



Discussion Paper

Prepared for: FIT EC

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1 January 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objective

To prepare FIT for current and future participation in trans- and international translation, interpreting and terminology-related projects

Goals

To further affirm FIT's role as the International voice of association of professional translators, interpreters and terminologists by strategically engaging in trans- and international projects TTI related projects

To increase FIT visibility, and therefore stature and influence

To diversify income stream of the Federation

Solution

To establish a transparent and due process for evaluating, negotiating and implementing external contract between FIT and other international organisations or project.

To establish a transparent process of subcontracting by FIT members or representatives thereof.

Project Outline

- Workflow of external contract
- Process of subcontracting
- Management of contract and subcontract
- Appeals and recourse

Historically, for many varied reasons, FIT has not been active in seeking to be partners or participants of external projects, especially public or academic ones, regarding aspects of translation, interpreting or terminology.

Some of the key hurdles are:

1. lack of resources, especially human and financial
2. lack of contacts
3. lack of structure

With increasing visibility and stature of FIT within and without the translation, interpreting and terminology sectors and amongst international organisations, there is an urgent need to implement such structure.

Concerns regarding tax position is of lesser relevance given the current French legal requirement of certain percentage of our income deriving from membership dues.

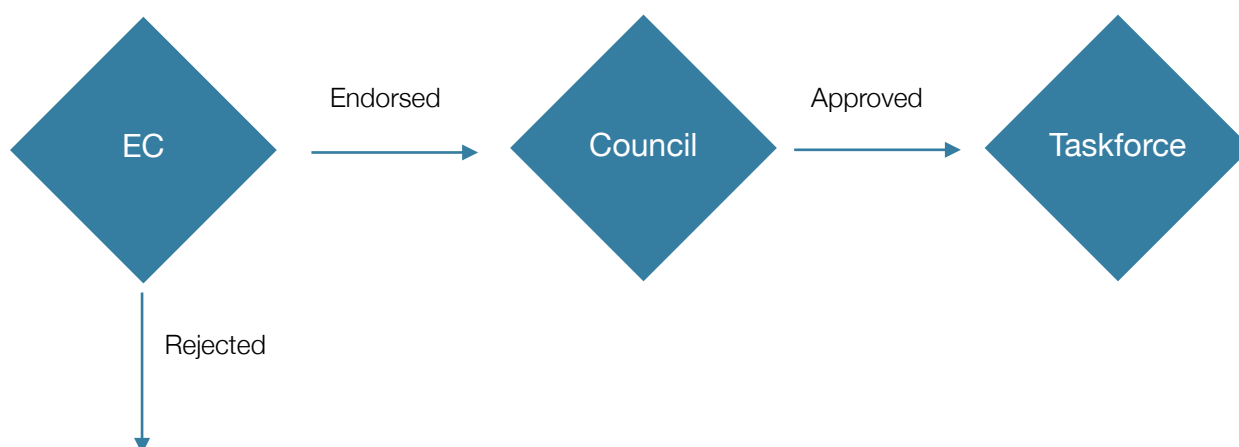
This proposal aims to address (3) above by way of a transparent, unbiased and accountable structure based on existing FIT hierarchy.

Approach

Mindful of (2) above, the following structure is based on FIT being approached with specific projects or at least project concepts. However, this is equally adaptable and applicable to projects either initiated by FIT or actively pursued by FIT.



NB: Agent can be external to FIT or members of FIT or their members or FIT Council members



The strength of FIT lies in its members (Council, Honorary Advisors, Ordinary, Associate). The motivation behind international organisations and projects approaching FIT are namely our brand, our expertise and the broadest representation of the profession and thus legitimacy.

Participating of such projects likely needs engagement of member organisation(s) and their members. It is also good policy to keep member organisations informed of FIT's involvement internationally.

Projects rejected by EC may be resubmitted for Council consideration. Projects rejected by Council is full and final until further FIT structure(s) is/are in place.

Project Taskforce

- appointed by Council
- membership may include Agent(s)
- subject to Bylaws and Rules of Procedure as per other taskforces
- delegated by Council to manage the successful implementation of the project
- delegated by Council to manage the external contract and its subcontracts
- may not be remunerated except reimbursement of pre-approved costs as set out by Terms of Reference

Subcontract

Call for tender

Candidates include:

1. Consortium of member organisations
2. Individual member organisation or commercial arm thereof
3. Consortium of members of member organisations (MoMo)
4. MoMo
5. Consortium of members and non-members

Agent(s) may also submit a bid, on his/her own or in combination. Bid from Agent(s) will be evaluated alongside all other bids. No preferential treatment is to be granted to be bid from Agent(s).

Question to consider: Can FIT organs submit a bid? Most obvious contender would be FIT Regional Centres.

Evaluation Panel (can be separate from Project Taskforce but ought to include member(s) of or at least in consultation with Project Taskforce)

- call for nomination
- evaluated and appointed by Council
- usually 3-member Panel (2 Council Members + 1 outside) but in exceptional circumstances can be up to 5-member Panel (3 Council Members + 2 outside)
- Terms of references as prescribed by Council
- makes non-binding recommendation to Council of the best candidate or candidates for the project

Should the Council accepts the recommendation of the Evaluation Panel, Council then announces the successful candidate(s) and enters into subcontract negotiation (vide infra) with successful candidates (in consultation with Project Taskforce)

Should the Council rejects the recommendation or only accepts the recommendation in part, Council can independently determine successful candidates but it is imperative that full reasons be given and made public to unsuccessful candidates. Such reasons are to subject to official information requests / freedom of information requests.

A generic subcontract for such purpose is to be drawn up with duties, rights and responsibilities of both parties including remuneration and reimbursement.

Additional consideration

Ombudsman

With FIT exercising its role as International voice of associations of Translators, Interpreters and Terminologists, including participating of international projects, managing complaints and disputes from individual members or member organisations, it is important that there is independent oversight.

It is not the intention to implement this now. Rather it is the intention to give this due consideration for discussion at the Brisbane Congress.

Proposal

- that the office of Ombudsman be established
 - candidates are individuals of good standing with prior knowledge of FIT and the translation, interpreting and terminology sectors, but not necessarily FIT office bearers
 - nominated by member organisations
 - appointed by Congress (or Council in between Congress should the office become vacant)
 - charged with handling complaints against any aspects of FIT activities, decisions and/or officer holders (Complaints against current office holders, Council member or committee members are first dealt with by the Council as per Article 31 of Bylaw)
 - limited to addressing issue of bias, unfair process or error of law (violation of Bylaws, Rules of Procedure or other governing documents)
 - cannot accept complaints from those external to the Federation
 - cannot initiate own investigation
 - may access Federation resources via the Executive Director
 - makes public but non-binding recommendations to Council
 - honorarium?
 - filing fee (500CHF)?
 - maximum terms of office?
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