



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Language services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Hurdles for sharing data

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ELRC Language Resource Board Meeting
Amsterdam, 27-03-19



Translation Department @ MFA

- Shared-service organization
- 40 FTE
- Native speaker principle
- 7 million words
- 20% by external translators



Languages

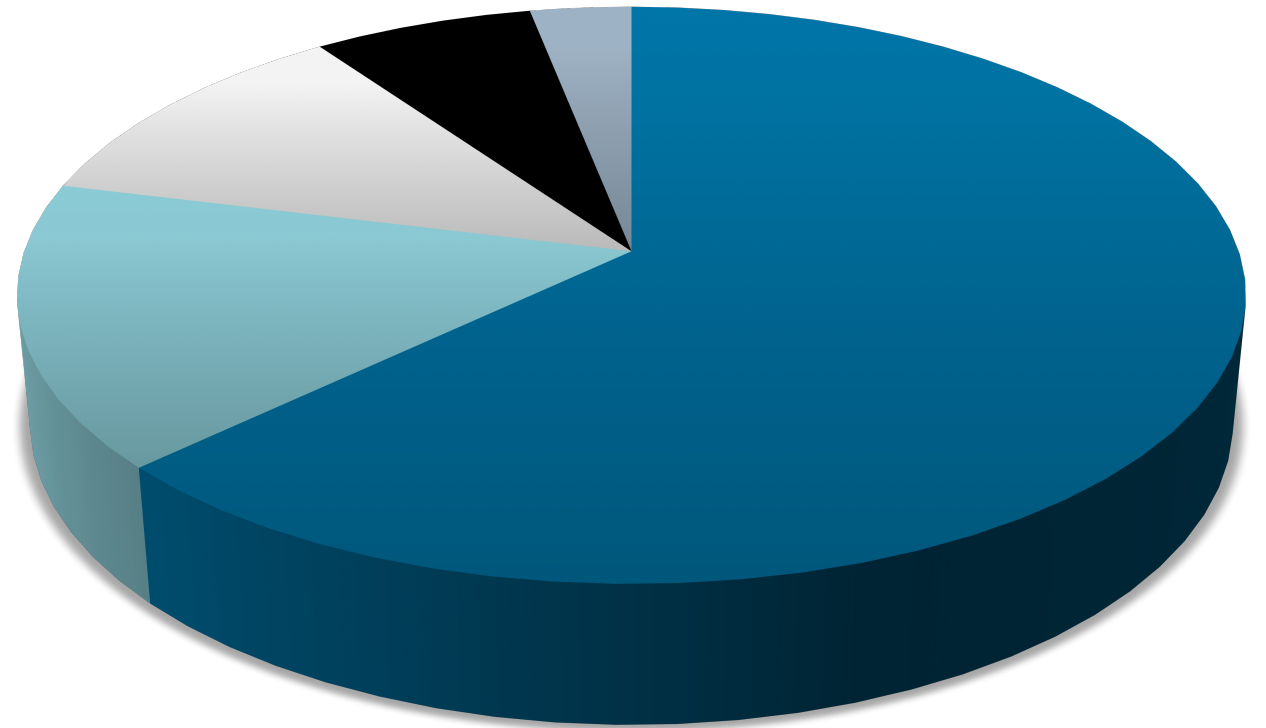
NL -> EN

NL -> FR

NL -> DE

NL -> less common languages

