

Practices in Translation of Websites of State Institutions and Organizations: a Case Study of the Republic of Moldova

This research examines the translation practices of websites belonging to State Institutions and Organizations in Moldova. The legislative framework in Moldova regarding official websites is explored, revealing that translation into international languages is recommended rather than mandatory (point 35 of the Regulation on official websites of public authorities and institutions and minimum requirements for their social media profiles). Additionally, the analysis assesses compliance with Article No. 234/16-12-2020 of the LAW regarding the use of spoken languages in Moldova, which requires Russian translations of official documents.

Given Moldova's attainment of EU membership candidate status, the political context prompts an inquiry into the preparedness of Moldovan authorities to align with the EU's multilingual content approach, so a case study in this sense appeared to be relevant and highly practical.

To shed light on the translation practices of state websites in Moldova, we focused on the number of linguistic versions offered and the maintenance of translated content across these versions. The analysis encompassed 58 websites, each serving a distinct role within Moldova's governance framework. Findings reveal that over half of the websites provide trilingual content. However, challenges arise concerning the maintenance of translations, with a significant number offering only partial translations, particularly in English and Russian versions. Common issues identified include outdated press releases, incomplete translations in the "About Us" or similar sections, missing categories in language versions, and the absence of Russian translations for official documents or limited translation within the menu.