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From:	Publications Office of the European Union
To:	Working Party on e-Law (e-Law)
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Subject:	EUROVOC
	- State of play

EuroVoc is a multidisciplinary thesaurus available in 26 languages and classified according to the EU policies and fields of activities, available through the EuroVoc website (http://eurovoc.europa.eu) and for downloading from the European Union Open Data Portal (http://open-data.europa.eu/en/data/).

1.   EuroVoc dissemination system - Statistics

For the previous 12 months (November 2015 – October 2016) the monthly average number of visits amounted to 26 211 and the monthly average number of unique visitors to 15 981. This represents a slight increase in number of visits (+2.38 %) and visitors (+1.07%) in comparison with the average monthly statistics for the period November 2014 – October 2015.

2. EuroVoc maintenance activities

The new release EuroVoc (4.5) was published on 30 June 2016 with 38 new concepts[1] and which make a total of 7 083 multilingual concepts.

The EuroVoc Committee (GIL-subgroup EuroVoc) met on 21 September 2016 in Luxembourg to review the proposed concepts and discuss the re-indexing policy. The members of the group emphasized the need to define a clear content policy for EuroVoc. The Publications Office will prepare a document defining the coverage, the acceptance criteria's for new concept as well as the granularity. This document will be submitted to the EuroVoc Committee for validation.

3. Status of the collaboration and integration with other thesauri

The Publications Office continues its federating activities in order to enforce interoperability and to avoid duplication of efforts in the domain of thesaurus maintenance and dissemination across the EU institutions and agencies and other international bodies.

In July 2016, the Publications Office published an alignment between the thesaurus for Gender Equality (EIGE – Institute for Gender Equality) and EuroVoc. On 8 November 2016, the Publications Office attended the Taxonomy Workshop about the coordination of Gender Resources in Brussels.

Two other alignments are in preparation between EuroVoc and the Thesaurus for Economics (Leibnitz Information Centre for Economics) and EuroVoc and the Unesco Thesaurus.

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[1] A concept is a building block of the thesaurus described by multilingual labels. Each concept is represented by a semantic group of labels in a given language and is identified by a unique identifier (URI).

For example, the concept 'transposition field' (in English) is identified by the unique URI http://eurovoc.europa.eu/c_70c441cc and contains its related labels in the selected language.

4. Recent developments

4.1. Enriched ontology for EuroVoc, Metadata Registry (MDR) and EU reference data

The development of a new common website for EuroVoc, the Metadata Registry and other EU reference data produced by the institutions and bodies as well as services for indexing and information retrieval with those controlled vocabularies will start in March 2017. The website will be operational by the end of 2017.

A preliminary prototype of the website has been delivered at the beginning of September 2016. This prototype consists of a limited number of web pages for both EuroVoc and the Metadata Registry that will enable to validate the content retrieval and display.

4.2. EuroVoc production system

The Vocbench 3.0 project, financed by the ISA² programme, started on 26 September 2016. The project consists of the further development a new major version of Vocbench. Vocbench 3.0 will offer a ready solution for the management, alignment and publication of controlled vocabularies as linked data, thus facilitating for public administrations to maintain and publish their controlled vocabularies in an open and interoperable way. The development consists of two phases with a first delivery planned by the end of December 2016 and the final one by the end of July 2017.

A presentation of the prototype was organised jointly by the Publications Office and the University of Rome Tor Vergata on 22nd November 2016 at the 10th International Conference on Metadata and Semantics Research Conference in Göttingen (Germany).

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