EN, FR, DE, ES -> NL



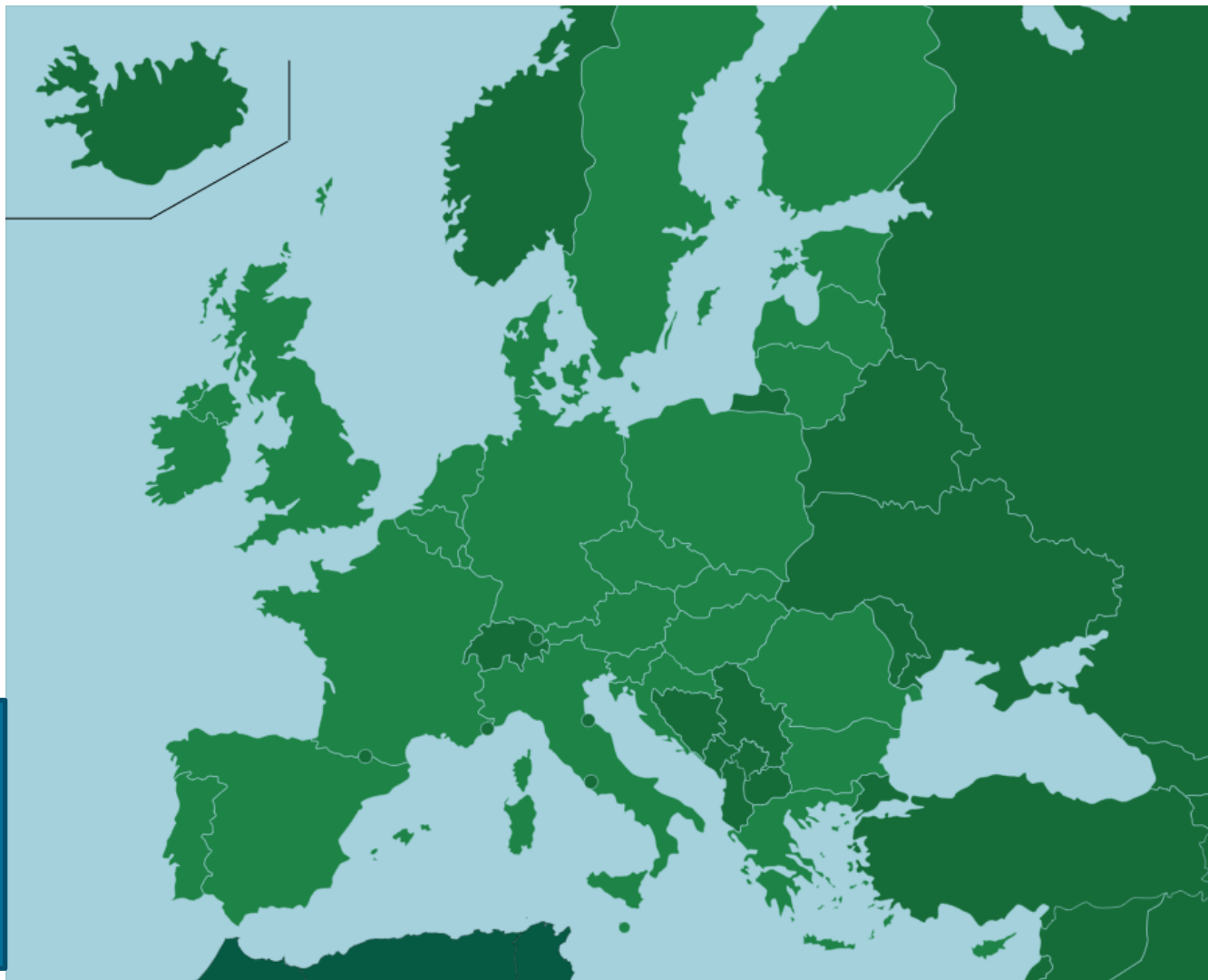


Translating Europe

Bi- and/or multilingual countries

- Belgium
- Switzerland
- Finland

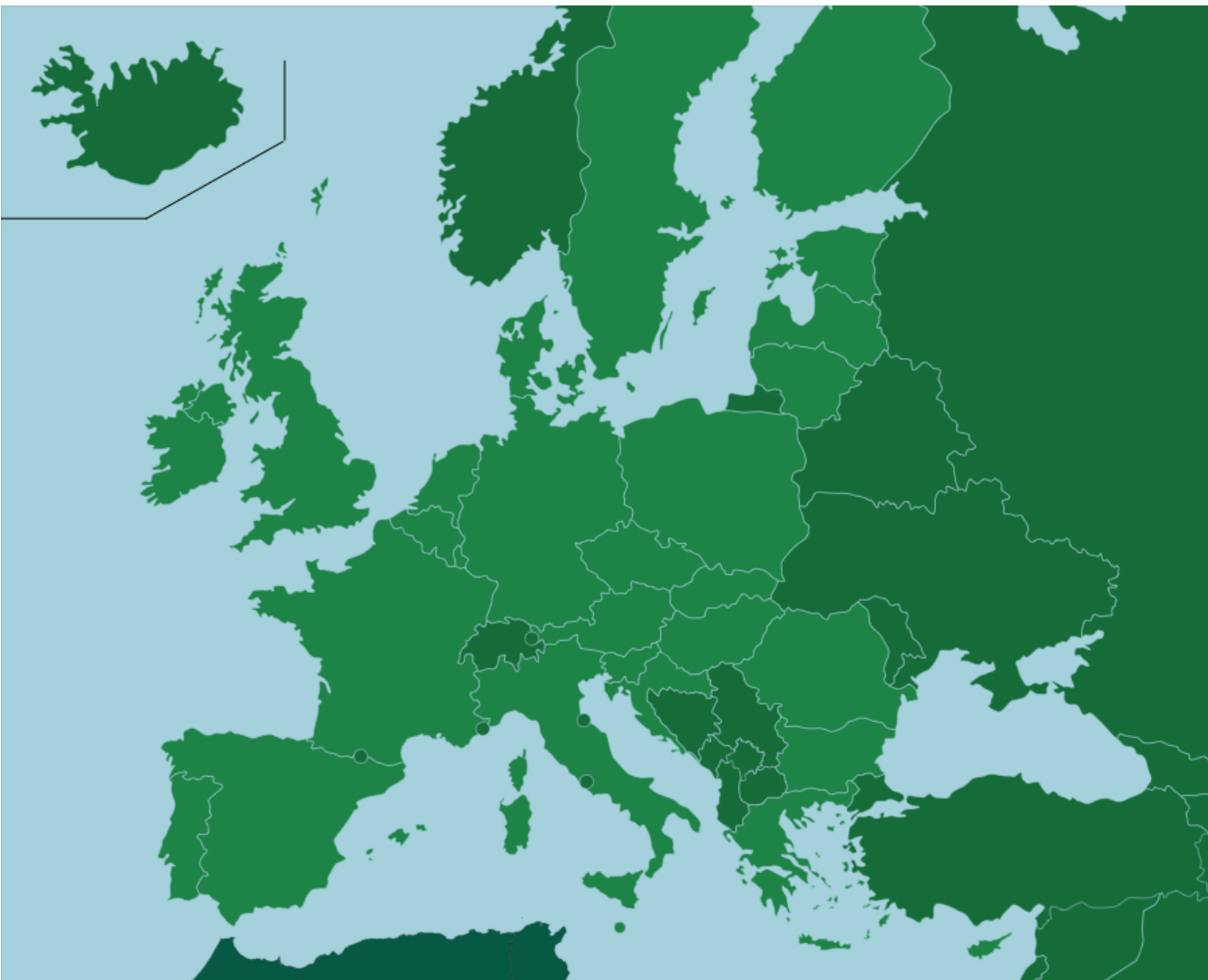
- Canada
- United Nations
- European Union





