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# Translation Requirements

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HarmoniQuA is a project to carry out research, technological development and demonstration under the European Commission's "Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development" programme, Key Action 1 "Sustainable Management and Quality of Water", 1.1 Integrated management and sustainable use of water resources at catchment, river basin or sub-basin scale, 1.1.1 Strategic planning and integrated management methodologies and tools at catchment/river basin scale under contract EVK1-CT2001-00097.

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# 1 Introduction

The HarmoniQuA Modelling Support Tool (MoST) and its associated Knowledge Base (KB) have been developed to provide a procedural framework for modelling that is harmonised across Europe. MoST, its KB, web based training material and dissemination products have all been developed in English through the HarmoniQuA project. This short report documents the requirements for translation. The HarmoniQuA products that require translation are defined and consideration is given to the importance of their translation. The anticipated effort and method of translation of each element is considered in addition to priority languages.

## 2 Elements of HarmoniQuA and their translation

There are many elements of HarmoniQuA that could be translated.

These include:

- Modelling Support Tool (MoST) and its Knowledge Base (KB)
- Training material
- Dissemination products (including project website)

### 2.1 *The Modelling Support Tool (MoST) and its Knowledge Base (KB)*

MoST and its KB are only available in English at present. The questionnaire that was sent to professionals during 2004 to investigate their views on quality assurance and HarmoniQuA contained a question on the need for translation of MoST and its KB. Almost 100 persons completed these questionnaires and the perceived requirements for translation are presented in Table 1. The proportions of respondents who thought that translation was either *necessary* or *vital* for managers and modellers are presented.

Table 1. Perceptions of professionals on translation requirements (necessary or vital)

Country		TOTALS	
		Translation for managers (Agree/Total Response/%)	Translation for modellers (Agree/Total Response/%)
<b>Across Europe</b>		29/92/ <b>32</b>	24/91/ <b>26</b>
Partner Countries	Czech Republic	04/11/ <b>36</b>	05/11/ <b>45</b>
	Denmark	02/03/ <b>67</b>	01/03/ <b>33</b>
	France	05/11/ <b>45</b>	03/11/ <b>27</b>
	Greece	02/17/ <b>12</b>	01/17/ <b>06</b>
	Germany	06/14/ <b>43</b>	09/14/ <b>64</b>
	Hungary	03/04/ <b>75</b>	01/04/ <b>75</b>
	Netherlands	03/15/ <b>20</b>	02/15/ <b>13</b>
	Portugal	03/14/ <b>21</b>	01/14/ <b>07</b>
	Sweden	01/03/ <b>33</b>	01/03/ <b>33</b>
	United Kingdom	N/A	N/A
<b>Other Countries</b>		00/04/ <b>00</b>	01/04/ <b>25</b>

*Note: Data shaded grey relate to very small sample sizes*

Approximately one third of both managers and modellers said that translation of a quality assurance system like HarmoniQuA is either necessary or vital. However, translation appears to be more important for managers than modellers.

Responses suggest that there are higher demands for translation in some partner countries than in others. For instance, in France 45% of consulted professionals said that managers would require translation whereas the in the Netherlands the figure was just 20%. The low numbers of respondents in several countries render their results inconclusive. However, feedback from Hungarian partners has suggested that translation is extremely important.

The greater demand for translation by managers as opposed to modellers most likely relates to the level of familiarity with the English language. Through their scientific training modellers are likely to be fluent in English. The apparent difference in the need for translation between countries probably reflects national differences in familiarity with the English language.

However, translation of MoST and the KB from English into other native languages will to some extent undermine the harmonised ideology on which HarmoniQuA is based. Ensuring that mis-interpretations do not occur during translation would be very difficult. Furthermore, if several language versions of MoST and the KB exist then their updating would have to be done very carefully. Alternatively, if national versions of the KB are desired then translation and future KB maintenance would be far more manageable.

The translation of MoST and its KB has been considered by WorkPackage 2 and discussed at project meetings. It is clear that translating MoST and its KB is a significant task.

### **2.1.1 Modelling Support Tool (MoST)**

Although MoST does not contain a large amount of text its translation is complex. Text would have to be extracted from the source code and translated. This would be expensive as it would require the expertise of the source code developers at the National Technical University of Athens (Greece) and Wageningen University (Netherlands). Funds will be requested from HarmoniCA to support the translation of MoST.

