Creating a Glossary of Religion-related Terms for Interpreters in the Asylum Procedure

Concept Note

Rationale

Religion-based asylum interviews are considered one of the most complex claims for case officers. Several aspects inherent to the nature of these claims such as religious diversity and credibility challenges make them difficult to examine. As a result, these interviews often have a longer duration and require subsequent interviews. Adding up to the complexity of these claims is the specific terminology used in these claims, with which not all interpreters are familiar. Such terminology does not lie within the daily vocabulary of most interpreters in asylum procedure, thereby challenging the communication between the applicant and case officer.

During the EUAA Asylum Processes Network Exchange Visit on Interpretation in April 2022, one of the challenges highlighted by various coordinators of interpretation services was the lack of a glossary of religion-related terms for interpreters. The need for such a glossary was reiterated during further meetings. The same need was also highlighted by Working Group Experts of the EUAA-IGC Practical Guide on Interpretation in the Asylum Procedure.

Objective and scope

The key objective of this project is to create a glossary of terms on religious persecution that regularly come up in interviews on religion-based claims; such as terminology related to profiles of conversion to another religion or religious minorities.

Such a glossary will help to increase the quality of interpretation in interviews of applicants who present such claims. Moreover, it can become a time-efficient measure during the interview as the interpreter will need less time to verify terminology or ask for clarifications to the applicant or interviewer. It will also help to harmonise the interpretation in such interviews.

Legal framework

The envisaged project is based on the mission of the EUAA to enhance its practical cooperation activities with a view to improve and harmonise the practical implementation of asylum processes and support Member States when carrying out their tasks and obligations in the framework of the Common European Asylum System (CEAS)[1].

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[1] Regulation (EU) 2021/2303 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2021 on the European Union Agency for Asylum and repealing Regulation (EU) No 439/2010

Targeted outcome

The outcome of the project will be a glossary of religion-related terms in the <u>official languages of the EU</u> as well as to the <u>non-EU languages</u>.

Up to ten non-EU languages will be selected based on the needs of the EU+ countries, considering the most common languages used in religion-based asylum claims.

For each term, a <u>definition</u> will also be provided in English, to ensure common understanding on the concepts and correct identification of the equivalent terms in all languages. Definitions will also be an important tool for interpreters who are not familiar with a term, as they can consult the glossary to grasp its meaning.

Providing a user-friendly <u>format</u> in which interpreters working in asylum procedures can access the glossary easily will ensure its frequent use. The glossary can be provided centrally in the same way as the EUAA terminology database on asylum and reception. The EUAA terminology database is a living collection that currently consists of 280 terms and their definitions, available in all EU languages, as well as 25 other 15 languages. It is currently available on the Interactive Terminology for Europe database (IATE) in the form of the following EUAA asylum thematic collection: https://iate.europa.eu/search/collection/FC1BBC4EE1BB4CB4BA96C7146607554F.

The below search widget will soon be available on the EUAA website and will allow the users to search the EUAA collection in IATE and retrieve terms and definitions directly on the EUAA website and download it.
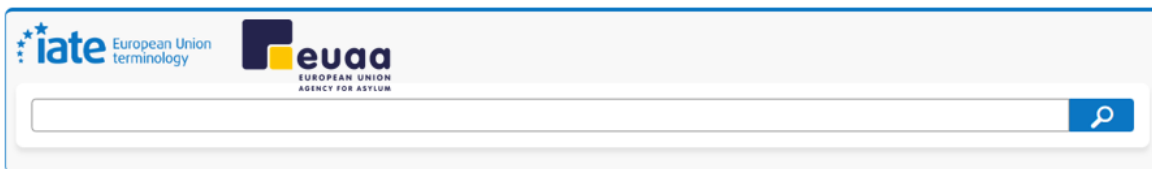
Including the religion-related glossary in the same EUAA terminology on asylum and reception database will allow interpreters to reach both glossaries in one-go. More suggestions for formats will be requested from the Asylum Processes Network (APN) through the needs assessment survey.

Outline of the project

The project will involve different stakeholders and follow different steps.

In the initial phase, the feedback of the APN on this concept note as well as the results of the needs assessment survey will be communicated to the APN.

As a second step, APN will be requested to share national glossaries of religion-related terms, if available. In addition to national asylum authorities, there may be different civil society organisations (CSO) working on the topic that have developed such a glossary. Therefore, a call will be sent out to the Consultative Forum of the EUAA that consists of many CSO working on the field of asylum and reception with the request to share relevant glossaries. EUAA Operations will also be invited to share any glossaries that might be in use by the interpreters and cultural mediators involved in the context of interviews and registrations in the countries of operations.

The received terms will form the basis of the glossary to be further developed and translated.

