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Directorate-General for Translation

DGT.03 – Coordination and Institutional Affairs



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MINUTES

LIND-WEB BOARD MEETING

Brussels, 22 October 2012

The fifth meeting of the LIND-Web Editorial Board was held in Brussels on Monday, 22 October 2012.

Present:

From the Editorial Board:

Claudio Chiavetta, Lionbridge

*Christophe Declercq,
Imperial College London*

Eyvor Fogarty, FIT

Kim Harris, Gala

*Nino Platteel, formerly at the Dutch National
Institute for Statistics*

From DGT:

Rytis Martikonis, Pinuccia Contino, Alicia Fracchia-Fernandez, Chris De Keuster, Inkaliisa Vihonen

Excused:

Marie-Pierre Mayar, Martin Hope, Mirko Silvestrini, Jorge Díaz-Cintas

Opening of the meeting and administrative questions

The meeting was called to discuss the activities of the LIND-Web Platform in 2013 and brainstorm on how the project can be taken to a next level with support from the stakeholder community.

To this end, the Director-General of DGT, Mr Martikonis, gave an overview of recent developments and plans at DGT-level, namely the transfer of the project under Unit DGT.03 (Head of Unit: Ms Fracchia-Fernandez) responsible for legal and interinstitutional affairs. This would not deter the project as the language industry remains a point of convergence and political interest.

With regards to other administrative questions, the minutes of the fourth board meeting were approved and the resignation of Martin Hope from the board was announced as Mr Hope has been recently appointed director of British Council in Qatar. To ensure continuation of the board activities, board members were asked to submit proposals to DGT for appropriate substitutes for Mr Hope in the board by e-mail before 9.11.

Work Programme and Strategic Outlook for 2013

The draft programme 2013 was discussed in detail and in connection with the overall strategic outlook of the platform. There was a general consensus over the need for a bigger picture and clear vision, which would help, on turn, to sell the project to other stakeholders and members of the organisations represented in the board. This should consist of the following:

- Mission & Vision
- Scope ('What are we ?')
- Strategic framework with different pillars (society, industry, community, ..)

Two members of the board, Kim Harris and Eyvor Fogarty, were assigned the task of drafting a paper consisting of these elements for the first week of December. The draft should then be circulated amongst the board members for further comments and remarks. DGT will help by providing elements from previous strategies and concept papers on this topic.

As to the work programme, some elements included in it were described as imminent, such as platform promotion and enhancement, some more long-term goals, such as employability, data generation and promotion of industry potential.

As a first step, it was decided that a plan should be made to improve the usability and interest in the platform itself. This should be done by creating content and services that would attract users to the site. Two members of the board, Claudio Chiavetta and Jorge Díaz-Cintas, were given the task of drafting a plan to this end. The plan should consist of options and concrete suggestions for content improvement, the DGT can then see to the technicalities of these suggestions as site manager. The draft plan should be presented to other members of the board during the first week of December.

Another step to increase visibility and promote the platform would be intensifying the leverage of social networks by creating a LIND-Web user group in LinkedIn and linking it to the other means in use, for example Twitter. Christophe Declercq was given the task of creating the group and acting as content generator with Claudio Chiavetta. DGT would also provide support in this.

Synergies with the EMT

To further strengthen the synergies created between EMT and LIND-Web during, for example, the LIND-Web Forum, the possibility to involve the LIND-Web Board in the next EMT selection was discussed. The overall view of the board was positive and the idea was welcomed as a way of extending the scope of the project towards exchanging best practices between universities, the industry and associations.

In practice, this cooperation would imply giving comments and feed-back on employability aspects of EMT candidatures during the selection procedure. The work would not entail fees but would be fitted within the framework of the board membership. First concrete step in this direction would be the possibility of LIND-Web Board members to take part in the mock selection exercise taking place in Brussels in February 2013.

Board members will be informed about the initiative and the timetable by DGT as soon as possible and the cooperation will be officially launched during the EMT 2012 conference taking place on November 16th in Brussels. All the members of the board have been invited. As Kim Harris will not be able to attend due to previous arrangements, she will send another Gala member to represent the association during this event.

Another point of common interest between EMT and LIND-Web are the Memoranda of Understanding on traineeships signed during the LIND-Web Forum between EMT, EUATC and Gala. A third memorandum will be signed between Elia and EMT during the 16/11 conference and it will again highlight the opportunities industry/university partnerships can offer.

To ensure a concrete follow-up for this positive development, monitoring should be put in place and taken up again in the next board meeting agenda. Up till now, no concrete action has been taken mainly due to timing, i.e. holiday season following signatures, but both parties have expressed great interest in the initiative. Therefore, the 16/11 conference will give the parties the opportunity to discuss the principles and details of the student placements during the afternoon open sessions. Both boards will also have the opportunity to get acquainted and talk during the EMT lunch.

LIND-Web Forum 2013

The LIND-Web Forum 2013 will be organised in connection to the Translation Studies Days in October. Board members were asked to start reflecting on topics and themes of interest. These should also mirror the LIND-Web strategic framework to be presented.

In addition, the EUATC has suggested to organise LIND-Web parallel session on visibility during its annual conference in Brussels on 3/5/2013. Also the possibility to have a stand to present the platform there was discussed.

EUATC was asked through Claudio Chiavetta to present a list of relevant topics for the workshop and circulate it among the board members for approval. For organisational reasons this should be done quickly, preferably by the end of week 45, so that the matter can be further discussed during the 16/11 get-together.