

JIAMCATT Secretariat
Translation Management Unit
European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)
Brussels, Belgium
Email: Secretary@jiamcatt.org



Conclusions and recommendations of JIAMCATT 2017

JIAMCATT is a vibrant community of interested professionals, seeking to harness technologies and share knowledge to help streamline the translation and interpretation processes.

JIAMCATT owes a debt of gratitude to the International Criminal Court for its generosity in providing us with the facilities and organizational support for a successful 2017 conference.

The theme of JIAMCATT 2017 was ***The power of simplicity: practical solutions for today's real-world problems***. In an increasingly complex business and technological environment, the quest for simplicity is critical: there is much to be gained by reviewing and modernizing processes, tools and working methods to weed out unnecessary complexity.

JIAMCATT 2017 adopts the following conclusions and recommendations:

1. Open standards are essential to ensure interoperability. They make it possible for organizations to share, reuse and exchange resources, data and tools, remain agile in the face of fresh challenges, and avoid vendor lock-in. JIAMCATT member organizations can play a key role as advocates for open standards.
2. There is no single answer to the buy-or-build question. Nonetheless, the more organizations share knowledge upstream about how they reach such a decision, the better equipped JIAMCATT members will be to find the right solution for their organization.
3. Tools and language resources used by JIAMCATT member organizations could be highly beneficial to authoring and editing services, thus enhancing quality, transparency and efficiency across the document workflow. JIAMCATT sees many opportunities for closer cooperation between all actors in the Authoring-Translation-Publishing chain.
4. The role of terminology is evolving in many JIAMCATT member organizations. It will be important, as language technology develops, to create, use and manage terminological resources effectively in a changing context.
5. JIAMCATT recognizes that the emerging neural machine translation paradigm opens up new opportunities, particularly for language pairs where statistical approaches have produced less satisfactory results. JIAMCATT members should be attentive to both the potential benefits and the challenges of this model.

6. JIAMCATT member organizations are encouraged to adopt an iterative “Test, learn, adapt” approach when implementing new tools, processes or technologies.
 7. Big language data requires intelligent strategies for seamless integration into translator and interpreter workflows; JIAMCATT members are encouraged to seek and share smart language data management policies.
 8. JIAMCATT provides an ideal platform for exchange with the research community, by bringing together language professionals. JIAMCATT member organizations are encouraged to cooperate with the researchers pioneering new tools and methodologies in JIAMCATT’s areas of interest.
 9. Continuous improvement of language tools depends on the availability of high-quality data. JIAMCATT member organizations should therefore continue to share their publicly available corpora.
 10. The JIAMCATT community represents a range of business needs and interests. JIAMCATT provides the means to set up online interest groups on specific topics, and active involvement from JIAMCATT participants is encouraged.
 11. Local JIAMCATT meetings have shown to be a cost-effective and valuable way for partner organizations to share knowledge and information throughout the year: such initiatives should therefore continue to be encouraged and promoted.
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