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SUMMARY

In 2019 the main focus of the EMT network was the renewal of its membership following the call for EMT membership launched in September 2018. The selection results were published in June 2019. The first meeting of the newly composed network took place in October 2019. At this occasion, the EMT members elected the new EMT Board 2019-2024.

At the same time the network activities continued, albeit at a slower pace than usual. EMT member programmes were active mainly in already established working groups and events, including the Translating Europe Forum and Translating Europe Workshops.

1. EMT MILESTONES AND INTERNAL MATTERS

a) EMT 2018/2019 selection round

The call for membership in the EMT Network 2019-2024 resulted in 109 applications from 106 universities. All of them were eligible.

The assessment phase started on 21 February 2019 with a coordination meeting in which the 34 assessors appointed to the assessment panel (following a call in April 2018) received detailed instructions for the evaluation and the use of the wiki created for the distance evaluation. Each application was evaluated by two independent assessors (plus another one in case of large discrepancies in the results). Moreover, the Employability criterion was additionally reported and commented on by language industry experts who are members of the LIND expert group.

The entire selection process was overseen by a Supervisory Committee composed of DGT staff and the manager of the unit responsible for the EMT, a representative of the DGT linguistic departments, as well as a representative of DG Education and Culture (EAC) for their experience with open calls for projects in the field of education. The members of the Supervisory Committee had access to the assessment wiki and could follow the progress of the assessment at any time. The Supervisory Committee confirmed that the selection procedure was carried out correctly and according to the principles of impartiality, transparency and sound assessment.

Following the assessment, translation study programmes from 81 universities were admitted to the EMT network for the period 2019-2024. The full list of member programmes of the new EMT network 2019-2024 is available on the EMT pages on Europa.

25 applications did not fulfil the membership requirements, 23 from universities in EU Member States and two from universities outside the European Union.

As a result, the EMT network now geographically covers 22 Member States (including for the first time Estonia, Malta and the Netherlands) and three non-EU countries.

1 For the admission requirements please see https://ec.europa.eu/info/resources-partners/european-masters-translation-emt/emt-membership-criteria_en.
b) Meetings of the EMT Network

As the EMT selection procedure was still ongoing in the spring 2019, the EMT network only met once in 2019, in the autumn, following the publication of the selection results:

Brussels, 10 – 11 October 2019

At this first meeting of the new EMT network Rytis Martikonis, Director-General of DGT and chair of the EMT Board, congratulated the network members for having developed the EMT into a larger and more inclusive network of 81 members without compromising on quality standards. He also reminded the participants of the main objectives of EMT, i.e. raising the quality of translator training across Europe and enhancing the visibility and recognition of the translation profession at large.

EMT – The Next Generation was the topic of the afternoon session of the first day, including the presentation of the candidates for the new EMT Board and an open discussion on the network priorities and activities 2019-2024. The candidates presented their views on the following topics and discussed them with the meeting participants:

- integrating technology in translator training,
- emphasising professional ethics and the added value of human translation,
- ensuring that translator training takes account of the societal needs for translation and in this context: training of new arriving migrants and Public Service Interpreting and Translation (PSIT),
- increasing the visibility of EMT,
fostering translation related research and raising the academic credibility of translation,
changing translator profiles - the challenges of digitalisation and artificial intelligence.

After some open discussion, the network members elected the members of the EMT Board for
the period 2019-2024 (see point c) below).

The second day of the EMT meeting was devoted to the exchange of good practices, featuring

- the state of play of the EMT student competences survey, CATO (see next section ‘Activities of the working groups’) by Nicolas Froeliger, Université de Paris, and Leena Salmi, University of Turku;

- an account of a translation and terminology project between DGT and CeTIM, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès, France: From exoplanets to the migration crisis in the EU by Carole Fillière (CeTIM); Amélie Josselin-Leray (CeTIM), Benjamin Heyden (DGT) and Sandrine Senaneuch (DGT);

- the announcement of a Translating Europe workshop on competences for technical translation and technical communication, by Dr Daniela Straub from tekom Europe; and

- the presentation of INTEAM – a translation and interpreting Teaching Methods Database, by Sonia Vandepitte, Ghent University, and Sabien Hanoulle, University of Antwerp.

The first meeting of the EMT network ended with the bestowal ceremony in which the network members received their membership certificates.

**Activities of the working groups**

In 2019, only the CATO working group was active. It was set up after the network meeting in October 2018 by a small group of nine EMT universities² who volunteered to develop Nicolas Froeliger’s “do-it-yourself” student survey into a fully-fledged survey ready to use for all network members. The group met for the first time on 22 March 2019 at the Université Paris Diderot (now Université de Paris). The participants agreed that the planned competence survey should focus on the following three main objectives:

- make students aware of their professional competences;
- help study programmes to reflect on the quality of their training and aspects to improve;

² Université Paris Diderot (chair); University of Swansea; University of Newcastle; Université de Haute-Alsace; University of Turku; Université de Lille; Université Grenoble-Alpes; University of Ljubljana; Ghent University
✓ engage with the EMT competence framework, which should ultimately result in more visibility for the EMT.

