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## ***Report on implementing the EFFORT Erasmus+ project at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław***

This paper aims to provide the Polish readership interested in translator education with the main assumptions of the Erasmus+ EFFORT project. Therefore, this contribution addresses such issues as the stages and manner of EFFORT project implementation at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław (Wydział Filologiczny Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego; UW). Moreover, this report aims to present the intellectual outputs produced in the project along with their translations into Polish<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Polish EFFORT team (the authors of this report) is also preparing a second report on the EFFORT project, addressed to Polish-speaking professionals, which is planned to be published in a Polish translation journal (Kuźnik et al., in press).



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## 1. Erasmus+ EFFORT Project

In August 2023, the Polish team participating in the execution of the three-year Erasmus+ EFFORT project (reference no.: 2020-1-ES01-KA203-082579; 09.2020-08.2023) finished its work in this area. This project was implemented thanks to Erasmus+ funds obtained in the “Higher Education” sector under Key Action no. 2 – “Cooperation for Innovation and Exchange of Good Practices”, specifically under the “Strategic Partnership” action. The EFFORT project builds on an earlier NACT project (2015-2018), carried out by the PACTE research group (Autonomous University of Barcelona). The acronym “EFFORT” is derived from the English name of the project: “Towards a European Framework of Reference for Translation”; the acronym “NACT” comes from the Spanish name of the previous project: “*Nivelación de Competencias en la Adquisición de la Competencia Traductora (traducción escrita)*” (English: “Establishing Competence Levels in the Acquisition of Translation Competence in Written Translation”)<sup>2</sup>.

The Polish team consisted of Anna Kuźnik (project team leader, Institute of Romance Studies), Natalia Paprocka (Institute of Romance Studies), Regina Solová (Institute of Romance Studies), Kaja Gostkowska (Institute of Romance Studies UWr), Marcin Walczyński (Institute of English Studies). As can be seen, the scholars of the two institutes mentioned above that are part of the Faculty of Letters of UWr collaborated in the team.

The project was coordinated by the Autonomous University of Barcelona (Amparo Hurtado Albir and Patricia Rodríguez-Inés). The project website is available at [www.effortproject.eu](http://www.effortproject.eu) while the booklet of the project on the Erasmus+ platform can be consulted at <https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/eplu-project-details/#project/2020-1-ES01-KA203-082579>. The amount of funding allocated for the entire project was EUR 253,280.00, of which UWr received EUR 17,057.00.

The consortium was composed of the following universities: (1) Autonomous University of Barcelona (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; UAB) – coordinating institution; (2) Aarhus University (Aarhus Universitet; AU), represented by Helle V. Dam; (3) University of Eastern Finland (Itä-Suomen Yliopisto; UEF), represented by Minna Kujamäki; (4) University of Granada (Universidad de Granada; UGR), until 2022 represented by

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<sup>2</sup> In 2017, five representatives of the Faculty of Letters of the University of Wrocław (listed in Hurtado, Kuźnik, Rodríguez-Inés, 2022: 217-218) participated in the NACT project as experts. At the time, they expressed their opinions on the first proposal of a reference framework for describing translation competence and the first proposal of indicators of translation proficiency at levels A and B (with their sublevels – A1, A2, B1, B2) and at level C (in general, without specifying sublevels).

Catherine Way and from 2022 by María del Mar Haro Soler; (5) University of Alexandru Jan Cuza in Iasi (Universitatea Alexandru Ioan Cuza Din Iasi; UAIC), represented by Rodica Dimitriu; (6) University of Geneva (Université de Genève; UNIGE), represented by Fernando Prieto Ramos; (7) Utrecht University (Universiteit Utrecht; UU), represented by Gys-Walt van Egdom; (8) University of Westminster (UW) represented by Elsa Huertas Barros; (9) University of Ljubljana (Univerza v Ljubljani; UL), represented by Nike K. Pokorn and (10) University of Wrocław (Uniwersytet Wrocławski; UWr), represented by Anna Kuźnik.

The EFFORT project involved developing a proposal for the European Framework of Reference for Translation (CEFRT) at levels A, B and C, similar to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) (*cf.* for more information about the EFFORT project: Hurtado et al., 2023a: 4-6, Introduction).

## 2. Outcomes of intellectual work and project meetings

The consortium consisting of the ten European universities appointed to implement the EFFORT project (including the Polish team from UWr) developed two outcomes of intellectual work in English:

- guide to the A- and B-level translation training reference framework for non-specialised translator (EFFORT Project; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, van Egdom, 2023; *Intellectual Output no. 3*)<sup>3</sup>;
- a proposal for descriptors of translation competence at level C (specialist translator) in five areas of professional specialisation (economic and financial translation, legal translation, literary translation, scientific translation and technical translation) (Hurtado et al., 2023a; *Intellectual Output no. 5*).

