Summary

As part of ongoing work to strengthen links with the MT community, in addition to the professional translation and localization industry, the EU FP7 funded project QTLaunchPad organized a half-day workshop in conjunction with the European Association for Machine Translation, co-located with its 17th annual conference in Dubrovnic. The workshop, that took place two weeks before project officially ended was part of the final dissemination strategy for the project and a chance for the the project's work to be showcased and community feedback to be received before final project reporting.

The workshop was organized by Stephen Doherty, John Judge, Federico Gaspari, Ankit Srivastava and Antonio Toral, and attracted about 20 participants (roughly 20% of those who attended the main conference). Several talks were given by internal speakers and consortium members in addition to external invited speakers who are well known in the community for their interest in quality translation and translation technology, namely Jost Zetzsche (a professional translator, technology advocate and translator trainer based in the USA) and Bogdan Babych (a lecturer and researcher in translation technology at Leeds University).

The workshop participants learned about the innovative applications of the MQM and QuEst directly from the researchers who developed these tools within QTLaunchPad, in close collaboration with representatives from the translation and localization industry. Following the talks, there was a lively 1-hour panel discussion on "The limits of automation in MT evaluation and quality estimation", to which all the speakers and the participants contributed. This was very useful to elicit feedback from (potential) users, and discuss issues revolving around the central concern of quality translation, to exchange opinions on the current state of play in this respect, and discuss foreseeable or desirable future developments to be fed into the big QT Action.[1]

Workshop Costs

At the time of inception, the workshop required funding to cover the costs of external (to the project consortium) speakers who would be travelling for the event. The EAMT kindly awarded a grant to cover these costs and facilitated the workshop taking place in conjunction with their annual conference. In reality however, owing to a number of factors no costs were incurred by the EAMT for this workshop.

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[1] Bio profiles of the speakers, titles of the talks, abstracts and slides of the presentations are available at www.qt21.eu/launchpad/content/eamt2014. The workshop programme is available at www.qt21.eu/launchpad/sites/default/files/qtlpwshop_eamt2014_program_0.pdf. Photos showing the speakers delivering their talks and the participants are available from the QTLaunchPad Facebook page at www.facebook.com/qtlaunchpad

Of the three external invited speakers, one (Jost Zetzsche) overlapped with the main conference and so incurred no additional costs, another (Bogdan Babych) declined to claim expenses as his university could cover the cost, and the third (Christian Federmann) had an emergency and had to pull out of the event. The organisers adjusted the programme to compensate for this and included some additional speakers funded from within the project. As such the workshop ran successfully without having to use any of the budget allocated.

The organisers would like to thank the EAMT for their support and endorsement of the workshop. It was a hugely beneficial event at a time when the project work was consolidating and community links and feedback are very important. Without the help of the EAMT this would not have been possible.