

TermCoord, an Open Sesame for translators

Last update: 09/02/2011



Through its super Intranet [site](#), constantly updated and accessible to all, the Terminology Coordination Unit – TermCoord for short – is substantially lightening the workload of our translator colleagues.

Saving time

In September 2008, DG TRAD set up the Terminology Coordination Service with three officials and three trainees. The service became a unit in July 2010, with nine officials and six to eight trainees.

What do they do? Help translators to save valuable time.

The TermCoord Unit's main task is to update the interinstitutional IATE database - over eight million legislative terms in 24 languages - with EU terminology.

This database has brought together an enormous mass of useful information in a user-friendly and attractive site which has become a crucial working tool.

More precisely, it helps translators to find, classify, use and share terminological information.

TermCoord identifies new terms, defines them and refers back to the glossaries containing them.

Even better: using a simple macro, translators can input information directly into IATE. When they find the correct translation of a term, they can, simply by clicking on this term, add it and its translation to the eight million other terms, thereby saving other translators from having to carry out the same research.

Usefulness

It is not just translators who have something (other than words) to gain from TermCoord's work.

It has much to offer other DGs, if they want to update the EP's organisation chart in all the official languages, name new delegations or temporary committees, harmonise the linguistic content of EP databases or even make the information in IDEA, the EU's 'Who's Who', more consistent.



Coordination

The Unit also represents the EP on several committees managing interinstitutional tools.

It is responsible, with the ITS (the Information Technology Support Unit), at interinstitutional level, for investigating

and testing automatic term extraction tools. This is the 'Language Technology Observatory'.

The Unit regularly organises videoconferences between the Institutions' terminology coordination services and between terminologists for the various languages.

To promote the EP's approach to terminology, TermCoord is in contact with over 450 universities and terminology bodies throughout the world.

It is also endeavouring to set up a network of national experts and every year organises a series of three academic conferences for translators and other interested colleagues under the title: *'Terminology in the changing world of translation'*. The next conference will be held on 28 March this year.

TermCoord's Intranet site, especially under 'Glossaries', contains hundreds of links to terminology glossaries and dictionaries which have the 'TermCoord quality guarantee'.

4 000 hits an hour

Don't forget: we all have access to the IATE database, which receives more than 4 000 hits an hour.

Edition 292: 9 February 2011