### **2.1.2 Knowledge Base (KB)**

Although translation of the KB is straightforward it is a large task. The KB currently contains 1.2 Mb of text. To reduce the risk of mis-interpretations it would be necessary for the specialists who wrote the text to translate it. WP2 have considered the practicalities of translating the KB. They have suggested that it may be possible to translate it using two side by side computer editor windows. One of the windows would contain the English KB and translated text would be input to the other. It is likely that partners will translate the KB into their own language after the HarmoniQuA project with national funds.

## **2.2 Training Material**

The designers of HarmoniQuA training courses should translate training material wherever possible. Feedback from its testing on students in Greece identified the language as being a problem for many students. This was partly overcome by the trainer delivering presentations in the native language. It would be far less distracting for students to learn about MoST in their own language.

The training material could be translated relatively easily by partners with national funding. Power point presentations and other text is straight forward to translate. Computer screen movies can also be translated by adding a new voice recording to current movies. Voice recordings may be done at Wageningen University (Netherlands).

## **2.3 Dissemination Products (including Public Website)**

This should both be translated into national languages to ensure its effectiveness. Scientists are likely to have a good understanding of the English language but many stakeholders (including the wider public) may find it difficult. We should try to make the understanding of our dissemination products as easy as possible for all interested persons.

Project partners have invested significant resources in translating the various dissemination products. Project newsletters have been translated into French, Dutch and Portuguese. The Hungarian partners have produced a Hungarian poster and flyer. In addition, most partners have now published articles in professional newsletters in their native language.

Dissemination products produced beyond the end of the HarmoniQuA project should be translated into national languages where resources permit. Their translation is relatively straight forward (with the exception of the project website) and should be undertaken by project partners speaking the native language. However, translation of

the project website would involve a significant effort to translate current material and maintain it into the future. It would necessitate significant financial support with native language speaking web developers. It is unlikely that a continuation project of HarmoniQuA would be able to support the translation of the project web site.

### 3 Languages

Guidance documents such as the Common Implementation Strategy are produced by the EC in English and it is the responsibility of national agencies to translate them where necessary. However, to enable easy access and encourage the wide use of HarmoniQuA products by a diverse audience throughout Europe it may be necessary to consider their translation into any of the 21 official languages of the European Union. The official languages are (see EEC Council Regulation 1) given in Table 2.

Table 2: Official languages of the European Union.

Czech	German	Maltese
Danish	Greek	Polish
Dutch	Hungarian	Portuguese
English	Irish (from January 2007 with derogation)	Slovak
Estonian	Italian	Slovene
Finnish	Latvian	Spanish
French	Lithuanian	Swedish

As a priority, HarmoniQuA products should be translated into project partner languages. However, with limited resources it may be advisable to translate HarmoniQuA products into the three official working languages of the EEC (English, French and German). With no additional resources, most HarmoniQuA products will remain in English.

### 4 Conclusions

There is a clear need to translate the MoST, KB, training material and dissemination products into partner languages to facilitate their effective dissemination and maximise their adoption. However, a single language version of the KB is preferable. Consultation of potential users indicated that translation requirements varied between countries and user types. It is clear that modellers, with scientific training, are usually familiar with the English language but this is often not the case for stakeholders. Therefore, translating material specific to stakeholders is likely to be a priority.

The translation of MoST and its KB is likely to be essential to the future adoption of MoST in many partner countries. As the translation of MoST requires expertise in dealing with source code funds are being sought for a single initiative to undertake this task for all partner languages. The project team will seek support from HarmoniCA for this task. Once this has been done partners will be able to translate the KB, with independent funding, using the web based knowledge editor (possibly a tailored version).



If MoST and the KB are translated then this should be done extremely carefully to ensure mis-interpretations do not occur. Furthermore, as the KB is not a static product but one which should evolve with use, appropriate simultaneous updating needs to be carried out in all language versions to maintain the harmonised approach. This is a major drawback to having several language versions of a harmonised KB. Therefore, translations should only be considered when MoST and the KB are in a very mature state.

The translation of training material and dissemination products is also important but would need to be undertaken by partners with their own funding sources (in the same way as the translation of the KB).

The translation (with associated maintenance) of HarmoniQuA products into any of the European languages should be considered although funds would be needed. As opposed to national versions the maintenance of harmonised HarmoniQuA products would be a significant task.