As regards the five areas of professional specialisation, it is worth accentuating that the areas indicated were listed for the first time in PACTE group's publications in English as "economic and financial translation", "legal translation", "literary translation", "scientific translation" and "technical translation" (PACTE, 2018) and in Spanish as "traducción económica y financiera", "traducción jurídica", "traducción literaria", "traducción científica" and "traducción técnica" (PACTE, 2019).

Five inter-university teams (the so-called *transversal teams*) coordinated by the representatives of the consortium were established to develop descriptors in these five areas:

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<sup>3</sup> The reference framework itself had already been developed as part of the PACTE research group's NACT project.

1. economic and financial translation, coordinated by Helle V. Dam (AU) and Anna Kuźnik (UWr);
2. legal translation, coordinated by Fernando Prieto Ramos (UNIGE) and Catherine Way/María del Mar Haro Soler (UGR); Regina Solová participated in this team as the representative of UWr;
3. literary translation, coordinated by Minna Kujamäki (UEF) and Rodica Dimitriu (UAIC); Natalia Paprocka participated in this team as the representative of UWr;
4. scientific translation, coordinated by Nike K. Pokorn (UL) and Gys-Walt van Egdom (UU); Kaja Gostkowska participated in this team as the representative of UWr;
5. technical translation, coordinated by Patricia Rodríguez-Inés (UAB) and Elsa Huertas Barros (UW); Marcin Walczyński participated in this team as the representative of UWr.

The Polish EFFORT team was the only group in the consortium in which each person was involved in one of the five specialised inter-university teams. Thanks to such a distribution of Polish scholars participating in the project, each Polish team member contributed to developing each of the five areas of specialisation.

For implementing the project objectives, *i.e.* for preparing the outcomes of *Intellectual Outputs no. 3* and *no. 5*, the EFFORT consortium had sufficient funds (settled based on timesheets and working days). At the evaluation stage of the project grant application in 2020, the consortium received approval to fund only these two outcomes of the intellectual work. The four remaining intellectual work outputs (*no. 1* – updating the NACT descriptors for levels A and B; *no. 2* – compiling the third NACT proposal; *no. 4* – characterising the five areas of specialisation; *no. 6* – preparing a framework guide for level C) did not receive funding from Erasmus+ because – in the opinion of the evaluators of the application – they were only intermediate stages leading to the development of *Intellectual Output no. 3* (guide to the reference framework for levels A and B) and *Intellectual Output no. 5* (level C descriptors). In contrast, *Intellectual Output no. 6* seemed to the evaluators of the application too undifferentiated in relation to *Output no. 3*. Nevertheless, the activities envisaged as *Outputs no. 1, no. 2* and *no. 4* were carried out in the project by the Polish EFFORT team (already without funding) as the project coordinators considered them indispensable. In addition, the outcome of the intellectual work *no. 3* (the guide) has been enriched with additional elements to help its readers understand the reference framework at levels A and B, such as *the Self-Assessment Tool* (translated additionally by the Polish EFFORT team) and examples of texts in English. Thus, the Polish EFFORT team (as well as other teams) performed

more tasks than was anticipated in the decision on the scope of the project and its funding.

In order to carry out all these tasks, the Polish EFFORT team participated in the following transnational project meetings: meeting 1 – remote form, divided into two parts (28 May 2021 in Aarhus, 8 October 2021 in Joensuu); meeting 2 – remote form, organised and led by the Polish EFFORT team (18 February 2022 in Wrocław); meeting 3 – hybrid form (30 May 2022 in London); meeting 4 – hybrid form (7 October 2022 in Utrecht); meeting 5 – hybrid form (16 January 2023 in Iași); meeting 6 – hybrid form (20 March 2023 in Grenada); meeting 7 – hybrid form (19 May 2023 in Barcelona).

### 3. Translation process into Polish

As part of the funding awarded, the Polish EFFORT team translated two documents from English into Polish<sup>4</sup>:

1. for levels A and B – the outcome of intellectual work no. 3 (resource form: website; translation as a mandatory task):
  - source text (EN): EFFORT Project; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, van Egdom (2023)<sup>5</sup>;
  - target text (PL): Projekt EFFORT; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, van Egdom (2023);
2. for level C – the outcome of intellectual work no. 5 (resource form: PDF file to be downloaded from the project website; translation as a mandatory task):
  - source text (EN): Hurtado et al. (2023a);
  - target text (PL): Hurtado et al. (2023b).

In addition, for levels A and B, the Polish EFFORT team made one additional translation, not covered by funding (resource form: interactive website):

- source text (EN): EFFORT Project; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, Huertas (2023);
- target text (PL): Projekt EFFORT; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, Huertas (2023).

Like other teams, the Polish EFFORT team had very little time to complete the translations: in fact, it was supposed to be performed only in May 2023. While performing the first version of the translation into Polish, the

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<sup>4</sup> In this report, source and target texts are considered separate documents and that is why they are presented as separate entries in the final section with bibliographical references.

