



Terminological activities at the Translation Centre for the Bodies of the European Union

Thierry Fontenelle

Symposium on Terminology

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CENTRE DE TRADUCTION DES ORGANES DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE

1 rue du Fort Thüngen • L-1499 LUXEMBOURG • Tél. : 352/ 42 17 11 1 • Fax : 352/ 42 17 11 220 • cdt@cdt.europa.eu



Fast facts

What is a Community agency?

- It is a body governed by European public law.
- It is distinct from the Community institutions (Council, Parliament, Commission, etc.).
- It has its own legal personality.
- It is set up by a Community act of secondary legislation in order to accomplish a very specific technical, scientific or managerial task.



History

- The first agencies (Cedefop, Eurofound) date from the seventies.
- They were created in response to a desire for geographical devolution and the need to cope with new tasks of a technical and/or scientific nature.
- The majority of the agencies, among which the Translation Centre, began their activities in 1994 or 1995.

The Translation Centre's stakeholders



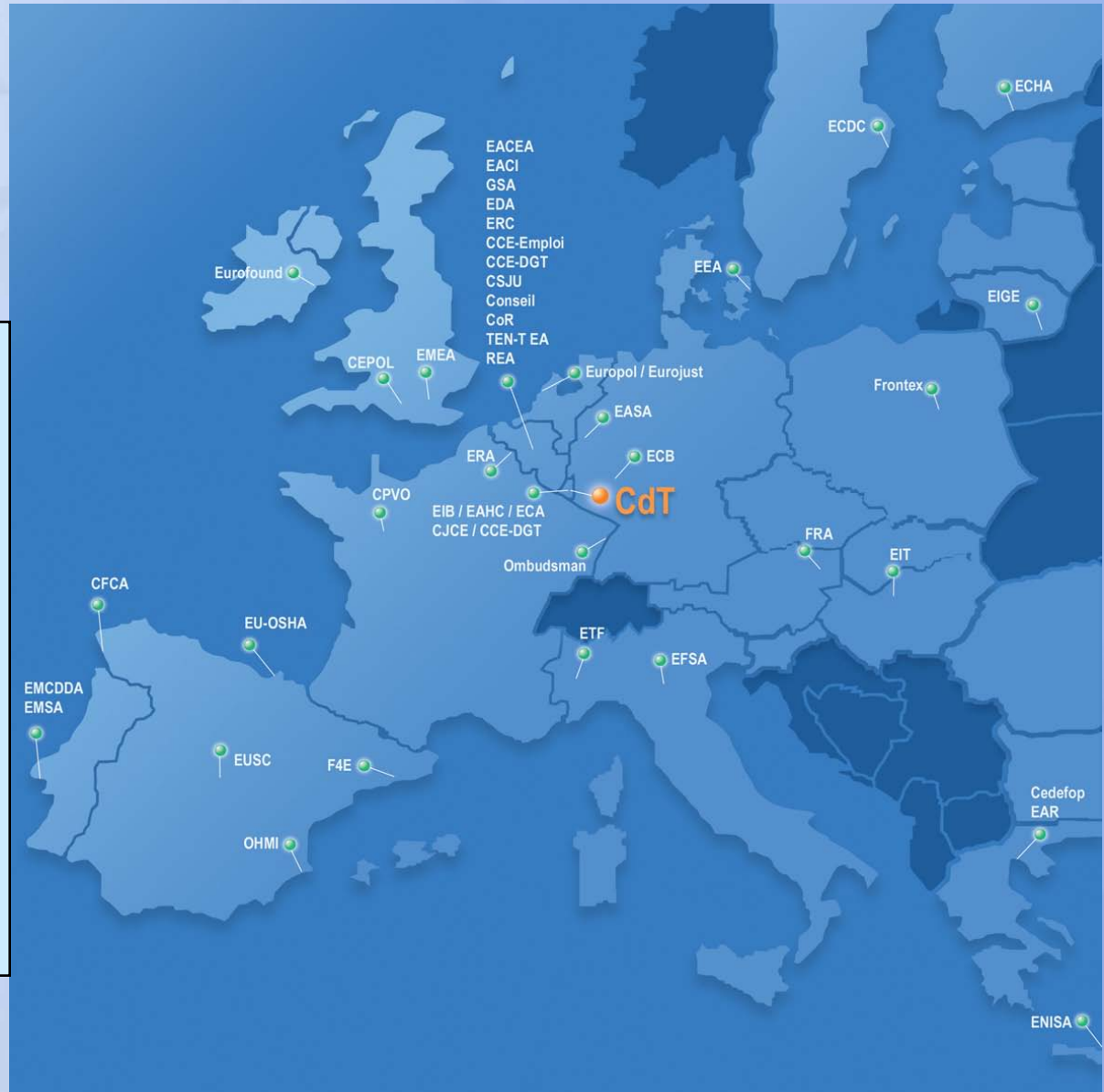
At present,

the Translation Centre has

cooperation agreements

with 47 EU institutions

and bodies





A few facts about the Translation Centre

- 🖥️ 736 008 pages translated in 2009
- 🖥️ 409 788 pages externalized in 2009
- 🖥️ 1 254 788 pages outsourced in 16 years
- 🖥️ Languages
 - 23 official EU languages
 - Icelandic, Norwegian (EEA/EFTA)
 - Arabic, Russian, Turkish, Croatian, Serbian
 - Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, etc.
- 🖥️ Team made up of eight people



A special case: Community Trademarks

Hair cream, hair lotion, hair oil, hair pomade, hair gel, hair treatment, hair lighteners, facial cream, cold cream, tonic, body lotion, body cream, pearl cream, perfume, perfumed oil, fragrant cream, flower essence, cologne, eau de toilette, lotion, rough and face powder, powder paste, powder cream, liquid powder cream, powder make-up, toilet powder, setting powder, blusher, rouge, lipstick, lip protecting oil, vanished cream, massage