



DELIVERABLE

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Project title: Advancing the Multilingual Web, Thematic Network

D02.2 First F2F Report

Revision: 1.0

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PROJECT DELIVERABLE REPORT

Project	
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This report describes the kickoff meeting of MultilingualWeb, a thematic network promoting best practices in language-friendly and localisation-friendly authoring and development of Web sites, Web services and online content.

The list of participants is included herein. All funded partners except for one (Opera Software) were present, while some were represented by two or three people. The European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, an unfunded partner, was also represented. The second non-funded partner, The Localization Industry Standards Association (LISA), is not expected to attend meetings.

The overall tone of the meeting was very positive, open and enthusiastic. More volunteers signed up for the various (unfunded) tasks than what was actually needed.

Overview of discussions

A significant part of the first day was spent on round robin presentations of the 19 (present) partners' activities, expectations and perceived role and contribution in the project. The consortium represents a balanced mix of competences and exposure in following areas: Web technologies, software engineering, Web governance and standardisation, language technologies, language resources, linguistics, social media.

This was followed by an introduction to the W3C by the Network Coordinator (NCO).

There followed a discussion of the expectations of the partners around impacts of the project lead by the NCO, a review of financials by the Administrative and Financial Coordinator (AFC), and some context and scene setting by the European Commission' Project Officer.

Discussion about workshops

All four workshops were discussed and program committees nominated. The first workshop was discussed in more detail. There was a brainstorming on the scope, content, possible topics and format. It was agreed that the first workshop should be broader, strategic and appealing to attract a wide audience (in particular actual practitioners, private sector, stakeholders). The second and third workshops are more topical and focused, with smaller participation (around 40 attendees) and more discussion-based. The final workshop should again be broader and future-oriented.

It was agreed to move the third workshop to Limerick and move the second FTF meeting to Oviedo.

Communication channels and tools

For the activities between and around the plenary gatherings best use should be made of on-line/social media. Different media are adapted for different purposes (e.g., web site for uni-directional communication, Facebook for social networking and harvesting informal input and opinions, Twitter and RSS feeds for brief announcements/news). By the time of the kickoff meeting, the following have been set up and test-used:

- project web site www.multilingualweb.eu, including a blog section
- project mailbox and (internal) mailing list
- Facebook group "MLW (Multilingual Web)"
- a collaborative wiki workspace (internal)
- a twitter channel, @multilingweb
- RSS feed account
- IRC channel for chatting (internal)

Partners provided various suggestions for improving the <http://multilingualweb.eu> site.

Many partners volunteered to translate some of the public online content. Microsoft will investigate how to plug in its MT system to translate dynamic content. In general, the various online media was seen as a testbed and showcase for the skills, products and services of the partners, but also for the web standards and best practices.

Internationalization checker

In the morning of the 2nd day, Richard Ishida presented the functionality of the W3C internationalization checker tool and attendees gave suggestions for its improvement. Volunteers were recruited to do further testing of the checker tool. W3C will continue to develop and maintain the checker.

Other 'practical items'

After the discussion about the internationalization checker there was brainstorming about the ideas of creating an i18n curriculum and contribution of tests to the W3C internationalization test suite. As per the internationalization checker, neither of these items are deliverables of or funded by the project, but this type of discussion is built into the project.

There was enthusiasm amongst several members of the group to set up a task force to look into the idea of a curriculum in more detail. EC-DGT agreed to coordinate activity.

Detailed IRC minutes

A tidied version of these can be found at the following links:

<http://www.w3.org/2010/06/01-mlw-minutes>

<http://www.w3.org/2010/06/02-mlw-minutes>

They are publicly visible, but not announced widely.

List of attendees

Organisation	People	Areas of expertise	Country
ERCIM/W3C (coordinator)	Richard Ishida, Céline Bitoune	WWW Standards EU Project Management	France
Aalto- Korkeakoulusaatio	Timo Honkela	MT, Text mining, Machine learning	Finland
Biolum Group	Jörg Schütz	Semantic technologies, Machine learning, LT	Germany
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche	Nicoletta Calzolari, Monica Monachini, Andrea Marchetti	Language resources and technologies, FlaReNet	Italy
EC-DGT	Tomás Carrasco Benitez	Institutional translation services	Luxembourg
Facebook Ireland	Chiara Pacella	Social networking, Localization	Ireland
Fachhochschule Potsdam	Felix Sasaki	Information sciences, Digital libraries	Germany
Institut Jozef Stefan	Tadej Štajner	Machine learning, Data mining	Slovenia
RACAI	Dan Tufis, Radu Ion, Angela Ionita	Computational linguistics, Multilingual web services	Romania
Language Technology	Adriane Rinsche,	Translation tools, Language	U.K.

Centre Ltd.		services	
Lionbridge Belgium	Claudio Chiavetta, Eric Blassin	Language services, Translation tools	Belgium
Microsoft Ireland	Dag Schmidtke, Jan Nelson	Localization, localization tools, Browser development	Ireland
SAP AG	Christian Lieske	Translation services, Content engineering	Germany
TAUS	Rahzeb Choudhury	Translation technologies and services user community	Netherlands
University of Oviedo (ILTO)	Cristina Valdés Rodríguez	ML web technologies , multilingualism, usability, translation research	Spain
Uni Politécnica de Madrid	Luis Bellido Triana	Multilinguism, Accessibility, Usability	Spain
University of Limerick, LRC	Reinhard Schäler	Localization research and education	Ireland
University of Economics, Prague	Jiří Kosek	Markup, Electronic publishing Systems	Czech Republic
Transware Ltd (WeLocalize)	David Clarke	Language services, Globalization consulting	Ireland
XML-INTL	Andrzej Zydrón	Open standards-based translation technology	U.K.

The delegate from Opera Software was not able to attend.

Outcomes

The code and user interface have been updated and various bugs fixed since the discussion in Bucharest. Additional tests have also been added.

Next steps:

1. Announce the basic parameters of the 1st workshop on the project website. The programme committee (PC1) will meet by phone conference and outline a programme, speakers etc.
2. Populate and develop further the newly created project website, the project Facebook page, Twitter and RSS channels and wiki workspace.
3. Check with W3C about creation of project logo and poster.
4. Facebook to propose options for access rights to the Facebook pageCode rewrite now enables information to be externalised from the checker in XML form. The prime target for this functionality at the moment is to incorporate the results into the W3C's Unicorn validator, which groups results from various checkers, such as HTML, CSS, MobileOK, etc.
5. Pisa partner to propose a date for the Pisa workshop.
6. Coordinator to start the process for establishing a date for the next workshop.
7. CNR to propose a date for the following workshop.
8. Coordinator to create a way for partners to access mail addresses and other contact information for each other
9. XML INTL to set up a page on Wikipedia about the project.
10. DG Translation to coordinate a subgroup working on an i18n curriculum definition.
11. Coordinator to investigate possible use of machine translation technologies for pages on the website – especially useful for dynamic parts of the site, such as news items and blogs, and for non-translated content, such as CFP and reports.
12. Coordinator to implement various proposals for improvement of project web site.

Agreements:

1. Swap the location of the 2nd FTF and the 3rd Workshop, so that the workshop is held in Limerick and the FTF in Oviedo.
2. The project website should be multilingual, as should the i18n checker. Various partners offered assistance to achieve this.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Author	Organisation	Description
0.1	11/05/11	R.Ishida	W3C	Initial draft
0.2	12/05/11	J.Michel	ERCIM	Edits
1.0	20/05/11	J.Michel	ERCIM	Reviewed by MLW TN, prepared for submission