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Institution Name
University of Vienna



Country
Austria



Research Area
Translation Studies



Thematic Focus
Crisis Translation



Stakeholders involved
Researchers, humanitarian organisations



Research Phase
In preparation

RESEARCH ASSET

Facilitating multilingual crisis communication in international disaster relief settings

The funding of research on crisis translation within the Horizon 2020 agenda (cf. INTERACT – The International Network in Crisis Translation) shows a growing recognition of translation and interpreting (T&I) as vital components of crisis communication; however, reports on policy gaps and insufficient provision of linguistic support in disasters and crises indicate that more research on the role of T&I and, in particular, on implementations of language technologies is needed.

With the increasing adoption of machine translation (MT) among professional translators and the general public, researchers have begun to investigate the use of post-editing machine translation (PEMT) in disaster and crisis settings. In this context, it has been suggested that PEMT can increase productivity and maintain acceptable quality – even for translations between low-resource language combinations when suitable MT engines are available.

In international disaster relief settings, the need for accurate translations is often coupled with time pressure and a lack of language professionals. As a result, disaster

relief responders often rely on MT and PEMT for their translation needs. Given the challenges associated with MT, e.g. its lack of accuracy, this context calls for careful practical and ethical design and implementation of PEMT workflows, particularly in light of recent discussions on the notion of machine translation literacy.

As a result, my personal valorisation project has two goals: awareness raising and resource sharing. By creating a platform for research, resources and training materials regarding crisis translation along with a series of bite-sized, animated videos for Social Media, I want to train and educate disaster relief responders and the general public in translation and the most efficient use of language technologies. Ultimately, this is how I hope to help facilitate multilingual crisis communication and mitigate the impact of future disasters and crises.

POTENTIAL VALORISATION AREAS

- **Joint research projects** with The International Network on Crisis Translation
- **Collaboration** with non-governmental organisations engaged in international disaster relief
- **Consulting** governmental partners on the need for better crisis translation policies



This project is how I hope to help facilitate multilingual crisis communication and mitigate the impact of future disasters and crises.

DESCRIPTION OF VALORISATION ACTIVITY

Two Goals: Awareness Raising and Resource Sharing

- Creating a platform that features research, resources and training materials regarding crisis translation
- Sharing a series of animated videos on Social Media to raise awareness of the role of translation and interpreting in disasters and crises, and the most efficient use of language technologies

VALORISATION TARGETS/POTENTIAL FUTURE COLLABORATORS

External research partners: Translated, Translators without Borders, AG Globale Verantwortung, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Educational partners: OeRISK (Postgraduate Center @University of Vienna), The International Network on Crisis Translation, Project “ReTrans – Working with Interpreters in Refugee Transit Zones”

Governmental partner: Staatliches Krisen- und Katastrophenschutzmanagement (SKKM)