

# Balázs, Márta



Balázs Márta is an amazing person. She speaks 6 foreign languages, had a successful interpreting career for 10 years, has founded EDIMART with her sister, which is one of the most dynamically improving translation and interpretation agencies in Hungary, and has two beautiful children with her loving husband. She was always willing to make the hardest decisions, even when her flourishing interpreter career was at stake. She could always give her best at every field of her life as she was excellent at balancing her personal life and her career. As she states if she

could start again she would not do anything in a different way.

## The language lover

Márta was quite young when she had already known that she would work with languages. She thought she had a talent for humanities and none for maths, but today she knows that it depends on motivation whether someone shows a talent in humanities or science. Her most influential motivators were Somos Edit, a German language teacher, who helped her to get prepared for the university entrance exam and Enikő Vig her favorite Italian language teacher. Her first foreign language was German, which gave her a taste of what foreign languages are like, then she started to learn Russian, which was compulsory back then. Fortunately she did not feel any political pressure regarding the language and she loved learning it.

When she applied to secondary school she wanted to learn French, so she applied to a school where she had many French and German classes. Even though she only came across the Italian language when she spent her summer at the lake Balaton, at the end of her secondary school years, but we could definitely say that this is the most crucial language in her life.

After secondary school she was studying at Schola Europa for two years, where she kept on studying languages and economics. As the end of the course was coming closer she started to realize that she wanted to do more, so she agreed with her parents to spend a year at home, so she could prepare for her admission to university. At the end of the year she could easily ace the entrance exam, so she became a major in Italian and German languages at the Eötvös Loránd University. However she started to learn English later, but uses it on a daily basis as this is the EDIMART's – Márta's and her sister's company's – official contact language with the foreign clients. She started to learn Portuguese with a great interest when her son, Marci was born and she could pass an intermediate language exam.

It is already an amazing achievement to know 6 foreign languages of its own, but she would also like to learn Spanish and Greek, too.

## The interpreter

Her two most favorite teachers were present in her life even during her university years as she got her first interpretation works with their help. First she had to assist the main interpreters of the events and later she had much more important assignments. She could learn from such great interpreters like János Dobai or Béla Szomráky. The latter helped her career with some valuable job opportunities. With a vast submission to work she always concentrated only on the step ahead of her, getting closer and closer to success step by step. At the beginning of her career she was working at the Danubius Language School, teaching German language and working as an interpreter besides attending university. She practically did not let herself to slow down. Due to her talent, spiritedness and not to mention her charming personality, the Italian Institute of Culture and the Italian Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade both loved working with her. Since she had so much interpretation job offers, she could afford to work only as an interpreter in the mid-90s'.

Her career as an interpreter was going well, her performance was excellent at every event, but there were some situations, which were proved to be a bit more professionally challenging. Once, for example she was interpreting for George Pressburger, the former head of the Italian Institute of Culture, who has excellent language skills both in Italian and Hungarian, and who was well-known of his habit of testing his interpreters. There were different high rank office-holders, retired soldiers, attachés and governors, whom Pressburger introduced one by one. Márta indicated after 3-4 that she would like to interpret Pressburger, but he went on until he introduced all 8 men with their titles. Since Márta was at the peak of her career she had excellent memory and she did what seemed to be impossible: interpreted all the names and titles from memory just like she was reading it. Her award was an enormous applause from the audience and an acknowledging nod from Pressburger.

Although, she did not want to become an interpreter as a child, she is still proud of the 10 years she spent as an interpreter. She was always able to make serious decisions, so when she was planning to start a family, she could easily turn down such prestigious job offers that some interpreters could not have even dreamed of. She decided to end her interpretation career and do something more compatible with family life at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## The entrepreneur

The EDIMART company name is a blending of Márti's and her sister's, Edit's name, and they founded the business in 2005. However Márti tried herself out in the fields of business even before 2005. When she could not accept all the interpretation assignments, she outsourced the jobs to fellow freelancer colleagues. As a result, when she was pregnant with her son, it was not a completely unknown territory for her. First she established a webpage, and advertised herself as BM translation agency. The enterprise was so successful that she asked her sister, who was a jobseeker back then in 2004 to help her a few times a week. After a few weeks, Edit was working with Márti 10 hours a day and they have founded the EDIMART on the spring of 2005. EDIMART was operating from Márti's home in the first year, but it was so prosperous that they realized, they had to rent an office and hire some employees. One of the reasons why the EDIMART is so successful is that they do not hesitate to try out new things and to be innovative. They were the first in Hungary to have official server version of Memoq, they attend conferences all around the world, they are the only active Hungarian members of GALA (Globalization and Localization Association) and they were the first, who added distance interpreting service to their profile.



MÁRTI AND EDIT



ONE OF THE  
EDIMART'S OFFICIAL  
LOGO

EDIMART is also a Proford founder member, which also shows how innovative they are. Márti cannot imagine her life without constant brainstorming and development. The main purpose of Proford is make it possible for the members to help each other with ideas and experiences through shared projects and cooperation on the market. Márti thinks that both Proford and GALA are like big sandboxes where you can join the castle building project with your tools or you can even seek help about how to build your own castle. This is the attitude that helped the EDIMART to become one of the most dynamically improving language service provider companies in Hungary.

Besides EDIMART and Proford, Márti is determined to help the next generation of young interpreters and translators. She gives lectures about the profession at many universities, for instance she teaches the Proford Piacot az egyetemre! (i.e. Proford market for the universities!) course together with Katalin Varga. She is an event manager at Proford and also an active member of the educational working group, she tires with all her strength to help the talented students, who are major in translation and interpretation.

## The mother and wife

Márti has lived all of her life in accordance with the 'do or don't do, but if you decide to do it, then do in an excellent way' motto. Naturally she had the same attitude to planning a family, so when she was pregnant with her son, Marci, she knew that she would not be a mom who travels back and forth around the world, interpreting and leaves her children for a babysitter, and she was excited to become a mother. It must have been difficult to turn into a full-time mom after a prosperous career as an interpreter, yet Márti is proud of all of the decisions she made. First, in 2004. Marci was born in 2004 and two years later Márti gave birth to his little sister, Dorka in 2006. Márti raises her children with her successful husband in a perfect harmony.



**MARCI AND ANTAL**



**MÁRTI AND DORKA**

Just as the children are getting bigger, so does EDIMART . It is not easy to find the balance between a company and a family, but fortunately Márti has all the help she could wish for. While Marci was an infant Edit was the one, who did most of the work, yet Márti helped as much as she. The most important support in her life is her husband, who backs all of her decision and with whom she balances between career and family in a complete harmony. Their favorite family time activities are hiking and horse riding. Márti would only be happier if the EDIMART operated so smoothly that in the next 10-15 years she could travel abroad even for months with her husband.

She is incredibly proud of both of her children, Dorka is more like her, she keeps experimenting with languages and always asks questions like how they say different things in German, Italian or French. It has happened several times that Dorka begged her mom to let her go to her extra English class when she was sick. Marci rather takes after his father, he is interested in everything that is related to technology.

Her final piece of advice to every career-starter is the same that she teaches to her children; not to make your decisions regarding what languages and professions worth studying, but rather in accordance with what makes you happy and motivated for a lifetime.