TMT: Questionnaire Translation Management for Large International Studies. Lessons Learned and Challenges Ahead

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CSDI
26 March 2018
Limerick
TMT history

- Used by SHARE since the beginning, formerly called “Language Management Utility (LMU)”
- 2016/2017: real-time test in ESS Round 8, selected countries
- 2017: EVS all languages
- Other surveys: wageindicator, GGP
- Main challenge: to be usable for team / committee approach / TRAPD / ESS as role model
- ESS 9: more countries (2018)
Feedback received

Positive criticism:

- Documentation: everything is saved automatically at the same place
- Facilitates language harmonization (internationally/shared languages, nationally/multilingual countries)
Feedback received

- Feedback from ESS and EVS to be incorporated

Main negative criticism:

- Missing Translation Memory / Term recognition / existing translations
- No search functionality
- Poor navigation
- More time-consuming because of too much clicking, information in too many small and detached text fields
- Poor export functionalities / layout not kept
- Unstable system, frequent and unexpected log-out
Feedback received

- Feedback from ESS and EVS to be incorporated

Main negative criticism:
- No easy saving of intermediate versions and comments
- Complicated verification sign-off loop
- Overly crowded screen
- Icons often not intuitive in design and position
- Overall (much) more time-consuming than excel
Main issues fixed

- Screen now less crowded, better overview
- Navigation improved
Current challenges

Ongoing for ESS round 9:

- Adding existing translations for all participating language versions
- Facilitating direct export into CAPI systems

Ongoing after ESS round 9:

- Develop Translation Memories (TMs), usable also by other cross-cultural surveys
- Develop search functionality
- Link TMT to CAT tool application
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- All actors work in one tool: Review session
Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- (Central) verification (cApStAn): ESS 8 Russian: Lithuania & Russia
THANKS !

Brita & Maurice