

# Translation of EU legislation in Slovenia

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The translation of the European Union's legislation into Slovenian, and of Slovenian legislation into one of the official languages of the EU, mainly English, is one of the largest translation projects undertaken in Slovenia. Approximately 100 000 pages of different types of legal documents should be translated by the year when Slovenia plans to become a full member of the European Union. Although the exact accession date is not known yet (probably after 2003) the pressure of the tentative deadline is strong. In order to control such a load of translation work it is necessary to employ numerous qualified translators, coordinate them, make sure that consistent terminology is used, provide expert, legal and language revisions of the translation, and, finally, monitor the complete document management procedure – from the request through to the final revision. The Translation Unit established within the Government Office for European Affairs (TE GOEA) in May 1997 has been entrusted with this task. The number of employees has been gradually increasing from 7 up to 36. At present it employs 27 translators, 1 external translation manager, 1 project manager, 2 legal advisers, 2 language revisers, 2 terminologists and 1 administrator. Translations of the *acquis* is also done by free-lance translators (FLT) recruited from the public tender in autumn 1999. The size of documents already translated is estimated at 22,000 pages of OJ. At the present time, none of the translations has yet gone through the whole validation process and can therefore not be considered final. In the next two years an additional 1000 OJ pages should be translated each month, while an increased number of documents will undergo the validation process.

Translation work is being assisted by some “traditional” computer software, including various electronic dictionaries, spelling checkers, thesauri, CDROMs and text revision tools. As “special” computer assisted translation tools (CAT) TU applies terminology management tool and tool based on translation memory by TRADOS. The terminology component, MultiTerm95+ has now been used for quite a while. TU maintains a centrally shared terminology database which now consists of ca. 15,000 entries. All terminological entries are bilingual (Slovenian-English), approximately 20% of them also contain French and German equivalents. Main terminology sources are translations, glossaries provided by the Commission, document authors and terminology working groups. Mandatory information is provided on subject field, source and term provider and yet an optional information on reliability, definitions, usage label, note and context. The access to the database by free-lance translators has been made available recently on-line through TermPad developed by the European Commission. With the co-operation of Government Centre for Informatics we are intensively working on the termbase to be available to general public on the Internet. Draft version has been already completed and can be accessed via URL address [http://www.sigov.si/evroterm/svez\\_slovar.html](http://www.sigov.si/evroterm/svez_slovar.html) Other databases which are of great help to translators are: the database of Slovenian legal acts (titles, translation of titles, other information), Slovenian legislation on Internet (full texts on [www.dz-rs.si/si/aktualno/aktualno.html](http://www.dz-rs.si/si/aktualno/aktualno.html)) and the database of translated *acquis* and Slovenian legislation (full texts available to administrators who can supply texts by request).

Not much use has been made of the Translation Memory tool (TWB) in the first year of activity. However, the situation is now rapidly changing, with intensive work being invested in compiling aligned English-Slovenian translation segments. All documents are to be converted to TM, and future translations are to be done directly in TWB. So far, about 10,000 segments have been aligned.

As regards translation process at TU GOEA, it is roughly as follows: the first translation draft is usually read 'by four eyes'. Translators use MultiTerm and Translation Memory, if it exists. In the future, the translations will be done directly in TWB. While working translators are in touch with an area expert. The next stage, which is now in its starting phase, is to have the complete translation revised for content and terminology by an area expert. This is then followed by language revision and finally, for statutory documents, by legal check. The control over the workflow has not been yet automated. In the near future this will change – document management tool Meridio and team productivity tool TeamWARE Dolphin 3.0 are being tested.

### **Conclusion and prospects**

In the first two years of its establishment, TU GOEA was engaged with organizational and managerial matters. Consequently, language technologies and among them machine translation were not preferential issues. Since the organization process is now finished, priorities are re-scheduled and machine translation using TWB is well under way. Translators were trained to use TWB and build their own bilingual parallel database. Hopefully, at the next EAMT conference we will be able to report on a significant progress regarding the amount of translations done with the assistance of CAT tools.