Romania & ELRC: Status quo and vision

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Content

- a very short presentation of the European Institute of Romania;

- results of analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: before and during accession, 2009, 2017 & 2018 (ongoing)

- status quo – translation in public institutions

- what has been done

- what could be done

European Institute of Romania

- ✓ a public institution which began its activity in January 2000;

- ✓ mission: provide expertise in the field of European Affairs to the public administration, the business community, the social partners and the civil society;

- ✓ key areas: studies, training, translation, communication;

At present

- ➤ under the coordination of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;

- ➤ deeply involved in the preparation of Romania's Presidency of the Council of the European Union: training, communication, studies

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania

Before and during the translation of the acquis, 2009, 2017 and 2018

➢ different context & objectives

➢ different questions (closed & open answers)

➢ food for thought when comparing data over time

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania

Before 2000

➢ no institution to coordinate translations done at the level of central public institutions

➢ consultations between Romania and EC, Taiex etc. as to the best way to organise the translation of the acquis

Result: set up of the European Institute of Romania (Government Ordinance 15/1998)

"c) to improve the access to Community law, to the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights and to the Romanian law relevant to the field of European affairs, as well as their understanding and implementation; [...]

c) to ensure the translation into Romanian, as well as the linguistic and legal revisions of the acquis communautaire adopted before Romania's accession to the European Union and of the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, as well as the translation of Romanian legal texts into other official languages of the European Union, through terminological unification and coordination of the translations at national level;"

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania

After the European Institute of Romania started its activity (January 2000)

In June & October 2000, public institutions:

➢ were informed that project Phare RO 9706.01.02 (component *Translation services*) was to be launched

➢ were asked to state their needs as to what acts of the acquis should be translated first

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2000-2007

EIR periodically asked public institutions to:

- ➢ hand over their already done translations
- ➢ provide contact persons (priorities; terminology)

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2009

Main objectives:

- ✓ obtaining a general picture of the volume & type of documents which need to be translated and of the way this activity was carried out

- ✓ identify to what extent public institutions were interested in developing:

  - ➤ a database with the legislative acts translated or planned to be translated at national level

  - ➤ a unitary terminological database

Means: a letter accompanied by a questionnaire

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania

Results

➢ 51 questionnaires received and analysed

➢ answers highlighted both the importance of the translation activity and the deficiencies in planning and organising this activity

➢ translation needs significant as to frequency, volume and diversity of the types of documents

➢ translations are mostly done into English and Romanian

➢ type of documents: Romanian and EU legislative documents & internal documents

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2009

➢ translation activity: not clearly regulated and/or planned

➢ translation needs covered in-house (more than 75% of the respondents stated that they did not have separate budget for outsourced translation services)

➢ translations carried out by persons with good foreign language knowledge, but who, in almost 50% of the cases, did not have these translation responsibilities included in the job description (in over 50% of the cases they did not have a specialized educational background in the area of foreign languages)

➢ revision of the translations focused mostly on the specialized terminology (area-specific) and less on the linguistic issues

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2017

Main objectives:

- assess the translation needs within public institutions

- provide a contact person in view of future collaboration

No of contacted public institutions: 37

Period: 4-20 October 2017

Means: a letter to public institutions (mainly ministries) with a link to a google survey

Response rate: 67,56%.

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2017

Results: presented at a round table on the Challenges of translation in Romania's public institutions (26 October 2017, at EIR's premises).

Respondent institutions:

➢ 76% use in their activity Romanian legislation translated into other languages (mainly EN & FR, but also DE and ES).

➢ 44% mentioned that they have translations of Romanian legislative acts in other languages

➢ 60% mentioned that they agree to transmit translations in order to be centralized at the national level

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2017

Although most of the institutions stated that they resort to their own human resources to perform the translations, only two of the institutions have a department with translating responsibilities within its organisational structure.

➤ there are employees with translating responsibilities even in institutions that do not have a translation specialised unit

➤ they resort to outsourcing when there is a need for a larger volume of translation, or specialised translations

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2018 (ongoing)

Objectives:

➢ adapt the agenda of the ELRC workshop to current needs of the institutions

➢ assess the feedback in terms of interest, speed and new information

Means: e-mails only to the persons who responded to the questionnaire last year and who attended the round table on the Challenges of translation in Romania's public institutions (26 October 2017, at EIR's premises – when eTranslation and ELRC were presented).

