DEVELOPING AND PROVIDING MULTILINGUAL THESAURUS IN A WEB APPLICATION

András Förhécz, fand_lev@freemail.hu
Tamás Mészáros, meszaros@mit.bme.hu
BME Department of Measurement and Information Systems

In the European Union citizens are welcome to study or work abroad. In recent years EU institutions have developed tools to establish the transparency of qualifications, like the Europass CV.[1] But all these suffer from the same weakness: the core concepts of these tools—terms for skills and competencies—are neither standardised nor internationally compatible, thus they can only offer limited support.

The DISCO international project[2] intends to fill this gap by providing a terminological support for these tools, that will be publicly available and accessible to non-experts and experts alike. A multilingual thesaurus is developed on the basis of already available national collections in the domain of skills and competencies. These are integrated into one unified English language thesaurus, which is translated to all other languages (including Hungarian).

Full integration can be achieved with thesaurus merging: construction of a common thesaurus with all concepts involved, and translated to all of the languages. As the integration process is accomplished by an international consortium, traditional centralized methods for thesaurus building can not be applied. We have developed a web-based thesaurus review system supporting collaboration during the merging process. The review system imports data from a thesaurus development tool tracking changes in the thesaurus and users can discuss changes made by the responsible partner.

The produced multilingual thesaurus can be accessed through an on-line translation tool for skills and competencies, the DISCO Online Tool. This tool is a database-driven web application providing services based on the thesaurus through multiple interfaces. A public web portal[3] is being developed for querying, browsing and automatic translation of qualifications. Users can combine skills into a competency profile for inclusion into their Curriculum Vitae. The portal will provide web services to European transparency tools, so portals like Europass CV can access the common terminology of skills and competencies integrated into their own web architecture.

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[1] The Europass Curriculum Vitae, URL: http://europass.cedefop.eu.int/
[2] European Dictionary on Skills and Competencies, URL: http://disco.youtrain.net/
[3] DISCO Portal, URL: http://disco.mit.bme.hu/