Investing in terminology brings returns

To communicate clearly, all stakeholders - from experts to editors - need harmonised multilingual terminology more than ever. Expert vocabulary accounts for 30% to 60% of specialised documents. So just imagine the considerable odds on wrong terminology worming its way into your communications. Consider then the consequences and costs of misunderstandings arising from these misused terms. Multiply this by the number of languages you use. That is why investing in terminology makes sense!

Standardised terminology

The use of standardised terminology:

- brings accuracy and consistency to your originals and translations;
- guarantees higher quality from the onset and avoids misinterpretations;
- improves communication, retrievability and the indexing of websites by search engines.

One third of our clients have had their core terminology standardised and made available in IATE.

IATE is the Interinstitutional Terminology Database of the European Union used daily by translators, drafters, experts and the general public in the quest for a specific term.

The IATE partners are:
- European Parliament,
- Council of the European Union,
- European Commission,
- Court of Justice of the European Union,
- European Court of Auditors,
- European Economic and Social Committee,
- Committee of the Regions,
- European Investment Bank,
- European Central Bank,
- Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union,

who update the database on a regular basis.

In June 2007, IATE was made available to the general public [http://iate.europa.eu/](http://iate.europa.eu/).

IATE key figures (3Q 2014):

- 8,799,458 terms in 24 EU and other languages
- 340 new terms added daily
- 45,500 daily queries (IATE internal)
- 135,000 daily queries (IATE Public) from 200 countries
Expert communication cannot happen without terminology
Terminology is a cornerstone of technical communication: correct terminology is essential to getting your message across. Using accurate terms will capture your stakeholders’ attention.

What we can do for you
We offer the following services as steps towards standardising your multilingual terminology assets:

- **terminology projects**: let us create your multilingual resources with added-value information that guarantees the accuracy of the source and target terms you are using;
- **term lists**: single words or multi-word expressions with an equivalent in other languages (without references, definitions or contexts);
- **tailor-made projects: you tell us!** For example we can build a bridge between terminology and other linguistic resources (ontologies).

Would you like to know more?
Just contact us at: Terminology@cdt.europa.eu

Do you have terminology resources already?
We perform **compliance checks** and align them with interinstitutional guidelines and international ISO standards for terminology work and data exchange.

**WHY TERMINOLOGY?**
The sheer number of specialised translations, the shorter turnaround times for translations and the drive to do more with less, in our multilingual world, have converted terminology into an essential factor in multilingual communication worthy of our full attention.

**Terminology projects**
As a language service provider, the Translation Centre is your expert partner for terminology projects. Our Terminology Team will:

- assess your needs;
- estimate the costs;
- prepare a project plan for you, in line with interinstitutional best practices.

**The main stages of a terminology project are:**

- Drawing up a project plan.
- **Concept selection** from key documents and completion of terms with contexts, definitions and references.
- **Client validation** of source terms.
- **Multilingual completion** of terms, definitions, contexts and references by our terminologists.
- **Validation** through the client’s network of National Authorities or Focal Points.
- **Publication** in the IATE database and systematic re-use of the validated multilingual terminology in all client communications.

For one of our earlier projects, take a look at ECHA’s terminology database: [http://echa.cdt.europa.eu/](http://echa.cdt.europa.eu/)