cream, peel-off mask, cleaning cream, cleaning milk, hand cream, hand lotion, eye-shadow cream, eye-shadow pencil, eye-liner cream, eye-liner pencil, eyelash grower, mascara, eye make-up cleaning cream, sunscreen oil, sun screen cream, anti-wrinkle cream, skin cream, scrub cream, fragrant lotion for shower, shower lotion, fingernail polish, talcum powder, baby powder, shaving lotion, pre-shaving lotion, after-shaving lotion, shaving cream, shaving foam, hair spray, deodorant, eyebrow pencil, false eyelashes, artificial fingernails, nail polish remover, swabs for cosmetic purposes, setting lotion, hair dye



 **IATE** = “Inter-Active Terminology for Europe”: <http://iate.europa.eu>

- **Objective:** the creation of an interactive terminology database system that allows the consultation, the creation and the joint management of terminological data.
- **Project partners:** European Commission, Council, Parliament, Court of Auditors, European Economic and Social Committee/Committee of the Regions, Translation Centre, SCIC
- **Observers:** Court of Justice, European Investment Bank, ECB.
- The development phase started in January **2000**. IATE has been operational since summer **2004**, and was opened to the public on **28 June 2007**.





redshift

Rechercher

en > en fr nl (Domaine: N'importe quel domaine, Type de recherche: Tous)

Résultats 1- 2 sur 2 pour redshift

Sciences naturelles et appliquées [COM]

[Entrée
entière](#)

gravitational red shift

★★★★+@

EN GRS

★★★★



gravitational redshift

★★★★+@

FR décalage gravitationnel vers le rouge

★★★★+@

NL gravitatieverschuiving naar het rood

★★★★+@

Electronique et électrotechnique [COM]

[Entrée
entière](#)

red shift

★★★★+@



EN Hubble effect

★★★★+@



redshift

★★★★+@



FR décalage vers le rouge

★★★★+@



NL verschuiving naar het rood

★★★★+@



français (fr) ▼

[Ecran de recherche](#) [Aide](#)

[Retourner aux résultats](#)

[Commentaire](#) 

Domaine Electronique et électrotechnique

fr

Définition décalage du spectre d'un objet vers les plus grandes longueurs d'onde

Réf. de la définition CCIR Rap 439-2

Terme décalage vers le rouge

Fiabilité 3 (fiable)