The group also agreed on the technical aspects of the project (which platform to use, the general structure, the questions to ask, the target group, the timeline) and the name (CATO - Competence Awareness in TranslatiOn). In the weeks following the Paris meeting, Kalle Konttinen from the University of Turku developed a survey template. Students from the pilot universities took part in the first trial survey between May and June 2019. Nicolas Froeliger and Leena Saalmi presented the results of this test run at the EMT network meeting in October 2019. The group will use these results to fine tune the survey before its rollout to the entire network in the academic year 2020/21.

c) Meetings of the EMT Board

In October 2019, the participants of the EMT network meeting elected the following persons as members of the EMT Board 2019-2024:

- Frank Austermuehl (Aston University, Birmingham)
- Nicolas Froeliger (Université Paris Diderot/Université de Paris)
- Alexandra Krause (Universität Wien)
- Rudy Loock (Université de Lille)
- Joss Moorkens (Dublin City University)
- Emília Perez (Univerzita Konštantíná Filozofa v Nitre)
- Andrew Rothwell (Swansea University)
- Tomáš Svoboda (Univerzita Karlova v Praze)
- Carmen Valero Garcés (Universidad de Alcalá)
- Sonia Vandepitte (Universiteit Gent)

They met for the first time on 7 November 2019 in an informal meeting during the lunch break of the Translating Europe Forum (TEF) to discuss the future priorities and activities of the network as well as the division of labour among them.

They agreed on the following future priorities, which would be presented in more detail in a document that the network members would adopt at the next EMT network meeting in March 2020:

EMT competences competences are at the core of the EMT project, they have to be monitored and, if need be, adapted to the reality of the profession;

knowledge sharing was considered as the main strength of the network, the exchange of good practices will continue to be a central feature of the network meetings, additional sharing opportunities could be created by organising webinars in between the network meetings;

communication increase the visibility of both the EMT and the translation profession.
2. EMT-DGT COOPERATION

a) Translating Europe

The idea of this initiative is to engage with various stakeholders in the translation sector and to create a community of interest, with a view to giving visibility to the world of translation, sharing good practice, developing common projects, and promoting a diversified and sustainable market for professional translators in Europe. To this end, DGT organises every year an event in Brussels – the Translating Europe Forum - and various Translating Europe Workshops in the EU Member States.

Translating Europe Forum

The Translating Europe Forum (TEF) took place in Brussels on 7 and 8 November 2019. The topic Translation all around us attracted around 500 professionals from the language industry, academia and the public sector. Many more followed the event via the live web-stream. The panel discussions looked into various areas where translation plays an invaluable role, such as health care, crises and disaster relief, tourism, entertainment, to name but a few. Furthermore, there were sessions on trends and developments in this sector and ‘self-help translation’. A panel on empowering people gave an overview of how translation improves political participation, participatory decision-making and social integration.

EMT was very visible throughout the event, starting with EMT professor Nicolas Froeliger who co-moderated the event and chaired several panel discussions. Five more professors participated in various panels and discussion rounds and the EMT had a stand in the Networking Village throughout the two conference days.

As in previous years, EMT students (one per EMT university) had the opportunity to attend the meeting (including a special session for newcomers to the industry, which was by invitation only).³

Translating Europe Workshops

Translating Europe Workshops contribute at national level to the general aim of exploring and facilitating synergies among translation stakeholders. As in previous years, many TE workshops were organised by or with EMT universities as the main external partners, and many more had professors from the EMT network as speakers or panellists. The majority of the workshops dealt with the impact of technology on the translation profession, thus presenting a clear link to the Translating Europe Forums. Please click here for the full list of Translating Europe Workshops 2019.

³ For more detailed information including recordings and presentations see: https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/2019TEF_en
b) Visiting Translator Scheme (VTS)