Rate of response: 9 persons out of 22

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2018

Questions:

1. Does your institution use eTranslation?

2. If translating, does your institution use any CAT tool (SDL Trados, Wordfast, any other software)?

3. If outsourcing translations, does your institution demand by contract the translation memories for the delivered translations?

4. Does your institution own LR (translation memories, glossaries, the same type of file for the original and the translated text)?

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2018
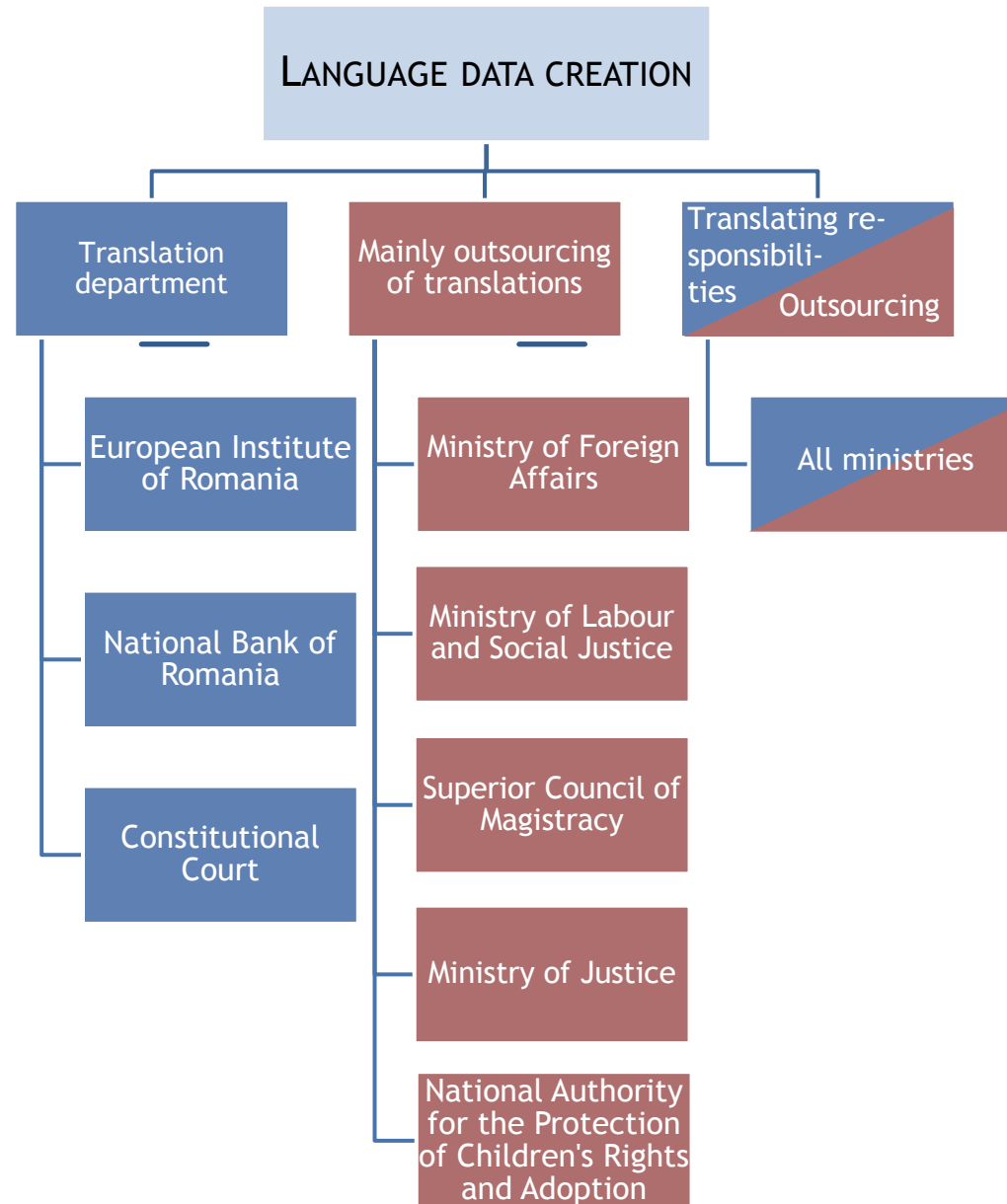
Questions:

5. Would your institution be interested in applying for European funded projects in order to develop automated translation for less used languages (e.g. RO-EL, RO-Slovenian?)

