

Cypriot National Contracts Report: Process and Findings



This report is the result of the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) programme
Action No: 2017-EU-IA-0149
Agreement number: INEA/CEF/ICT/A2017/1565776

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Activity Overview

Contributors

The following consortium members were involved in the development of this document.

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Executive Summary

This report details findings on translation contracts awarded to the private sector by public administrations in Cyprus from 2015 to 2020.

Since we were unable to locate any substantial data in this regard and for this time span, this report features only the country profile and the methodology we employed and, hopefully, may point to the issues that need to be addressed to make this data more widely available.

Introduction

This report summarises the research carried out by the NEC TM consortium on mapping relationships of public translation contracts across the European Union. It reviews the data mining methodology and details the progress and findings of the first completed case study for Cyprus.

The NEC TM action aims to increase the volume of parallel data available to the European Commission and promote the flow of translation data, specifically Translation Memories that can be put to use in machine learning. NEC TM will build and deploy a TM repository at national level, with capability of sharing to a central platform with fuzzy match capabilities that will allow public administrations to fully leverage TMs. In order to achieve this, the project seeks to engage public administrations through a pan-European data sharing awareness campaign and the publishing of two White Papers.

The White Papers will allow the consortium to establish a credible report based on market research (public contracts) and extrapolate national and EU costs on translations from the past 4 years. It will examine potential savings and provide a basis for the amount of translated data available from contractors. The first White Paper will also cover 3 consortium countries plus 7 early adopters of the NEC TM platform, serving as a proof of concept. This Paper will be published in February 2020.

The market research conducted by the NEC TM consortium pools key data from public translation contracts to build a report database that considers each member state of the EU. The data includes, but is not limited to, buyers, vendors, amounts, estimated contract value etc. Contract data has been mined from Cypriot government bids and contracts for translation services ranging from 01/01/15 to 31/12/19. At present, the report database has been completed for Cyprus, the first national case study of this investigation and a target early adopter for the NEC TM platform.

This data has been sourced from TED along with Cypriot national and regional official gazettes. The methods used in the research methodology for Cyprus will be applied to other member states included in the study.

Country Profile and Geographic Division

Cyprus is a unitary presidential representative republic, whereby the President of Cyprus is both head of state and head of government.

Cyprus is officially divided into 6 districts – Famagusta (Ammochostos), Kyrenia, Larnaca, Limassol (Lemesos), Nicosia (Lefkosia) and Paphos.

Since 1974, the internationally recognized Republic of Cyprus has had *de facto* and *de jure* control of roughly 2/3 of the island's southern territory, while the northern 1/3 has been *de facto* controlled by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, recognized by Turkey alone.

The official languages of Cyprus are Greek and Turkish.

The primary repositories from which the data was mined were the official web pages for public procurement in Cyprus include:

<http://www.cygazette.com>

<http://mof.gov.cy/gr/>

<https://www.eprocurement.gov.cy>

<https://www.data.gov.cy/>

<http://www.moi.gov.cy/>

<http://www.mcw.gov.cy/>

<http://mof.gov.cy/gr/>

<http://www.moec.gov.cy/>

<http://www.mlsi.gov.cy/>

<http://www.law.gov.cy/>

Data Extrapolation

The table below details the key data fields entered into the Report Database

Fig. 1

Field	Description
Administration	State/local inputs were logged into the Report Database to determine whether the contract was awarded by a central, regional or local purchasing body
Source	Links to source were added
Date	Date of contract notice
Description	Description of translation service
Domain	No data available.
Contracting body	To determine which administrative body financed the contracts
Beneficiary	To determine the supplier that was awarded the tender
Bid Fee	Bid net and gross fee was added
Award Fee	Award net and gross fee was added
Estimated Value	Estimated value of the contract was included
CPV code	Common Procurement Vocabulary codes developed by the European Union for public procurement. 79530000-8 for translation notices and contracts.

1 Methodology

A variation of keywords was used in the course for translation contract data. This method allowed us to locate contracts that had been filtered through a search. For example, “adjudicated translation contract [serial no. and/or place name]”; “translation contract awarded [serial no. and/or place name]”; or “bid translation contract [serial no. and/or place name]” was applied to each search for quality assurance.

We began our search on the Official Gazette of Cyprus web pages using the appropriate CPV code and common keywords for language services in Greek, taking into consideration the different word forms such as grammar case and number, for example:

μετάφραση (translation)

Grammar case and number variations:

μετάφρασης, μεταφράσεως, μεταφράσεις, μεταφράσεων

διερμηνεία (interpreting)

Grammar case and number variations:

διερμηνείας, διερμηνείες, διερμηνειών

This method yielded no results, so, in June 2019, we approached the Cyprus NAP, Ms. Natassa Avraamides – Haratsi, Press and Information Officer at the Ministry of Interior of Cyprus, and Ms. Christina Stylianidou who kindly shared more government-related websites where we might continue our search and informed us that her ministry had no data that we were looking for.

Unfortunately, though, these websites still did not contain the information we needed.

We kept an intensive communication over the following months regarding any information that might help us, such as data sources, processes etc. We also invited Ms. Avraamides – Haratsi and Ms. Stylianidou to the NEC Dissemination Day held in September 2019 in Zagreb and, although the details and the costs were arranged and the participation was confirmed with Ms. Stylianidou, she was unfortunately forced to cancel her participation at the last minute.

2 Findings

During the project, we have encountered several countries with the limited availability of public data regarding the translation contracts for one reason or another, although the mined data was sufficient to provide us with at least a part of general translation landscape in terms of sectors, size, language pairs and requirements and thus enable us to draw certain conclusions in this matter – albeit cautiously.

However, in the case of Cyprus, we were able to locate only two contracts – one from 2007 and another one with extremely limited information, including the missing dates.

<https://opentender.eu/cy/tender/1c6a8a9a-0977-402a-a4bb-f54d2bfca1a6>
<https://opentender.eu/cy/tender/859a6be0-5cb1-4f37-8702-350ecdaf4f39>

This was by no means sufficient to attempt and generate a full-fledged report on the state of translation contracts in Cyprus.

Conclusion

Despite our technical and linguistic experience (at least one of the team members was able to read and understand Greek), our intense and direct communication with the Cypriot NAP and additional support from the ELRC community, as well as the overall effort made, our research yielded no results and it is our belief that the reason for this is of an administrative nature.

We believe that the unique Cypriot administrative situation is one of the reasons for the limited data availability, in addition to other, more common, obstacles that we encountered during the data mining phases in other countries such as “umbrella contracts” that feature translation services along with IT, interpreting, project management and other services, more often than not rendering it impossible to determine the exact costs and other details on language services, as well as the small value tenders that do not include obligation of data publishing.

In other words, we believe that the public sector of Cyprus, a EU member state with estimated population of 1.2 million citizens and two official languages, definitely uses the services of private language services providers, but the data on these services is not publicly available at the moment.