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CIRCULAR NOTE 2011_09

European Training Thesaurus (ETT) project

Dear ReferNet partners,

We would like to inform you on the status of the European Training Thesaurus (hereafter ETT) project since the last meeting of our working group.

The project is moving forward, but unfortunately technical issues have slightly slowed progress. Nevertheless, we are now addressing best practice and the dissemination of the different language versions of ETT on the web.

We are collaborating actively with the Eurovoc team (OPOCE) and analysing different solutions for presenting our thesaurus online. At the same time, we are aiming to upgrade our thesaurus management software to allow additional functionalities.

Please find below a short update on the project's development:

1. ETT and Eurovoc

- ETT was presented at the **Eurovoc conference “Mind the lexical gap”** (Luxembourg, 18-19 November 2010). The conference focused on the EuroVoc thesaurus and other multilingual controlled vocabularies. It also investigated different ways to improve the interoperability between thesauri and access to multilingual information, via automatic indexing tools and use of metadata in a semantic web.
- Cedefop is a member of **Eurovoc’s collaborative thesaurus working group**. The working group will meet in June 2011 in Luxembourg. The focus of this meeting will be on a meta-thesaurus project, which will allow interlinked specialized thesauri to be articulated around EuroVoc.
- Next step: present ETT online embedded in Cedefop webportal with similar functionalities as EuroVoc (<http://eurovoc.europa.eu>).

2. ETT language versions

- Danish, German, Estonian, English, French, Italian, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Finnish and Swedish versions have been uploaded in ITM (Intelligent Topic Manager system).
 - As a follow-up to the Thesaurus working group (Thessaloniki, June 2010) several new concepts have been added to ETT (EN only) and are awaiting final approval. After approval, translations of terms will be requested;
 - Missing translations of terms in existing languages (ca. 80 terms per language) have been requested and delivered;
 - Additional ETT language versions have been received and uploaded: A Czech version of ETT has been provided by the Czech ReferNet and has been imported into ITM. A Maltese version of ETT (2002) has been imported into ITM. This needs to be updated to reflect the current version of ETT;
 - A list of French non-preferred terms has been added to ITM and properly linked;
 - Some fine-tuning of terms, versions, hierarchies and translations must be completed, prior to presenting this to ETT online.

3. ETT and Cedefop Glossary

- All English glossary terms have been entered into ITM and all other existing glossary language versions (13 languages) have been prepared for import. Once the ITM upgrade has been completed, the import will take place. All glossary terms are logically linked with ETT terms.

4. ETT and VET-Bib

- All descriptors of Cedefop's bibliographic database, VET-Bib, have been successfully revised and aligned with ETT 2008 version. All recommended new terms have been added as "candidate descriptors" and are available for indexing and searching purposes. Once the new terms have been approved, they will become proper descriptors.
- In addition, all descriptors of Cedefop's new version of "VET-Det" ReferNet bibliographic indexing tool have now been successfully revised and are aligned with ETT 2008 version.

We will keep you updated on the progress of Cedefop's ETT project, and shall inform you on the next Thesaurus Working Group meeting in due course. Please note that there may not be a working group meeting this year.

Thank you again for volunteering to be part of this working group.

Kind regards,

[signed]

Marc Willem
Head of Library
and Documentation

[signed]

Bettina Bremer
Documentalist

[signed]

Sylvie Bousquet
ReferNet Coordinator