Workshop "Workflows and tools in the Translation of the Acquis"

Translation of the EU *acquis* is a cornerstone of the EU accession process and a critical prerequisite for effective legislative alignment, implementation, and enforcement of EU law. High-quality, timely, and consistent translations and their publication are essential not only for supporting accession negotiations, but first and foremost for ensuring legal certainty, institutional coherence, and the proper functioning of public administrations in the countries concerned.

As the EU enlargement process gains renewed momentum, Western Balkans administrations are intensifying their efforts to strengthen national systems for *acquis* translation and legal approximation. This requires not only appropriate institutional arrangements and coordination mechanisms, but also modern, efficient, and interoperable workflows, as well as the strategic use of digital tools and technologies.

In recent years, translation has undergone profound transformation, driven by the rapid development of digital solutions, and, increasingly, AI-based tools. These developments offer significant opportunities to improve productivity, consistency, and quality, while also posing new organisational, methodological, and quality assurance challenges for public administrations.

Against this background, the regional workshop 'Workflows and tools in the Translation of the *Acquis*', organised by ReSPA in partnership with the Directorate-General for Translation (DGT) of the European Commission, aims to provide a practical and forward-looking platform for exchange among Western Balkans administrations. The workshop will focus on modern translation and publication workflows, advanced tools, and innovative approaches, including the use of AI, while also providing participants with the opportunity to present recent developments in their administrations, discuss common challenges, and explore peer-driven and EU-inspired solutions.

The workshop builds on ReSPA and DGT's long-standing support for strengthening translation and EU integration capacities in the region and seeks to further contribute to the professionalisation, digitalisation, and sustainability of *acquis* translation systems across the Western Balkans.

The workshop will be delivered in English by the in-house staff of DGT, the Publications Office of the European Union (OP) and Directorate-General for Enlargement and the Eastern Neighbourhood (DG ENEST).

AGENDA

22 January 2026
ReSPA premises, Bulevar knjaza Danila Petrovića 13/32, Podgorica, Montenegro

08:45 – 09.05 **Arrival and registration of participants**

09:05 – 09:30 **Opening remarks**
- **Biljana PAPOVIĆ**, State Secretary, Ministry for European Affairs of the Government of Montenegro
- **Maja HANDJISKA TRENDAFILOVA**, ReSPA Director
- **Josefine HEDERSTROEM**, Head of Coordination and Institutional Affairs Unit, DGT, European Commission
- **Bernard BRUNET**, Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation to Montenegro

09.30 – 10.15 *Tour de Table: State of play in the translation of the* acquis

This session will provide an overview of the state of play of acquis *translation in each Western Balkans administration. Each delegation will deliver a concise presentation focusing on recent developments and current practices in their respective systems.*
Presentations are expected to cover, in particular: the institutional and organisational setup for acquis *translation; current workflows and coordination mechanisms; progress achieved and main bottlenecks; the use of digital tools and translation technologies, including any AI-based solutions under development or in use; as well as short- and medium-term priorities and needs.*
The session will serve as a baseline for the workshop discussions, allow for peer learning and comparison of approaches, and help identify common challenges and opportunities for further cooperation and support.

10.15 – 11.00 *Translating the acquis – CAT requirements and AI*
Zoran ZAKIĆ, IT Portfolio Officer, and **Miha ZLICAR**, Language Technology Coordinator, DGT, European Commission
The presentation will provide an outline of a basic yet upgradeable CAT environment setup for the TCUs. It will draw on DGT's experience and cover best practices, tips, tricks and caveats. The participants will be encouraged to share their views and, above all, ask any questions related to their specific situation, which the presenters will answer on the spot.

11.00 – 11.15 *Brief coffee break*

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11.15 – 11.45   *eAccession Tool*
Thibault CHARLET, Programme Manager, Regional Strategy and Investment Unit, DG ENEST, European Commission
A short overview of the European Commission's AI tool for EU accession ('eAccession'), which aims at facilitating the work of candidate countries' legal experts in verifying the compliance of national legislations with EU legislation.
Followed by Q&A

11.45 – 12.30   *Production and Publication Process at the Publications Office – From Manuscripts to EUR-Lex*
Ivo MIHAJLOVIĆ, Team Leader, Unit OP B.1 – Official Journal, Case-law and the EU budget
A brief overview of the activities of proofreaders from the candidate countries working at the OP. Description of various stages and types of interventions carried out in each of them. Besides the linguistic aspects, technical issues are also addressed, such as formatting, layout, electronic signature.
Followed by Q&A

12.30 – 13.30   **Networking lunch break**

13.30 – 14:10   *The technical chain behind the publication of a legal act on EUR-Lex*
Martin SCHERBAUM, Knowledge Management Officer, Unit OP A.1 – Data and Format Standardisation Services
A concise overview of the technical workflow behind the publication of legal acts in the Official Journal of the European Union, including the key file formats used and the processes for electronic sealing and authentication of these acts.
Followed by Q&A

14.10 – 14.50   *The Interinstitutional Style Guide: the reference tool for EU legal documents and general publications*
Nathalie FOIGNE and **Lucia SKODLAR**, Coordinators of the Interinstitutional Style Guide, Unit OP A.1 – Data and Format Standardisation Services
The Interinstitutional Style Guide is an internal reference guide developed by the EU institutions that sets out rules for writing, formatting, and terminology. The presentation will focus on how, through common rules and conventions agreed upon by the 24 language communities, the Guide ensures consistency, clarity, and harmonisation in official documents, which is particularly important for legal acts in a multilingual context.
Followed by Q&A

14.50 – 15.10   *Coffee break*

15.10 – 16:00   *Digital-First Terminology: Work Faster, Work Smarter*
Maria RZEWUSKA-WALIGORA, Head of Data Management Unit and **Annamaria FOTOS**, Head of Terminology Coordination Sector, DGT, European Commission
Human-led, AI-powered terminology workflow: how to prepare terminology resources with AI and other tools, how to do post-editing for consistent terminology, how to build expert feedback into your terminology resources.
Followed by Q&A

16:00 – 16:15   **Discussion: next steps, further support, ideas for cooperation and engagement during 2026**
Moderated by **Gentian XHAXHIU**, Programme Manager, ReSPA, **Claudia DE STEFANIS**, Deputy Head of Coordination and institutional affairs Unit, DGT, European Commission, and **Gábor KARACS**, Deputy Head of Unit OP B.1 – Official Journal, Case-law and the EU budget