Under the VTS 2019 DGT staff performed 43 visits to various institutions/administrations, including 21 universities in 13 countries; 10 were EMT universities at the time of the visit, 2 were candidates (and became members in 2020).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EMT</th>
<th>EMT Candidates</th>
<th>Other Universities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Univerzita Karlova v Praze (Charles University of Prague)</td>
<td>Tartu Ülikol (University of Tartu)</td>
<td>Università di Trento</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften (Zurich University for Applied Sciences)</td>
<td>L-Università Ta’ Malta (University of Malta)</td>
<td>Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών (University of Athens)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Univerza v Ljubljani (University of Ljubljana)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Università degli Studi di Trieste (University of Trieste)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Queen’s University Belfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helsingin yliopisto/Helsingfors universitet (Helsinki University)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Universidade Pedagógica Maputo (Pedagogical University of Maputo)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tampereen yliopisto/Tammerfors universitet (Tampereen University)</td>
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<td>Kauno Technologijos Universitetas Kaunas (University of Technology)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Turun yliopisto/Åbo universitet (University of Turku)</td>
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<td>Vytauto Didžiojo universitetas (Vytautas Magnus University, Kaunas)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Itä-Suomen yliopisto/Östra Finlands universitet (University of Easter Finland)</td>
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<td>Πάντειον Πανεπιστήμιο (Panteion University, Athens)</td>
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<td>Aarhus Universitet (University of Aarhus)</td>
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<td>Univerza v Mariboru (University of Maribor)</td>
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<td>Dublin City University</td>
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As was the case in the past, not all requests from EMT universities to host DGT VTS participants could be satisfied. The proportion of VTS missions to EMT universities could be higher if interested EMT members communicated the purpose and type of interaction envisaged with visiting DGT translators more clearly to the DGT.⁴

All in all the feedback was positive and confirmed that VTS is an enriching experience for both the universities and the translators.

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⁴ As a reminder: DGT colleagues have to propose a project on which they intend to work together with the visited institution (administration or university). The project can meet an individual learning need of the translator or a need of his/her language department (better knowledge of a particular domain, language, terminology issues, better use of CAT tools and other translation related applications…).
c) EMT trainees in DGT

In 2019, DGT hosted two types of trainees: trainees on short-term training placements and the trainees that fall within the standard Commission traineeship scheme of 5 months. The number of trainees in the latter category depends on the quota allocated to DGT each year, which usually is around 84 trainees per year.

The short-term training placements are agreed directly between the sending university and the DGT language departments. The number of trainees in this category depends on the hosting capacity of the departments. In 2019, DGT offered 92 training placements, of which 41 were offered to students from EMT Universities.  

d) EMT universities and eTranslation

The EMT universities continued to have free access to DGT’s machine translation system eTranslation for teaching and research purposes. In return, DGT hopes to receive outlines of and feedback from projects using eTranslation. By the end of 2019, 26 EMT universities from 13 countries had requested access to eTranslation for a total number of 125 users.

e) DGT – EMT joint training activities

In 2019 DGT staff could attend the following summer schools organised by EMT programmes:
- KU Leuven (Campus Antwerp): 4th International Summer School in Translation Technology, 2 to 6 September 2019: 12 translators;
- International Network for Terminology summer school (TERM NET), Vienna University, from 8 to 12 July: 15 translators;
- Dublin City University, Machine Translation Summit, 19 to 23 August 2019: 6 translators.

f) The EMT secretariat in DGT

The EMT team in DGT provides the EMT project management and ensures the proper functioning of the EMT Network from an administrative point of view. The team organises the Board and Network meetings and serves as the EMT secretariat.

2019 was a special year for the DGT EMT team because of the EMT selection procedure (see point 1 a) above). This involved the eligibility checks of EMT applications, the organisation of the kick-off meeting with the evaluators, the monitoring of the evaluation process, liaising with the evaluators and the Supervisory Committee, drafting the letters to candidates about the outcome of the selection and the publication of the new list of EMT members.

The EMT platform on Yammer and the EMT Wiki are now the established communication channels between the DGT EMT team and the network. The use of the Yammer social media platform considerably increased and simplified the exchange of information between the

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5 DGT language departments give a priority to EMT students when deciding about the training placements. The proportion of 41 out of 92 is due to the fact that placements and study visits from other organisations/institutions are also counted under this category.

network partners. The amount of posts from network members increased considerably showing an increasing sense of ownership and cohesion within the network.

3. EMT – OUTREACH

a) Cooperation with the language industry

The LIND Board continued to be the preferred partner of the EMT Board when it comes to cooperation with the language industry on the European level. In 2019, the LIND Board members were closely involved in the selection of the new EMT network. Their comments on the aspects of employability and preparation for the profession were a well-appreciated contribution to the assessment of the market relevance of the candidate programmes.

As in the previous years, the EMT Board contributed questions to the yearly Language Industry Survey.

b) Social media

EMT has a stable presence on the social media. Over the years the EMT Facebook page increased to 2385 regular followers. Main content shared are conferences organised at various EMT universities, Translating Europe workshops, traineeship opportunities in the language industry, including DGT and other EU activities related to training and young people. More and more EMT members now post announcements on the FB page themselves, but the page is not yet used to its full potential. However, more and more EMT network members (individuals and institutions) use the hashtag #EMTnet on Twitter.

CONCLUSIONS AND OUTLOOK

In 2019, the newly-composed EMT network focused its work on defining the priorities for the coming years. The main objective of the EMT network is to prepare its member programmes and their graduates to meet the challenges that digitalisation and artificial intelligence pose to the translation profession. This is the only way to ensure that the EMT label will continue to be a synonym for sound, future-oriented university training in the field of translation.