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Digital nomads: The role of virtual communities for translators

Recent technological advancements have increased the number of individuals who are self-employed and work remotely. This paper explores the importance of virtual communities for professional translators. By focusing on a public, thriving online community, I provide empirical examination of its general characteristics and explore its dynamics such as collaborating, knowledge sharing, and issues affecting their profession (e.g. precarious working conditions, toxic clients). In doing so, I focus on the most representative interactional episodes, which illustrate the working lives of translators and reflect their professional values. The results show that the group members identify with the voice of the community, which, on the one hand, promotes common goals for the profession, but on the other hand, is critical of standards and work practices in the translation industry.