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

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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





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Main issues fixed

- Screen now less crowded, better overview
- Navigation improved



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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:

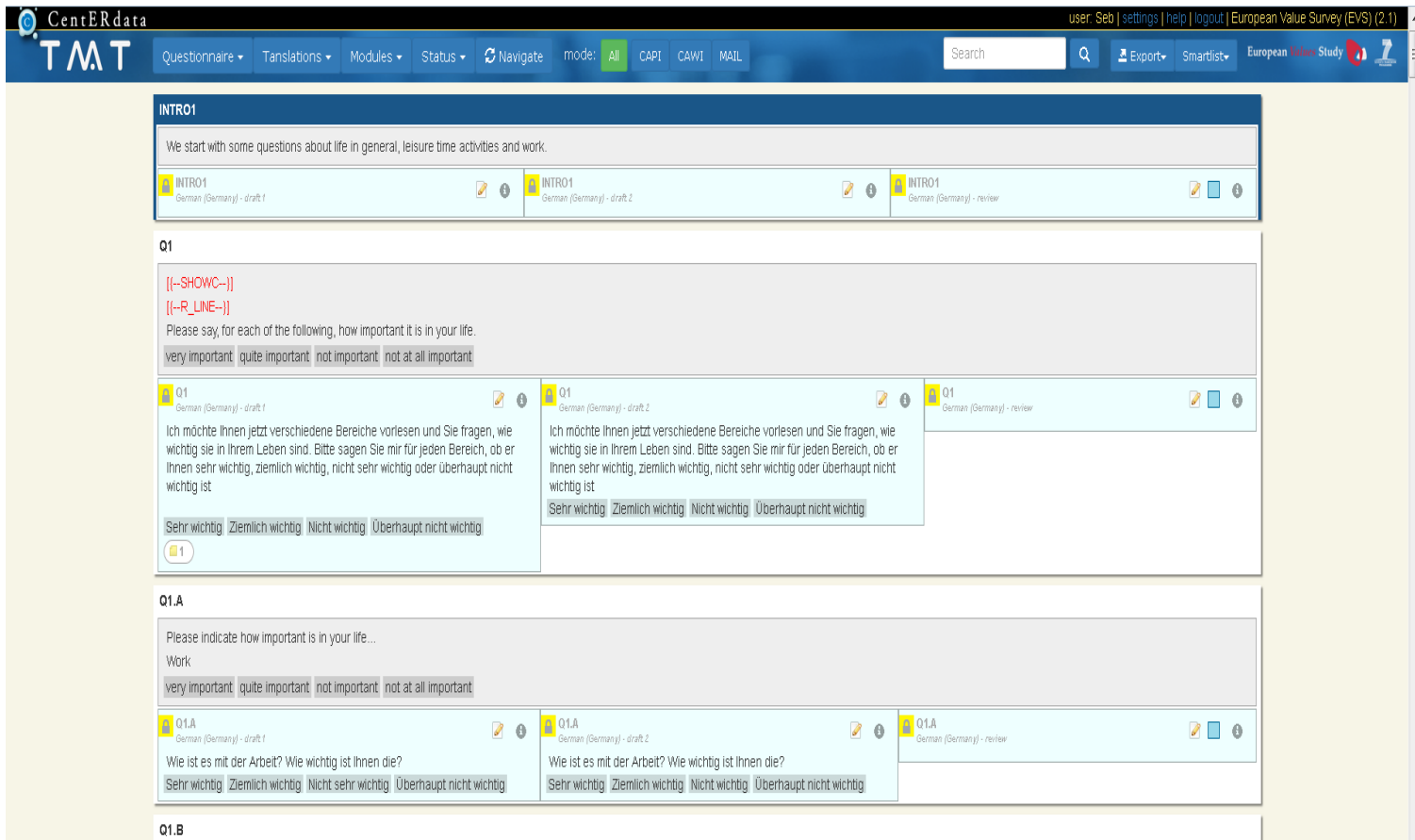
- Develop Translation Memories (TMs), usable also by other cross-cultural surveys
- Develop search functionality
- Link TMT to CAT tool application





Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

- All actors work in one tool: Review session



The screenshot displays the TMT (Translation Management Tool) interface within the CentERdata environment. The top navigation bar includes the TMT logo, a menu with options like 'Questionnaire', 'Translations', 'Modules', 'Status', and 'Navigate', and a search bar. The main content area is divided into sections for different parts of the questionnaire:

- INTRO1:** Contains an introductory text: "We start with some questions about life in general, leisure time activities and work." Below this, there are three draft and review versions of the introductory text.
- Q1:** Contains a question in German: "Ich möchte Ihnen jetzt verschiedene Bereiche vorlesen und Sie fragen, wie wichtig sie in Ihrem Leben sind. Bitte sagen Sie mir für jeden Bereich, ob er Ihnen sehr wichtig, ziemlich wichtig, nicht sehr wichtig oder überhaupt nicht wichtig ist." Below the question are three draft and review versions of the question and its response options: "Sehr wichtig", "Ziemlich wichtig", "Nicht wichtig", and "Überhaupt nicht wichtig".
- Q1.A:** Contains a sub-question: "Wie ist es mit der Arbeit? Wie wichtig ist Ihnen die?" Below this are three draft and review versions of the sub-question and its response options: "Sehr wichtig", "Ziemlich wichtig", "Nicht sehr wichtig", and "Überhaupt nicht wichtig".
- Q1.B:** This section is partially visible at the bottom of the screenshot.



Landmarks in TMT / TRAPD

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

CentERdata logged in as Brita Dorer | logout | ES

TMT ESS ROUND 8 Translations Modules Status Navigate Search... Export Smartlist European Social Survey

Source Text	Target Text	Status	User	Timestamp
Often .	Часто	OK	Brita Dorer	2017-02-16 23:31:24
Very often.	Очень часто	OK	Brita Dorer	2017-02-16 23:31:29
Always .	Всегда	OK	Brita Dorer	2017-02-16 23:32:04
(Cannot reduce energy use).	(Нет возможности уменьшить потребление энергии)	OK	Brita Dorer	2017-02-16 23:32:08
(Refusal)	(Отказ)	OK		

Comments and Replies:

- Anna Andreenkova** (2016-11-15 14:51:58): Not done. We think our version is correct and clear - it allows to differentiate this category from "Never"
- Vaidas Morkevicius** (2017-02-06 17:35:29): OK
- Translated as** (2017-02-06 12:30:25): "there is not opportunity to reduce energy use". Harmonised with shared language versions.



THANKS !

Brita & Maurice