



QT21 PROJECT

FIT engagement strategy with professional translator community

FIT will participate in the three-year QT21 project (February 2015- February 2018), which is part of the EU Horizon 2020 framework. Lead by DFKI, the QT21 project addresses language barriers within Europe that hinder the flow of information.

The explosive growth in data has not seen a corresponding growth in the level of translation and this disparity can be partially addressed through machine translation in selected cases where its quality is sufficient for the purpose at hand.

Through investigation and analysis of innovative methods of machine translation, QT21 and FIT will engage translators in assessing the quality of machine translation, incorporating human judgment into the current data-driven development paradigm.

Analytic metrics developed in the context of QT21 will see a harmonization of MQM and DQF into one framework, an early deliverable of the project, to define benchmarks for translation quality. Indeed the project proposal points to the need for “metrics [that apply to both] human and machine translation”.

As the professional body for Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters worldwide, it is incumbent on FIT to lead the discussion and shape the way translators, in particular, may benefit.

Harmonization of quality assessment metrics will lead to a framework with the capacity to assess three very different types of translation: raw machine translation, post-edited machine translation and translation produced by professional human translators (with or without translation tools). Development of reliable assessment metrics would optimize the use of said technology within specific domains and contexts. This would further enhance the status of accomplished translators, and professionally distinguish them from bilinguals untrained in translation.

QT21 project is an opportunity to engage in exploration of the future of an industry that has already begun to successfully incorporate technology into its working methodology.

FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES TRADUCTEURS

La voix des associations de traducteurs, d'interprètes et de terminologues à travers le monde

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF TRANSLATORS

The voice of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists around the world

Initially, there was resistance to the incorporation of technology, such as CAT (Computer Aided Translation) tools, into what some translators feel is an autonomous creative process. This resistance was overcome once practitioners could see the tangible benefit other translators derived in terms of speed, output and higher level creativity.

So it can be with Machine Translation. A large number of translators already incorporate MT into their working methods because they find it advantageous both in terms of reduction of repetition and faster throughput. FIT will lead the discussion, based on proven research findings, of how best to use machine translation.

FIT has already begun open discussions with its global member associations on relevant industry issues through its newly convened Member E-forum group, complementary to its Social Media presence, which includes the FIT Facebook page and Twitter account. Further development of the FIT website could include channels such as a moderated blog for discussion of project aims and benefits.

FIT publications, its industry-wide publication *Translatio* and academic journal, *Babel*, also contribute to evolution of discussion within the international translation community.

The current FIT council is expanding its global presence and the ways in which members communicate. The FIT leadership attends international industry events and the President is frequently an invited speaker at these events. With access to a wide audience of diverse language service professionals, he will be able to raise awareness of the issues and the project itself.

FIT is an organization with a strong international reputation. Its global reach extends through its member associations who represent over 80,000 translators worldwide. FIT maintains its presence through support and promotion for workshops and professional development opportunities held by its members and stakeholders worldwide. The third International Translator Technology Terminology Conference Ljubljana, Slovenia in October 2015, and the NATO Conference on Terminology Management 19-20 November 2015, are two such events where FIT will be present and active.

Given the evolving nature of the profession, FIT's experience in creating global forums for information and educational development, and its presence as a party in setting industry agendas, give weight to its voice. Discussions on adoption of technology, rates of change and changes in professional paradigms have already been convened and will continue.

FIT's previous World Congress of Translators in Berlin explored issues around the interface of human and machine translation. Thought provoking and well received, it sparked discussions on the pertinent issues. The next World Congress in Brisbane in 2017 will also explore the impact of technology on the profession, so it is fitting that the culmination of FIT participation in the QT21 project may be a plenary session at the Congress to present the report.

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