Réf. du terme CCIR Rap 439-2;DF:La Recherche,mai 1999

Date 24/09/2003

Source: COM

IATE ID: 1610054



français (fr) ▼

[Ecran de recherche](#) [Aide](#)

Mexican flu

Rechercher

en > en fr nl (Domaine: N'importe quel domaine, Type de recherche: Tous)

Résultats 1- 2 sur 2 pour Mexican flu

Sciences médicales [COM]

[Entrée
entière](#)

	novel influenza virus A(H1N1)	★★★★	Ⓜ
	Mexican influenza virus (Deprecated)	★★★★	Ⓜ
EN	influenza A(H1N1)v virus (Preferred)	★★★★	Ⓜ
	swine influenza virus A(H1N1) (Deprecated)	★★★★	
	novel influenza virus	★★★★	
	novel flu virus	★★★★	
	nouveau virus de la grippe	★★★★	Ⓜ
	virus A(H1N1) de la grippe porcine (Deprecated)	★★★★	Ⓜ
FR	virus grippal A(H1N1)	★★★★	Ⓜ
	virus de la grippe mexicaine (Deprecated)	★★★★	Ⓜ
	nouveau virus de la grippe A(H1N1)	★★★★	Ⓜ

Réf. du terme: • European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control > Outbreak of novel influenza virus A(H1N1), http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/Health_topics/novel_influenza_virus/2009_Outbreak/ (30. 4. 2009)
• Decision 2009/363/EC amending Decision 2002/253/EC laying down case definitions for reporting communicable diseases to the Community network under Decision No 2119/98/EC, <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:110:0058:0059:EN:PDF>



IATE

- Addresses issues that EU institutions face in their daily work
 - Need to have a single point of access to all relevant terminology
 - Wish to share and jointly manage terminology
- Pre-IATE: repository of terminological « raw » material and of ad hoc terminology
- 2 Web services:
 - Looking up words in IATE from MS Word
 - Adding terms to IATE directly from MS Word



IATE: web services (macro)

Add entry to preIATE

IATE InterActive Terminology for Europe

Add an entry to PreIATE User ID : 118824

Mandatory Fields	Optional Fields
<p>Source language</p> <p>Source term: <input type="text" value="Community plant variety office"/></p> <p>Source language: <input type="text" value="en"/></p>	<p>Source Language</p> <p>Source term reference: <input type="text" value="CPVO_2009_00260000_EN_ORI.doc"/></p> <p>Source term note: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Source language definition: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Source term context: <input type="text" value="The Community plant variety office (CPVO) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 19 February 2009 which was"/></p>
<p>Target language</p> <p>Target term: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Target language: <input type="text" value="es"/></p>	<p>Target language</p> <p>Target term reference: <input type="text" value="CPVO_2009_00260000_EN_ORI.doc"/></p> <p>Target term note: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Target language definition: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Target term context: <input type="text"/></p>
<p>Term type: <input type="text" value="Term"/></p> <p>Domain: <input type="text" value="Select a domain"/> <input type="button" value="Find domain"/></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Confidential</p>



IATE in figures (end 2009)

Language	Number of terms
bg-Bulgarian	13 601
cs-Czech	27 148
da-Danish	603 581
de-German	1 035 262
el-Greek	519 131
en-English	1 437 114
es-Spanish	613 658
et-Estonian	22 247
fi-Finnish	325 246
fr-French	1 343 957
ga-Irish	25 437
hu-Hungarian	33 088

Language	Number of terms
it-Italian	704 965
lt-Lithuanian	36 903
lv-Latvian	19 555
mt-Maltese	12 540
nl-Dutch	695 335
pl-Polish	25 431
pt-Portuguese	527 850
ro-Romanian	15 234
sk-Slovak	24 059
sl-Slovenian	25 002
sv-Swedish	312 108
la-Latin	62 958



Plus terms in some 100 non-EU languages



Some 250 terms added each day

The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly



- IATE is a vast (8.5 million terms), reliable, multilingual database;
- Its public site serves about 270.000 queries a day. (+70 million queries in 2009)
- Queries from 170 different countries
- 6.2 million queries submitted to internal IATE in 2009



- But: IATE contains duplicates;
- Some information is missing; some is not as accurate as it should be;



- Not all the terminology is pertinent and up to high quality standards.