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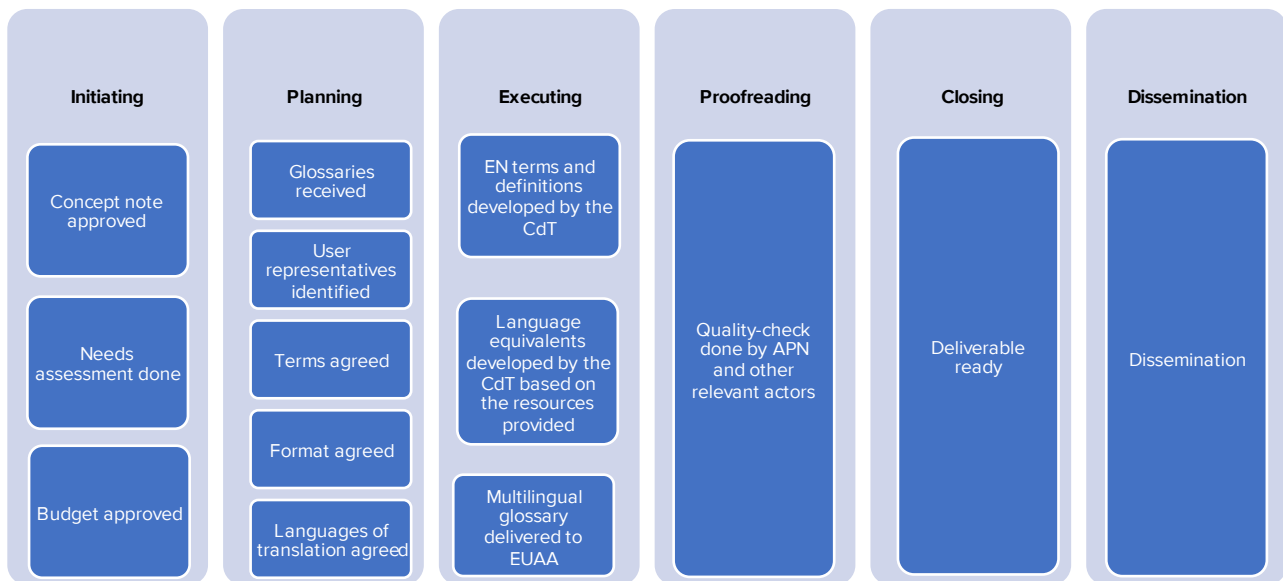Winemakers Wharf
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A number of interested Member States will be asked to act as <u>user representatives</u> during the project. Depending on their availability, they will be consulted on various steps of the project such as selection of terms, definitions and the formats. This way of working will allow the project to proceed faster and more efficiently while also avoiding an overburdening of the entire Network.

In line with the feedback received from APN, the list of terms as well as the format and the selection of non-EU languages for translations will be concluded. We aim to cover 60 terms at the first stage which will be expanded in 2024.

<u>The Translation Centre for the bodies of the EU</u> (CdT) will be requested for translations and definitions.

Upon receiving the translations, members of APN will be requested to <u>quality-check</u> the translations of the <u>EU languages in their national languages</u>.

Support of NCPs will also be requested for <u>quality-check of the non-EU languages</u>. For the sake of efficiency and a fair division of work, the task of quality-check of non-EU languages will be divided among different countries.

Based on the above, following milestones can be expected:

Initiating	Planning	Executing	Proofreading	Closing	Dissemination
Concept note approved	Glossaries received	EN terms and definitions developed by the CdT	Quality-check done by APN and other relevant actors	Deliverable ready	Dissemination
Needs assessment done	User representatives identified	Language equivalents developed by the CdT based on the resources provided			
Budget approved	Terms agreed	Multilingual glossary delivered to EUAA			
	Format agreed				
	Languages of translation agreed				

Upon agreement, project timeline will be prepared and communicated to the APN.

Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Role
APN NCPs	Providing available glossaries, supporting quality check of the translations of EU and non-EU languages, dissemination
Interpretation focal points of a small group of EU+ countries	User representatives – providing available glossaries, communicating the user needs, consultation on various project steps
Consultative Forum	Providing available glossaries, dissemination
EUAA C1	Providing available glossaries, dissemination and consulting within EUAA operations
EUAA C3/ ARCGU/APS team	Project core team

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More stakeholders may be identified and involved during the development.

Dissemination – Post-Delivery

The glossary will be shared with relevant stakeholders, inter alia:

- The Asylum Processes Network
- EUAA Operations
- User representatives mentioned above
- Consultative Forum

Other dissemination channels such as other relevant networks and relevant EU institutions will be identified during the development based on the results of the needs assessment survey.

Costs, Effort and Funding Source

The project will be funded by EUAA in line with its mandate. Translations will be conducted by CdT through their service level agreement with EUAA. While Asylum Processes Sector of EUAA will compose the core project team, support of other centres within EUAA as well as the stakeholders mentioned above will be required.

Synergies and Interdependencies

There have been projects of several national asylum authorities as well as CSO to compile such glossaries. In addition to those, many interpreters working in asylum procedures compile their own glossaries of religion-based terms. To avoid duplication of efforts, these glossaries will be requested by National Contact Points of the APN, by CSO through the Consultative Forum of EUAA as well as by the EUAA Operations.

Creation of the religion-specific glossary will also expand and strengthen the current EUAA terminology database on asylum and reception.

The outcome will also materialise the guidance provided in the EUAA Practical Guide on Interviewing applicants with Religion-based Asylum Claims as well as in the upcoming EUAA-IGC Practical Guide on Interpretation in the Asylum Procedure.

EUAA Asylum Processes Sector

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