

SUMMARY REPORT

FIT Europe-JTP Round Table

New Developments in Translation Tools and Technology

Prague, March 15, 2014



The Round Table

22 participants from 7 countries (Czech Republic, Romania, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Austria, UK and Germany) came to Prague to join a Round Table on *New Developments in Translation Tools and Technology* after a pre-event programme with a guided tour through Prague followed by a boat tour with dinner on the river Vltava.

Seven presentations by Dr Tomáš Svoboda (Charles University), Dr Nicole Keller (University of Heidelberg), Daniela Ford (ITI), David Čaněk (MemSource) and Renate Dockhorn (FIT Europe) were followed by three discussion groups on machine translation/post editing, translation memory systems and cloud-based translation systems.

Targeted discussions

One focus of this Round Table was to give a practice-oriented overview on new developments within the area of translation memory systems, cloud-based translation systems and machine translation, as a preparatory step for the FIT World Congress in August in Berlin, where the topic will be more theory-oriented. The second focus was to reflect with FIT Europe member associations and individual practitioners on recent developments in machine translation and cloud-based translation in tandem with translation memory systems to give the FIT Europe Steering Committee some guidance on how to proceed with regard to these topics.

The groups were asked to discuss the recent developments and to summarize, in one sentence each, an approach for the individual translator, a general position statement and an aspirations statement for future action. The statements were summarized by Eyvor Fogarty as formal outcomes of the Round Table (see page 3).

JTP kindly offered to hold the Round Table at their premises and I was impressed by the good and fluent 'cross-border cooperation' between Tomáš Svoboda, Amalaine Diabova and me during the preparation of the Round Table. In addition, we received support from the Czech Department of DGT (catering and material) and BDÜ (financial support).

Information for Member Associations

This was the third Round Table held during the current term of office of the current FIT Europe Steering Committee, following the express wish of the FIT Europe General Meeting in Bucharest, 2011. FIT Europe hopes that they have been of benefit to the Boards of the member associations and their individual members, as well as the wider FIT community. Given the continuing increase in the number of international meetings and conferences on translation and interpreting, I would like to suggest that future Round Tables are held only as necessary, in conjunction with General/Annual Meetings.

Renate Dockhorn

Vice-Chairman FIT Europe

March 2014

Formal Outcomes of the FIT Europe Round Table
on New Developments in Translation Tools and Technology,

Prague, March 2014

(by Eyvor Fogarty)

The Round Table on *New Developments in Translation Tools and Technology* produced three statements as summaries to be sent out to the associations, to encourage further thought and action. One is addressed to the individual translator, one is a general position statement and the third is an aspirations statement on how to proceed based on what was discussed at the Round Table.

A. *Statement on machine translation and interoperability, addressed to the individual translator:*

Remember that you are part of a chain and that the work you deliver is part of a whole package in which *you* have to decide on your approach, whether you accept production of a lower quality outcome (good-enough translation) or even accept the job at all, for if you do accept it, you have to get on with the job under the conditions you have accepted as a professional translator able to communicate with the person commissioning the work; above all you must learn how to make computer-based tools work for *you* and be prepared, for then you will know in advance what the tools can do and you can provide *your own* interoperability.

B. *General position statement:*

Post-edited machine translation and human translation are not the same service; help your customers to understand this and ensure that the professional translator is central to all stages of the translation process and certification.

C. *Aspirations:*

FIT Europe should explore ways to monitor cloud-based systems and press for interoperability, access/availability and data protection/ownership of data/responsibility to ensure data does not get corrupted. National translator associations should review/check their own legislation in their countries, bearing in mind that the European authorities are currently proposing further regulation on data protection in electronic communication.

Sub-set outcomes for FIT Europe Steering Committee:

- 1) Write to all suppliers and ask who has the copyright in the translated words. Is there a default position, and if so, what is it?
- 2) Ask TC37 to push for interoperability.
- 3) Push for a standard for TMX, XML. (via JIAMCATT)
- 4) Focus on interoperability and a common approach/collection.