6. Would your institution be interested in exchanging LR with other public institution in Romania (developing a national network)

7. Has your institution uploaded data on http:data.gov.ro/(or does it intend to do so)?

Analysis of the translation needs in the public institutions of Romania: 2018

Partial results:

➢ no use of eTranslation

➢ do not use CAT tools (1 exception)

➢ do not ask for translation memories when outsourcing

➢ do not own LR

➢ not interested in developing AT for Romanian-less used languages

➢ not interested in exchanging LT at national level (1 exception)

➢ do not upload data on http://data.gov.ro (1 exception)

Language data creation

Translation department
- European Institute of Romania
- National Bank of Romania
- Constitutional Court

Mainly outsourcing of translations
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Labour and Social Justice
- Superior Council of Magistracy
- Ministry of Justice
- National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption

Translating re-sponsibili-ties / Outsourcing
- All ministries

Status quo-translations

Specialised units

➢ European Institute of Romania (Serviciul Coordonare Traduceri)

➢ National Bank of Romania (*Serviciul traducere și editare*)

➢ High Court of Cassation and Justice *(Compartimentul de Relații Internaționale)*

Status quo-translations

Staff with translating responsibilities

➢ Constitutional Court *(Compartimentul Relații Externe, Relații cu Presa și Protocol)*

➢ Ministry of Foreign Affairs

➢ Ministry of National Education

➢ Superior Council of Magistracy

➢ Romanian Office for Copyright

➢ Ministry of Tourism

Status quo-translations

Staff with translating responsibilities

▶ Ministry of Waters and Forests

▶ Ministry of Public Consultation and Social Dialogue

▶ National Institute of Magistracy

▶ Ministry of Internal Affairs

▶ Ministry of Communications and Information Society

▶ Ministry of National Defence

Status quo-translations

Staff with translating responsibilities

➤ Ministry of Regional Development, Public Administration and European Funds

➤ Ministry of Culture and National Patrimony

➤ Ministry of the Environment

➤ Ministry of Youth and Sport

➤ Ministry of Research and Innovation

Status quo-translations

Outsource: any public institution, but especially:

➢ Ministry of Foreign Affairs

➢ Superior Council of Magistracy

➢ Ministry of Labour and Social Justice

➢ Ministry of Justice

➢ National Authority for the Protection of Children's Rights and Adoption

Status quo - Challenges

- ✓ Legislation regarding the use of the Romanian language not observed by everyone

- ➤ e.g. all public institutions have to use the Romanian language in all their official documents

- ➤ quality of the Romanian language on the internet (with special characters or not, "sunt/sînt", writing with "â/î ", observing the directives of the Romanian Academy or not)

- ✓ Tendency to disregard the quality of the RO language (message more important, lack of time, low speed when typing with Romanian special characters)

- ✓ Still not a norm to use Spell check, Track Changes, advanced text formatting

What has been done

- ✓ surveys on translations needs

- ✓ some courses (e.g. "Development of competences for the translation and revision of legal texts")

- ✓ Memorandum on transparency and standardising information of public interest posted on websites (similar structure of websites, types of documents)

- ✓ all users representing public sector institutions with emails ending in gov.ro

- ✓ younger generations: really much better digital literacy because IT was introduced in the school curriculum

What could be done (wishes)

✓ Standardised periodic surveys (same questions for all countries)

Romania

✓ a more stable structure of public institutions (human resources, name)

✓ get employees in public institutions to really use eTranslation

✓ training: digital literacy

✓ raising awareness: value of open data

✓ legislation: fines for the public institutions that do not use the Romanian language with specific characters and for the mass media (especially TV) which allow their staff to speak improper Romanian

✓ a national centralised unit coordinating translation in public institutions with the means to do it

Thank you for your attention!

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