Introducing the Dutch Terminology Service Centre:
a centre of expertise on practical terminology work

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1. About us

The *Dutch Terminology Service Centre* (DTSC, *Steunpunt Nederlandstalige Terminologie*) was founded in 2007 by the Dutch Language Union, a Dutch-Flemish government institution. The DTSC functions as a non-commercial information center for all aspects of terminology and serves the entire Dutch-speaking community. We give advice on terminological research to anyone who is involved in terminology-related work (companies, organizations, translators, terminologists, teachers, scientists etc).

On behalf of the *Dutch Language Union* (*Nederlandse Taalunie*), the DTSC maintains the website *NedTerm* (www.nedterm.org). *NedTerm* provides information on terminology activities and also includes a bibliography of terminological works, an overview of terminology training courses in the Netherlands and in Flanders, and information on standardisation issues. We are particularly keen on providing practical information on and links to on-line resources (terminological databases, information platforms) as well as promoting various language tools (esp. open source) which can be used for terminology work.

Besides updating the website *NedTerm*, the DTSC organizes terminology trainings and workshops for translators as well as master classes for scientists and language experts on different subjects related to terminological research. Apart from organizing in-depth study days, we are also offering practical solutions to our targeted group. An example is the development of web courses for terminology management. The courses *ad hoc terminology* and *systematic terminology management* both aimed at translators, translation agencies, terminologists, language professionals and master students can be soon found on our website.

2. Web course: *ad hoc terminology*

Last year, the DTSC worked out a methodology for *ad hoc terminology* aimed at the practice of translation. Our starting point was that translators have no more than 10 minutes to spend on finding a translation for an unknown term. The aim of the course was to set-up a short, straightforward web training which can enable translators to find a quick solution to their translation problems. We suggested a scheme of five compulsory steps and a sixth optional one. A first version of this course has already been used succesfully at several academic courses on translation in the Netherlands.

3. Web course: *systematic terminology management*

Our second course, *systematic terminology management* (soon online!) aims at a more elaborate and systematic treatment of specialised language. This course covers a variety of subjects from the initial phase of getting to know a specialised field to the process of terminology extraction; from designing a data model to creating and updating the terminological database. The two methods can be used in a complementary fashion.

4. The presentation

In our poster presentation, we will provide information about ourselves, our ideas on practical terminology and the way we want to achieve our goals. Of course the participants are invited to have a critical look at the web courses (which will be running on a couple of computers during the presentation) and our printed materials translated to English such as our newsletter, our information leaflets and our 'Terminology on a beer mat'.