



Procurement practices in Europe: Two investigations

— 4th ELRC Conference - Helsinki —



CIKLOPEA



Objectives

Investigating procurement practices for translations to increase the volumes of parallel data available by and in Member States; also: to make available TM server and MT software:

- Gathering, centralising, re-using bilingual texts paid and bought by Public Administration
- Promoting the flow of TMs from translation companies to PPAAA (organise bilingual, national Big Data on-the-fly)
- Enable PPAA to leverage TMs (cost-savings) and MT
- Building +600 MT systems and publishing the training corpus

Specific Actions

- Study on Translation Contracts- Mapping Relationships between PPAA and translation vendors
- Finding out the size of each national PA translation services market (www.nec-tm.eu)
- Dissemination (3 regional conferences, liaison with ELRC, online training)
- Deployment at national level (Spain committed, Latvia as part of Hugo.lv, etc.) of TM Server (NEC TM) and MT engines

National Expenditure on Translation Services – Mapping the relationships

- Aims: Mapping the relationships between all translation contracts, vendors, amounts and buyers as well as establishing an average value, national expenditure, etc. <https://www.nec-tm.eu/country-reports-nec-tm/>
- Sources: TED, national and regional official gazettes
- This will enable the establishment of a report based on public contracts data and to extrapolate average costs and potential savings.
- It will also provide the basis for PPAA to know how much translated data is available from contractors.

Progress and Findings

- Progress in M € (per year, average 2018): Croatia 0,88; Slovenia 2; Slovakia 0,5; Hungary 3,3; Spain 14; Portugal 10; Ireland 1,5; Latvia 1,5; Lithuania 3,3; Estonia 2,5; France 20. (Soon to be published: Italy, Romania, Germany, Poland)
- Findings (provisional):
 - European Public Administrations spend approx. 300 Mio. EUR on translation services
 - With TED and EC/Parliament expenditure, we are looking at a 500 Mio. EUR market
 - Taking into account interpreting services, staff cost and deviations, the public services language market is twice the figure: 0,9 – 1 billion EUR

That is 500M € worth of text data and almost 1Bn including voice

Findings 2015 - 2018

| Country | Expenditure | No. of contracts |
|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| France | €55 million | 531 |
| Spain | €77 million | 261 |
| The Netherlands | €49 million | 45 |
| Portugal | €13 million | 348 |
| The Republic of Ireland | €15.5 million | 108 |
| Belgium | €30 million | 31 |
| Bulgaria | €8.37 | 44 |

Findings 2015-2018

| Country | Expenditure | No. of contracts |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| Malta | €37,000 | 27 |
| Croatia | €2.7 million | 54 |
| Hungary | € 7.1 million | 17 |
| Slovenia | €8.4 million | 110 |
| Romania | €0.9 million | 110 |
| Slovakia | €1.37 million | 117 |
| Czech Republic | €10.05 million | 78 |

Findings 2015-2018

| Country | Expenditure | No. of contracts |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|
| Germany | €54.9 million | 534 |
| Finland | €22.1 million | 424 |
| Sweden | €20.03 million | 151 |
| Denmark | €17.2 million | 40 |
| Poland | €16.7 million | 727 |
| Lithuania | €9.7 million | 50 |
| Estonia | €6.5 million | 171 |

Findings 2015-2018

| Country | Expenditure | No. of contracts |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Latvia | €5.04 million | 2.2 k |
| Luxembourg | €0.57 million | 8 |

Issues | 1

The amount of information available for each country and for each year is varied, explaining the difference in national expenditures for some countries:

- Some databases store information (notices or results) for a short period of time.
- Some countries did not have a public database for public contracts (Sweden).
- The European threshold for tenders is high- a lot of missed data.
- It was hard to mine data from some governments agencies that are not directly under ministries.
- Each country has different legal and procedural orders.
- A lot of framework agreements were found for some countries.

Issues | 2

In countries with little available information, such as The Netherlands and Belgium, we contacted government administrations and departments requesting for them to share information where possible.

Suggestions:

- Contact more Public Administrations in order to ascertain in-house value of translation where little data is available.
- Consolidate engagement and industry-wide translation purchases.
- Create industry-specific repositories of translation memory and terminology so that resources can be managed in a unified way.



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