• **How “perfect” should IATE be?**



•Missing Information



•Cause:

- History of EU enlargements
- Some information is not (no longer) needed

•Consequences:

- Limited multilingualism
- Incomplete/erroneous meta information makes it harder to find things
- Frustrated users, the idea that “you never find anything”.



-
- ^{CdT}Difficulty to manage terminology.

Terminology in the EU in 1999



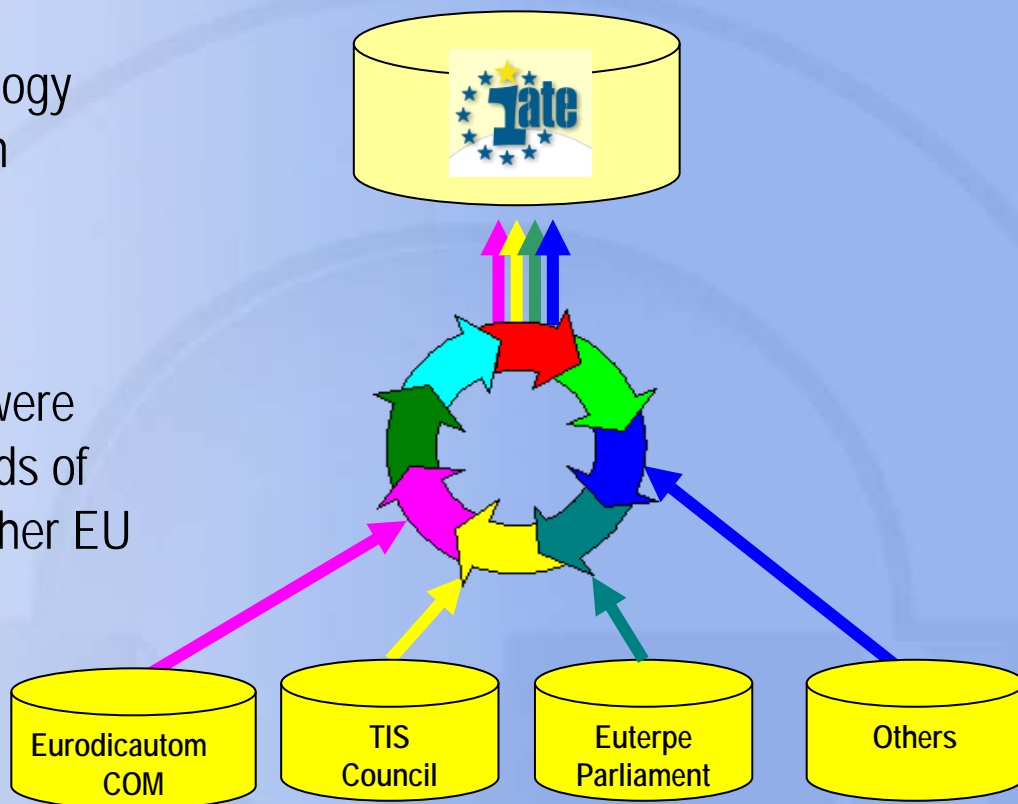
- Some services, like the European Commission and the Council, had implemented terminology databases of their own; they didn't choose "of the shelf" products, but developed new systems that suited their needs and working methods (Eurodicautom, TIS).
- Others, like the European Parliament and the Translation Centre used market products and adapted them to their needs, i.e. by defining data structures that reflected their requirements (EuroTerms, Euterpe)
- Many smaller services didn't have any formal terminology arrangements, i.e. translators would use bi-lingual WORD or EXCEL files to record terminology they found helpful.



