

## The European Parliament's World of Terminology

**M**anaging terminology work in a multilingual environment of 24 languages is the main focus of TermCoord, Parliament's Terminology Coordination Unit (<http://termcoord.eu>). The unit offers proactive terminology services. It also monitors terminology resources in the media and disseminates information from those resources, collects specialised glossaries, and organises specially designed training sessions and seminars. Given that there are a number of European institutions, the following activities are very important aspects of our work with a view to successfully managing terminology activities: interinstitutional initiatives and multilingual and monolingual cooperation schemes; consolidation and validation of EU terminology; communication and monitoring; and interinstitutional administration of the terminology portal.

When it comes to organising terminology for the EU's 552 language combinations and 5 000 translators, a very complex and extensive interinstitutional terminology database is needed to ensure linguistic quality and consistency between legislative texts across all languages. This database, IATE ('InterActive Terminology for Europe'), helps terminologists and translators coordinate, harmonise and store terminology research findings on one platform. This means there is a need for constant close cooperation between all the institutions involved in IATE with regard to the internal and interactive parts of the database. IATE is also accessible to the general public on the internet, in read-only mode.

TermCoord has also made other useful tools (such as DocHound and GlossaryLinks) available to the public on its website, which has been up and running since April 2011. The website has attracted more than 280 000 visitors in the past two years. It has become an important reference in the world of terminology, offering EU-specific resources and interesting posts on translation and terminology prepared by our staff in cooperation with trainees specialising in communication. This external presence was extended in 2012, with accounts and pages being established on major professional social media sites. The most popular items have been the pages featuring the IATE term of the week (related to an important topical event, and including a link to a relevant article), interviews with prominent terminologists conducted by our trainees, specific EU terminology resources and the various opportunities Parliament offers for traineeships in, and study visits to, our unit.

The interinstitutional portal EurTerm is administered by an editorial board composed of the various institutions' terminology coordination departments. It contains access to the internal part of IATE, a blog, centralised access to all interinstitutional and worldwide terminology resources and databases, and access to communication platforms such as terminology wikis and forums. It is also linked to QUEST, the intra-EU meta-search terminology tool, which our unit helps feed, and which brings together the most important national terminology databases as well as IATE. EurTerm also contains links to the Euramis

translation memory, EurLex, a calendar of events, a multimedia section for webinars and webstreamed events, and a search tool for links to glossaries which are compiled and updated by all the institutions.

Thanks to its connections with the international world of terminology, TermCoord has developed a wide network of external contacts, mainly with other international institutions and the academic world. Every three months, six trainees are selected from among more than 1 500 applicants from all over the EU to undertake a specialised traineeship in terminology. In 2012, TermCoord also launched IATE projects with universities, which receive templates on the basis of which they can structure exercises to carry out with their students.

Since its creation in 2008, Parliament's Terminology Coordination Unit has adopted an original approach among the coordination services of the 10 EU institutions involved in managing IATE. The objective is to raise awareness amongst the translation units of the importance of terminology in providing high-quality translations of European legislation. Using a public website to communicate more effectively on a permanent basis, TermCoord has been able to provide advanced terminology services, make important changes as regards interinstitutional cooperation in the EU, and help upgrade IATE, making it into a modern, functional database.

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