<sup>5</sup> However, only the first part of the source text has been translated from English into consortium languages, *i.e.* “Guide to using the framework”.

Polish scholars identified several inaccuracies in the source, which made it necessary to revise the source texts in English.

The Polish EFFORT team also organised terminology consultations with three Polish experts specialising in language acquisition, mediation and translation competence. Thus, guidance was obtained from professor Waldemar Martyniuk of the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, professor Radosław Kucharczyk of the University of Warsaw and professor Konrad Klimkowski of Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. The experts were asked to give their opinions on the Polish team's selection of 25 English-Polish equivalents, which turned out to be most problematic in translation. Once the consultations were completed, the Polish EFFORT team improved the Polish-language versions of the texts and posted them on a free open-access platform, *i.e.* the Repository of the University of Wrocław (see doi numbers in this paper, in its final section with bibliographical references). The terminological and lexical problems which the Polish team encountered while translating the documents will be discussed elsewhere (Kuźnik et al., forthcoming).

#### **4. Dissemination of information about the EFFORT project and the produced outcomes of the intellectual work**

The Polish EFFORT team presented the project at four scientific conferences held in Poland during the project. The first two were held during the pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus so the presentations were delivered remotely. The EFFORT project was presented in a general way in Polish in the professional community in October 2021 at the conference of the Polish Society of Sworn and Specialised Translators (TEPIS) (Kuźnik and Walczyński, 2021) and in English in the academic community in March 2022 at the conference organised by the Consortium for Translation Education Research (Kuźnik and Walczyński, 2022). The first information on the outcomes of the intellectual work produced in the project was presented by the Polish EFFORT team in Kraków in May 2022 in a presentation delivered at the First Congress of Polish Translation Studies (Kuźnik et al., 2022). A year later, in May 2023, during TERMOS 2023 – the Third Wrocław Terminology Meetings, held at the University of Wrocław, the Polish team members discussed the most challenging translation problems encountered in the process of translating the texts developed in the project from English into Polish (Kuźnik et al., 2023a). Particular attention was paid to translation difficulties involving terminology related to education and the acquisition of translation competence. The paper presenting these issues is being prepared (Kuźnik et al., forthcoming).

Most completely, the project was presented by the Polish team at the seminar entitled “Europejski System Opisu Kształcenia Tłumaczeniowego (ESOKT). Propozycja opracowana w projekcie Erasmus+ EFFORT” organised by the same team at the Institute of Romance Studies (UWr) on 30 June 2023 (Kuźnik et al., 2023b). It was also the concluding event of the entire project (*i.e.* Multiplier Event)<sup>6</sup>. The seminar provided its participants with information on (1) the project itself and the consortium established to carry it out; (2) the reference framework for translator education developed within the NACT and EFFORT projects; (3) the outcomes of the intellectual work produced in the EFFORT project; (4) the process of translating texts from English into Polish and the translation problems encountered; (5) the structure of the project website, which – after the project is completed in August 2023 – will be a platform to ensure the continuity of disseminating the outcomes of EFFORT activities.

At the end of the seminar, its participants had the opportunity to test *the Self-Assessment Tool* for levels A and B in Polish (Projekt EFFORT; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, Huertas, 2023) in the computer lab of the Institute of Romance Studies. The seminar ended with an inspiring discussion that addressed such issues as: (1) the role of technology in the translation process, (2) the applicability of *the Self-Assessment Tool* for levels A and B (Projekt EFFORT; Hurtado, Rodríguez-Inés, Huertas, 2023) and its limitations; (3) the categorisation criterion adopted by the NACT and EFFORT projects to identify five key areas of specialisation in translation (*cf.* PACTE, 2018, 2019); (4) the possibility of adding further areas of specialisation to those developed thus far (*e.g.* audiovisual translation); (5) the optimal degree of generality or detailing of the reference framework for translator education; (6) the need to compare the proposal developed within the EFFORT project with the model of translation competence developed by the *European Master's in Translation* consortium (European Commission, 2022) and with the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, which contains – in its modernised and expanded form – a description of mediation skills, close to translation competence (Martyniuk, 2021; Kucharczyk, 2020); and (7) the possibility of implementing the proposal developed in the EFFORT project at the European level.

The seminar was attended by more than thirty scholars originating from Wrocław professional community and Wrocław-based universities

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<sup>6</sup> The representatives of the Polish EFFORT team had also previously participated in another event disseminating the results of the intellectual work, *i.e.* a conference held on 26 June 2023 in Brussels at the headquarters of the European Economic and Social Committee. This event was organised by Fernando Prieto Ramos (UNIGE) for translators working in the European institutions.

(Wrocław University of Science and Technology, Wrocław University of Economics, WSB Merito University in Wrocław, University of Wrocław) as well as from leading universities from all over Poland (University of Warsaw, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Pedagogical University in Kraków, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Jacob of Paradies University in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Częstochowa University of Technology and University of Applied Sciences in Nysa).

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