

French Translation Project Group
Report of London meeting – April 8th, 2019, 13:30 – 17:00

Document history

Version	Date	Author	Actions
V1	15/04/2019	FM	Draft report
V2	30/05/2019	FM	Finalized report (the only update is on last page: “Next Steps”): - Luc Mottin’s proposal of next meeting in Geneva, confirmed for July 2 nd - Linda Parisien’s additions included as a rough agenda for this Geneva meeting

Attachments (all in French):

- 1) Slide-deck tracking the meeting discussions: [20190408_French Translation Project Group.pptx](#)
 this presentation can be viewed as the French version of this report.
- 2) Slides presented by Linda Parisien on the most recent translation project by the Canadian NRC:
[TRADUCTION_PrescribeIT_LP_OPPORTUNITÉS_FINAL_20190404.pptx](#)
- 3) First layer of linguistic and editorial rules approved during the session:
[Directives_francophones_v2.xlsx](#)

1 Participants

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2 Meeting outcomes

2.1 Starting point

Five countries with French speaking citizens agreed to join their efforts on the French translation of SNOMED CT, during a first meeting in Paris on September 27th, 2018: Belgium, Canada, France, Luxemburg, Switzerland.

France participation is temporarily carried by Phast (which has a translation agreement with SNOMED International since end-2015), in wait for the future membership of France.

5 partial French translations already exist: one carried by Canada, one by Belgium, one by Switzerland for the European epSOS project, the starter set revised by Geneva University Hospitals, one produced by Phast for France.

Despite variations of vocabulary from one country to another, French language is backed by a universal authoritative framework including a common spelling and grammar. For this reason, the five country have made the decision to build a single French translation, in which they will progressively merge the existing ones.

2.2 First orientations

2.2.1 A cooperative translation process

The French translation will be produced and maintained by a cooperation across the participating NRCs.

2.2.2 Translation use case-driven

The project is not to build a comprehensive French translation of SNOMED CT. The translation will be prioritized by use cases brought by the participating countries, translating only the concepts needed by the use case at hand.

2.2.3 Translation of synonyms, not FSN

The translation will produce French synonyms and will rely on the original English-US FSN from the international edition, untranslated. The main reasons for this choice are:

- The translation aims at healthcare professionals and patients who manage health data through the user interface of their software applications. Such applications show synonyms rather than FSN (unlike a SNOMED CT browser, which is not a healthcare application).
- An FSN is immutable, therefore any error in the translation can only be corrected through the inactivation and replacement of a concept, which is a high burden to all other languages using the same concept without error.

Canada has translated FSN in its latest translation project having in mind the regulatory bi-lingualism of its Province New Brunswick.

The general orientation that the common French translation will contain only synonyms still stands. The French Translation Project Group will align this orientation with the position on this topic to be delivered by the language-independent translation guideline, currently revised by the Translation User Group.

2.2.4 Multiple synonyms and flexibility in the choice of the preferred term

To accommodate the geographical variations in vocabulary, the group agrees to build as many synonyms as needed for each concept. A preferred term by default will be designated. Where needed, a country may designate a different synonym as the preferred term.

Since the variability of vocabulary is addressed during the edition of the translation, it is expected that the translation tool:

- will show to the authors and reviewers, for each concept, which is the preferred term by default, and which are the preferred term by exception for a country or another ;
- and will enable to manage these preferences.

The French language refset produced for one country will be derived from the common translation refset, deriving the acceptabilityId of each synonym from the preferences by default modulated by the preferences of this country.

2.3 First actions taken

2.3.1 Cross-comparison of existing translations

Performed by Rory in October 2018.

This first comparison shows that approximately 50% of the concepts that are part of two existing French translations have the same French synonym, while the other 50% have a different synonym.

Phast used the outcome of this comparison to eliminate redundancies from its own translation with the starter set, so as to cumulate these two translations in its semantic resources.

2.3.2 Cross-comparison of existing editorial and linguistic guidelines

Performed by François from October 2018 to February 2019.

Not complete yet.

This London meeting reviewed the first layer of rules and approved them, after correction of some of them. Attachment 3) is the outcome of this review.

2.4 Latest translation project of Canada

Presented by Linda. Attachment 2)

Linda also presented this translation of "PrescribelT" more comprehensively in the Translation User Group on Tuesday. See the complete presentation [there](#).

One of the major interests of this recent project in Canada, is that for the first time, it relied only on the internal team of Health Infoway, which enabled to simplify the overall process, and proved to be far more reactive and efficient than the previous projects, which had run a more complex workflow involving external translators.

2.5 Process, roles, sustainability

For this collaborative project, a first-round in September 2018 has brought these possible implications from the participating countries:

- Authoring: Belgium, Phast (France), Canada
- Semantic consistency review: Geneva University Hospitals (Switzerland)
- Acceptability review: Luxemburg
- Linguistic review: Phast (France)

In addition, it is expected that a country which brings a particular use case might assume some of the key roles (e.g. authoring or acceptability review) for the translation of the concepts supporting the use case.

The process is yet to be defined in detail. In any case it is a collaborative multi-NRC process. One way to ensure the sustainability of the French translation, would be to transform at some point in time the current project group into a standing committee, with representatives of each NRC. This committee would be entitled to share investments on the selected tools, to run the maintenance process, and to endorse the resulting translation.

The French translation needs a dedicated *namespace* as well as a *moduleId*.

2.6 Collaborative tools

Three tools are in the radar for supporting the process:

- Refset Translation Services is used by Phast, and HUG for the starter set
- Term Space is used by Canada NRC
- Managed Services is used by Belgium and Switzerland NRCs

The choice of the most suitable tool will be done once the collaborative process has been set up, and once the sharing of investments across NRCs has been defined.

The capability to handle the flexibility of *acceptabilityId* (with one preferred term by default and national exceptions) during edition and review is considered as a requirement.

The capability to support multiple reviews on a given subset is also a requirement, given that the semantic review and the acceptability review, for example, are most likely to be performed by different teams.

2.7 Next steps / Prochaines étapes

Complément règles éditoriales et linguistiques	→ François -> diffusion au groupe début juin
Approbation des règles éditoriales et linguistiques communes Discussion détaillée sur le choix de l'outil collaboratif : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • adéquation aux besoins, • coût et leur répartition, • procédures et mécanismes collaboratifs. Inventaire des projets de traductions en cours et à venir de chacun des pays	→ Réunion à Genève le 2 juillet, hébergée par la Haute Ecole de Gestion, HES-SO Genève, organisée par Luc Agenda de cette réunion complété ci-contre avec les suggestions de Linda
Rédaction du guide éditorial et linguistique	→ François (août)
Approbation du guide	→ Réunion web en septembre
Préparation de la V1 de la traduction commune (révision starter set + autres sous-ensemble)	→ octobre, novembre
Approbation de la V1, mise à jour du guide éditorial, avancement sur l'outil collaboratif et sur les procédures, planification des cas d'usage suivants à couvrir	→ Réunion à Paris le 27 novembre
Annonce de la V1 de la traduction commune	→ 1ère Journée Francophone SNOMED CT le 28 novembre à Paris
Préparation de la V2	Décembre à avril 2020
Approbation de la V2	SNOMED Business meeting April 2020