The Translation Management Tool (TMT) used for a survey applying the TRAPD model: The example of the European Social Survey (ESS), Round 8

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TMT history

- Has been used by SHARE since the beginning, formerly Language Management Utility (LMU)
- Idea / Goal: to be usable for team / committee approach / TRAPD
- 2016/2017: real-time test in ESS Round 8, selected countries
- Other surveys using TMT: SHARE, wageindicator, EVS
Real-time testing ESS Round 8

- 3 countries / 4 language versions / 1 shared language
- Poland (PL) / Russia (RU) / Lithuania (LT + RU)
- All 4 language versions: TRA in TMT
- Russia and Lithuania: entire verification in TMT, including
  -> central verification
  -> feedback loops by ESS CST
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- All actors work in one tool
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- Translator’s (T) edit view:
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- Review session / adjudication

1. Click item to pull
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- Language harmonization
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- Central verification / feedback loop
ESS Round 8 feedback

- Overall positive / still improvement needed
- Detailed feedback sought in 2017 and TMT updated accordingly
- Preliminary advantages: all in 1 place / no versioning problem / easily documented / quick turnaround, no sending of (T)VFFs required
- Preliminary disadvantages: still more time-consuming (new, need to enter different cell) / depends on screen size / need to open many cells for editing or commenting
Latest improvements

- In system communication
- Modes
- Answer structure
- Navigation
- Caching mechanism
- Integration with SurveyCTRL: capi/cawi/papi directly from TMT
Future plans

- TMT linked to databases:
- Copying existing questionnaires into TMT
- Searchable database
- Under SERISS: linked to QDDT – Questionnaire Design Documentation Tool
  QVDB – Question and Variables Database
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Team / committee approach / TRAPD

- Translation quality through Multi-step + multi-disciplinary process
- Team + cooperation for detecting and ironing out translation problems and mistakes

- Special form: TRAPD (Translation, Review, Adjudication, Pretesting, Documentation)
- TRAPD linked with: Janet Harkness & European Social Survey (ESS)
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Source instrument

Translation 1

Translation 2

Review

Adjudication

Transl. verification

SQP Coding

Pre-test

Target Instrument

Shared language harmonisation

Possibly additional Adjudication(s)

ESS since round 5