Translating Europe

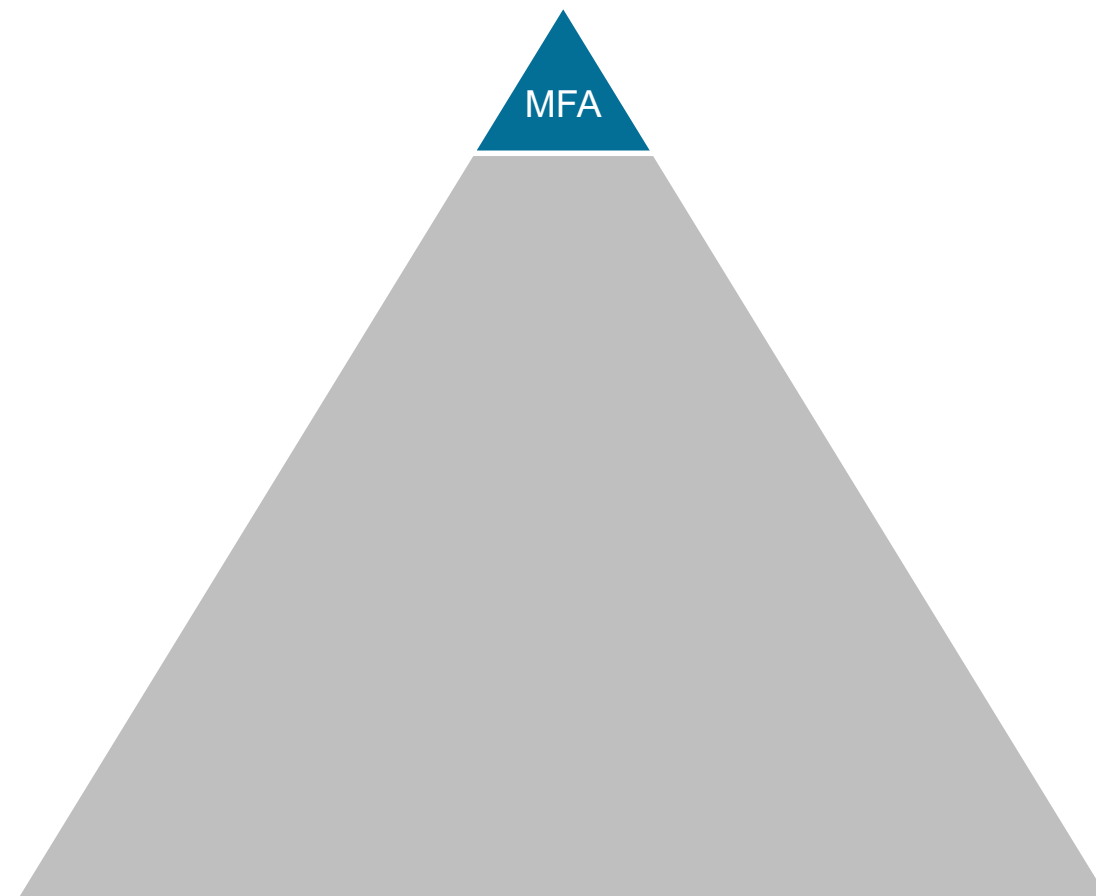
Netherlands





Types of text

- texts classified as confidential or secret;
- diplomatic correspondence, and speeches or correspondence by ministers or senior civil servants;
- treaties, agreements, legislation, or translations arising from international treaties to which the Netherlands is a party;
- politically sensitive policy documents or public information.





Why these texts?

"If certain 'high risk' texts are not translated by trained professionals, this could have serious consequences, negatively impacting the Netherlands' national security or image abroad, the safety of its government officials, or its political, financial and legal interests."



JOB BOARD

Translation &
editing

Verification

Training &
consulting



CAT tools

SDL Trados Studio 2017

SDL MultiTerm 2017

Dragon Naturally Speaking 14

TextSTAT





Machine Translation

Continuously testing

Systran (SMT)

MT@EC (SMT)

DeepL (NMT)

eTranslation (NMT)

Using

eTranslation | TMX export as secondary TM, with a penalty of 5%

Post-editing





Sharing data

OPEN, UNLESS...

- confidentiality
- ownership / GDPR / archival task
- security issues
- management issues
- technical issues



Publications

Publications

Nuclear weapons in a new geopolitical reality. An urgent need for new arms control initiatives

15 February 2019 - advice 109

[View advice >](#)

In preparation

In preparation

2018

[Read more >](#)

Work program



CAT tools not suitable for all texts (80%)

- Again, confidentiality
- Translating directly into the CMS
- Social media and shorter texts
- Image as source "text"
- Spoken words as source "text"
- Corrections : source and target languages are the same
- Multilingual source texts
- Restructuring texts (speeches)
- Dutch speaking points → Translation



Sigrid Kaag, minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation





Thank you...

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