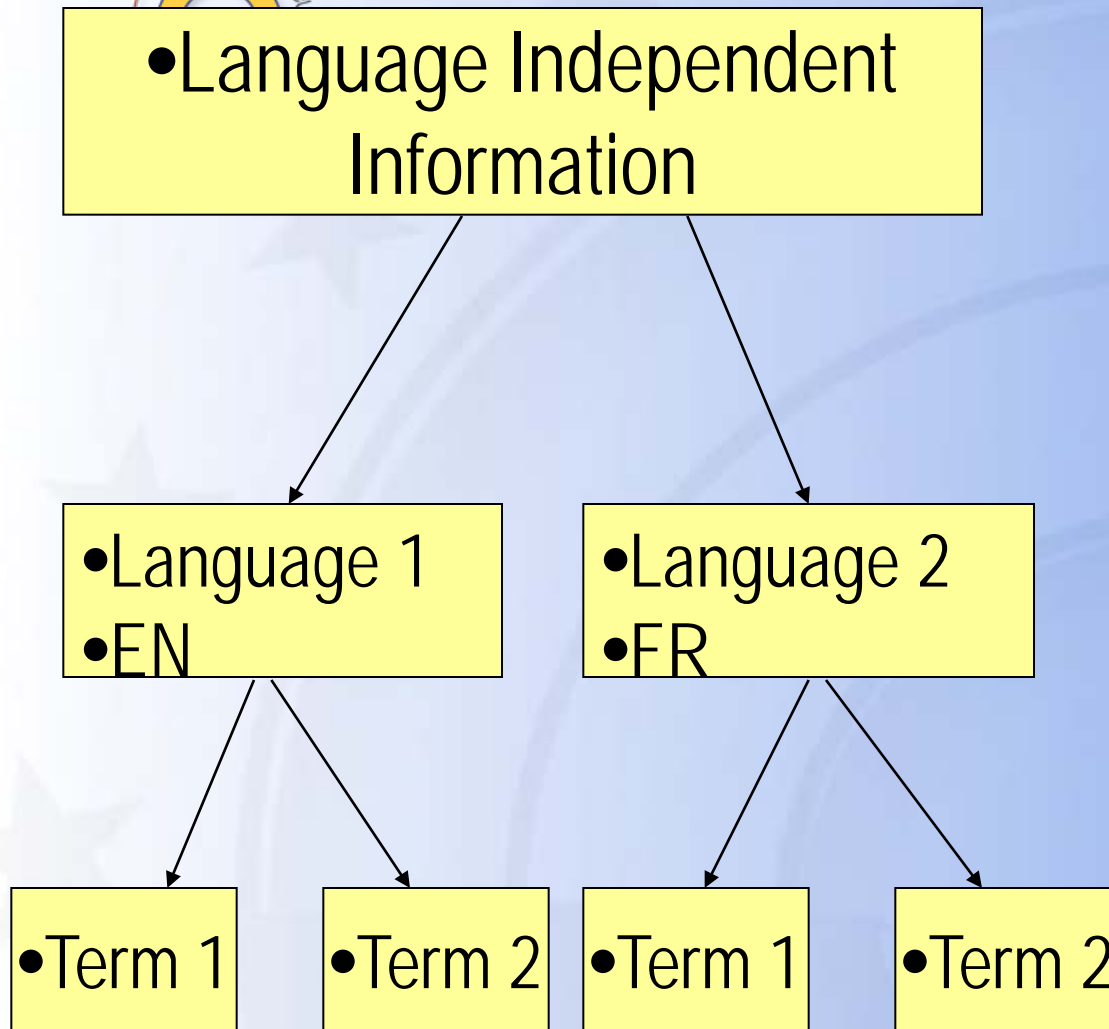
IATE in a nutshell

IATE merged all existing terminology collections of the EU's translation services into a single database

Several user-friendly interfaces were implemented to cater for the needs of translators, terminologists and other EU staff.



IATE Data Structure



- E.g. domain, domain note, origin, problem language, cross reference ...

