

Francesca Raffi (FR): Fred Film Radio, this is Francesca Raffi. Today we are going to know more about the Live Text Access project. As all our listeners know, the LTA project aims to organise a new and certified curriculum for real-time subtitlers who can be then deployed in different media, social, and cultural contexts. Among the partners of the LTA project there is also a European certification partner, the European Certification and Qualification Association (ECQA), which is a non-for-profit association joining institutions and several thousands of professionals from all over Europe and abroad. So to learn more about this association and its role within the LTA project, we have virtually with us Gabriele Sauberer, Vice President of ECQA. Gabriele, thank you very much for being with us today.

Gabriele Sauberer (GS): My pleasure. Thank you Francesca for having me.

FR: Thank you very much. You are a pioneer in innovation and quality in the language industry, but also in European diversity management. You organised the first international diversity summer school in 2007 among other things. So Gabriele tell us more about your background and professional experience in the field of accessibility.

GS: Thank you very much for this great introduction. You're right, a pioneer. That's actually my thing, to invent something new which is not there yet. My background actually is in linguistic with a very broad bundle of studies. At that time it was quite new that you could even choose which other subject fields you would be interested in studying, so I did not only study Russian language, and other eastern European languages, but also political science, communication science, psychology, economy... So it was a very broad and interdisciplinary subject field I was studying. I'm benefiting until today from that broad, very generalistic overview of all these interdisciplinary fields of study. Linguistic diversity definitely brought me to human diversity. It's part of diversity. It's part of all the human diversities. In human resource, or corporate social responsibility, where diversity is embedded, there are actually only few people who have this linguistic background. That was again... This is a pioneering challenge to bring these worlds together. Make people understand that accessibility and this diversity field is really highly interrelated to language.

FR: To other subjects and other disciplines, that's true.

GS: Exactly. I am the director of the International Network for Terminology (TermNet), so again this is something very related to accessibility issues. Think about sign language. Think about the terminology we need to make subject fields accessible. This is actually very exciting to me to see this interrelations and to make other people see them. I join forces with the various communities.

FR: And you are now Vice President of ECQA among many other things. The association provides a worldwide, unified certification scheme for numerous professions. Can you tell us more about the certification procedures?

GS: Yes. This again was a great opportunity for me. When I met ECQA... It was 10 or 15 years ago. My goal was to provide language professionals with European certificates. I was one of the first people in Austria who did the European computer driving licence. What ECQA does is exactly the same as what ECDL is, like a computer driving licence, but with professions. With all kinds of new and emerging job roles. We started with innovation

manager, but when I joined ECQA 10 years ago, we developed an international European certificate for terminology managers, because this was a job role you couldn't actually graduate from. In university you have language studies, translation studies... Some parts of it tackle terminology, but only a few. This was the first time professional terminology workers could show and prove that they have the necessary skills and competencies to do terminology management at a professional level. We are doing the same thing for the LTA project, where intralingual real-time respeakers and subtitlers will get a certificate, or certification scheme basically. For the first time they will then be able to show that what they're doing in practice is complying with European standards. The exciting thing is that in that projects we are creating the standard. It is not existing. There are real-time subtitling and respeaking, but there are no common standards on how this actually should be. And this is exiting.

FR: As a certification association you will lead the Intellectual Output number 5 of the LTA project. The last step of the LTA project. Can you tell us more about this stage?

GS: There are basically three main steps of this Intellectual Output number 5, certification. First, we explain the certification process, because at ECQA everything is highly standardized. All these various job roles, like diversity manager... We also have a certificate for the profession of diversity manager, or innovation manager, or terminology manager, or sustainability manager. You need to have the same approach, the same processes to first identify the skills and competences needed for this job role, and then all the steps how to certify... Even the training material has to comply with ECQA standards. This is a kind of complex process. We have recorded videos to break it down to smaller entities and to convey the message in other formats, not only lectures or Powerpoint presentations. But also video to make it more digestible.

FR: And also accessible.

GS: And then we explain what is exactly this certification process. In the next step then we provide a certification scheme. We call it skills card. All these skills and competences intralingual real-time respeakers and subtitlers have to have in real practice. We need to analyse them. We need to identify them. And then of course we need to sit together and develop what is the state-of-the-art. So we have to find a compromise to get this skills card as our common standard for the professionals. We also need standards for the trainers, for training materials, and for self-assessment. This is very nice, because many professionals are also interested in the certificate which is very new and they need to check their maturity, where they are standing. If they need further training to get the certificate, and to pass the exams successfully, or not. Then of course the core issue is the quality of exam questions. This is also following ECQA rules and quality standards. This will all be applied within the framework of the LTA project.

FR: Ok, so let's say the certification process of ECQA will be adapted and applied in and after the LTA project, is that right?

GS: Exactly, because it is a small project. We don't have the time and the budget to implement the certificate already within the framework of the project, because you need the exam questions, you need the exams, you need everything uploaded in the ECQA

certification system. This is too much work for this small project, but we will prepare everything. We will come up with a full-fledged certification system. After the end of the project we can then implement it.

FR: Implement, yes. This complementary mix of education and non educational partners is definitely one of the main strengths of the LTA project, I think.

GS: Exactly. I couldn't agree more. To make such a project sustainable we will also establish a so-called job role committee including these various accessibility stakeholders, who after the end of the project will continue working together, therefore assuring the quality and sustainability of the project outcome. This job role committee will be composed of the partners, not all of course, but those who are really committed and who have also the resources to continue and then to implement the certification.

FR: Well Gabriele, thank you for sharing with us the objectives of this step of the LTA project. Thank you very much for being with us today.

GR: My pleasure, thank you so much.

FR: Thank you very much to all of you. If you want to know more about the Live Text Access project, don't miss our next interviews with our partners. This is Francesca Raffi and this is Fred Film Radio, the festival insider.

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