

## **Post-editing guidelines**

The use of machine translation (MT) systems is a viable solution for translating projects that need to be completed within a very tight frame and/or with a reduced budget.

There is no MT system with an output which can be qualified as equal to the output of human translation and, therefore, the final quality of the translation output depends on human translators and, for this purpose, their competence in post-editing.

Full post-editing is the process to obtain a product comparable to a product obtained by human translation.

Post-editing differs from translation as it involves three texts: the source text, the MT output and the final target text.

### Objectives in the post-editing process:

- a) Comprehensibility of the post-edited MT output;
- b) Correspondence of source language content and target language content;
- c) Compliance with post-editing requirements and specifications defined by Traductanet.

### Requirements of post-editing MT output:

- a) terminological/lexical consistency, as well as compliance with domain terminology;
- b) use of standard syntax, spelling, punctuation, diacritics, special symbols and abbreviations and other orthographical conventions of the target language;
- c) compliance with any applicable standards;
- d) correct formatting;
- e) suitability for the target audience and for the purpose of the target language content;
- f) compliance with client terminology and/or any other reference material provided;
- g) compliance with any proprietary and/or client style guideline;
- h) compliance with Traductanet's general terms.

### Post editor's tasks:

- a) reading the MT output and evaluating whether a reformulation of the target language content is necessary;
- b) using the source language content as reference in order to understand and, if necessary, correct the target language content;
- c) producing target language content either from existing elements in the MT output or providing a new translation.

### Post-editors shall focus on:

- a) ensuring that no information has been added or omitted;
- b) editing any inappropriate content;
- c) restructuring sentences in the case of incorrect or unclear meaning;
- d) producing grammatically, syntactically and semantically correct target language content;
- e) adhering to client and/or domain terminology;

- f) applying spelling, punctuation and hyphenation rules;
- g) ensuring that the style appropriate for the text type is used and that stylistic guidelines provided by the client are observed;
- h) applying formatting rules.

The output of the post-editing process shall be accurate, comprehensible and stylistically adequate, with correct syntax, grammar and punctuation. The aim is to produce an output which is indistinguishable from human translation output. Nevertheless, it is recommended that post-editors use as much of the MT output as possible.