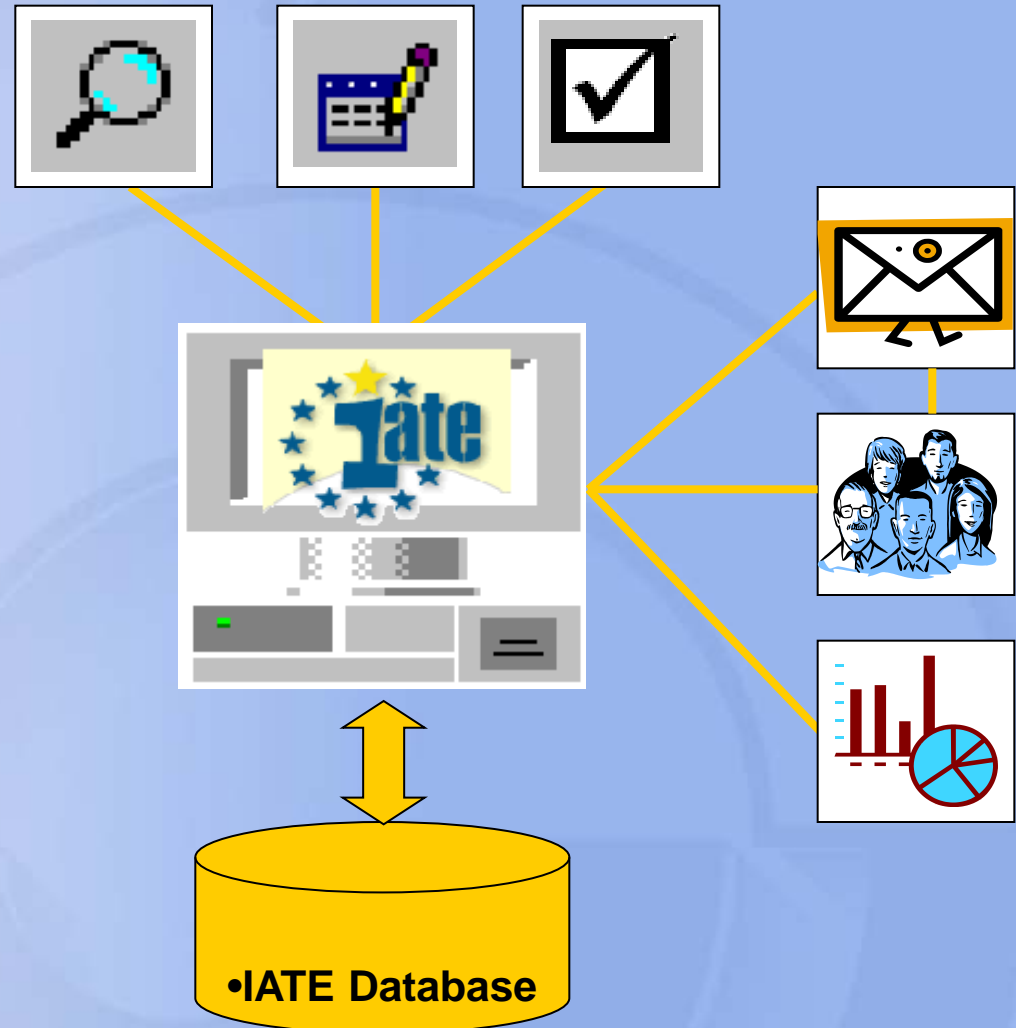
- E.g. definition, comment...

- E.g. term, term type, context, grammatical information...

• IATE as a collaborative workspace



- On-line search
- On-line data editing
- Validation system
- Communication mechanisms
- User management
- Statistics



