, with the same word count, ensured that they had no way of playing the speech several times and that they recorded themselves only once. Furthermore, the downloading and posting processes were the only ones for which an Internet connection was necessary.

Anticipating the terms of these exams well in advance allowed us to assist our students in their preparation for their exams. During several weeks, they had ample opportunity to get familiar with and gain confidence in the procedure. There is now little doubt that RSI is here to stay and be a major part of their future professional career. At the end of the day, reviewing and adapting the format of our exams could turn out to be a stepping stone into what some already call the “new normal” in interpretation.