Terminology Workflow: From IATE to IATE Public



• Add



• Modify



• Validate



•Intern



•Publish

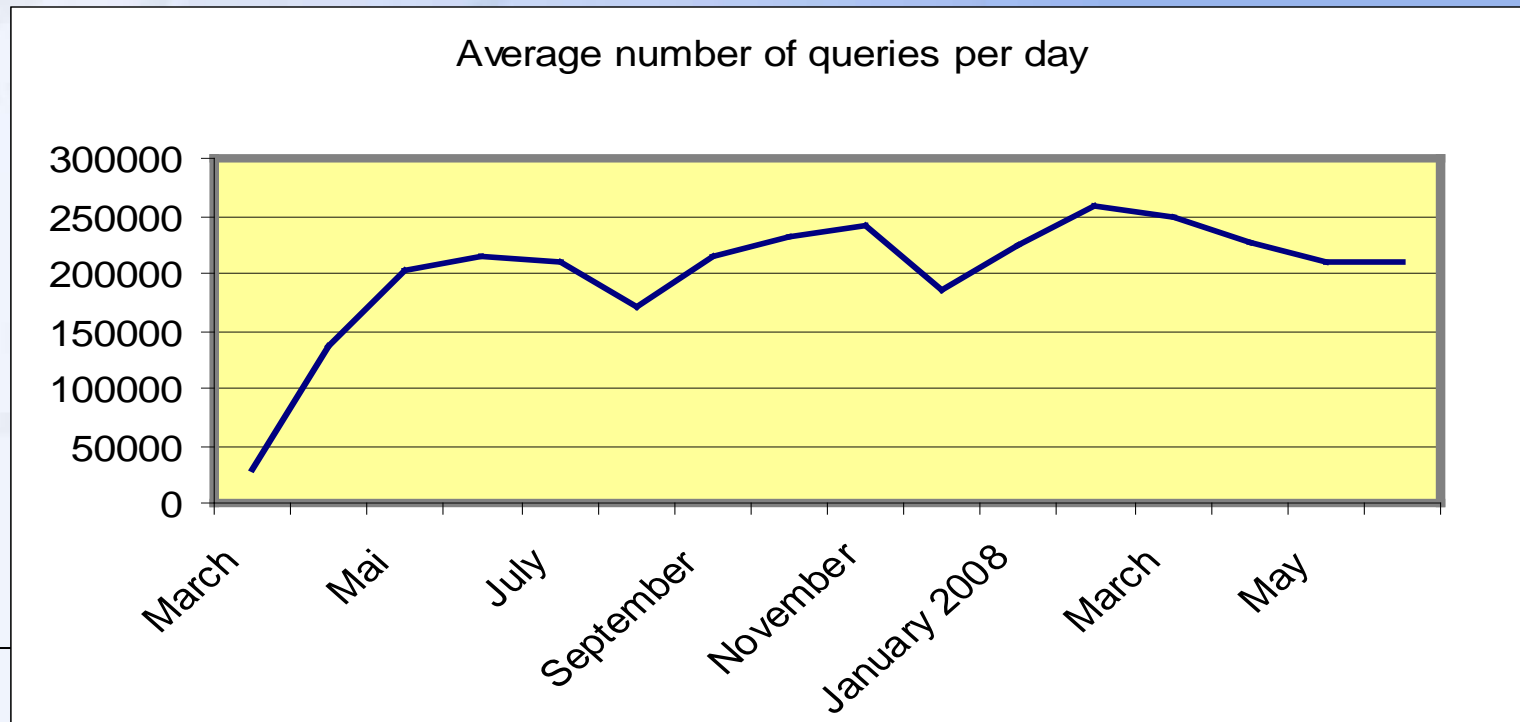


•<http://iate.europa.eu>

• Is IATE Public actually used?



- The average number of queries submitted per working day reached about 250.000 in February/March 2008
- With **304.034** the highest number of queries for one day was recorded on 16 April 2008
- 70 million queries in 2009 from 170 countries





Euroterminology

- Term and phraseology creation occurs during the translation process
- Is linked to the legislative procedure
- Translations are language versions with binding effect
- Term creation happens at supranational (EU) and national levels



Terminological projects at the Translation Centre

- The Translation Centre prepares glossaries for EU Agencies based on terminology coming from EU legislation and terminology prepared by National Focal Points
- E.g. Project with ECHA (European Chemicals Agency)
 - Development of platform containing ECHA terminology
 - Extraction of new source terms from ECHA documents
 - Validation by ECHA
 - Multilingual glossary: 22 languages



Using IATE in the translation workflow: Challenges

- ❏ Translators often do not know that a string (word, multi-word expression) is a term included in IATE which they could look up
- ❏ Issues and challenges:
 - Silence vs noise
 - Poor response times if too many terms in term db
 - Silence: terms are stored in their canonical form
 - In texts, terms are frequently inflected
 - Affix stripping is only a partial solution (for EN; not for morphological richer languages)



Questions?