

German Translation Group

Experiences and Challenges of a Common
German Translation Initiative.



SNOMED CT
EXPO 2022
SEPT 29-30, 2022
Lisbon, Portugal ✕ Virtual










Beginnings



German as an (co-)official language



Country/ Native speakers	Number	% in Country	
 Germany	75,101,421	91.8%	3
 Austria	8,040,960	93.0%	
 Switzerland	5,329,393	64.6%	
 Italy	354,643	0.6%	
 Belgium	73,000	0.6%	
 Liechtenstein	32,075	85.8%	
 Luxembourg	11,000	2.0%	

<https://twitter.com/UKLanguageMaps/status/810840360448565248>

German Translation Group (GTG)

Constituted on 16th of July 2020

- SNOMED NRC representatives from Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland
- Further domain experts from these countries.

Initial goal:

- Explore status quo of existing German translations of SNOMED CT in each country.
- Estimate available resources for translation activities.
- Harmonize translation activities
- Overlook activities of group members with regard to SNOMED CT
- Establish regular meetings
- Create a documentation platform



Status quo

What about
starter set
translation?

Pre-existing translations

- Value sets being used in Austria and Switzerland
- Partly German translation from 2003 by the College of American pathologists (CAP): approx. 65.000 translations for 39.000 concepts.

Translation Resources

- Pragmatic resource allocation:
Each person/group provides as much time and effort as reasonably possible
- No feedback provided to a certain topic/translation → agreement assumed



Harmonizing translation activities

Identification of need for the following tools/documents:

- Common documentation platform for meeting minutes, documents and guidelines.
- Collaborative tool to gather existing and new translations in the correct format
- Specific translation guideline: set of rules on how translations are being performed.

Regular meetings

- Once a month for the whole GTG group.
- Twice a month for a subgroup on the creation of a harmonized German translation guideline





German Translation Guideline



Common German Translation Guideline

Purpose:

- To establish detailed rules how SNOMED CT content is translated
- To support consensus between translators

French translation guideline as blueprint

- (<https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org/display/FTCG/Documentation>)
- Systematic study of the French guideline
- Evaluation of applicability for German translations
- Identification of specific issues for German

Release of the first version of the German Translation Guideline:

- September 28, 2020

Wasn't it 2021?



Translation Guideline: specific rules (I)

- No translation of Fully Specified Names (FSNs)
- Concept-based translation: Interpretation of English FSN together with axioms, no translation of English synonyms
- Inclusion of common German synonyms, corpus (Web) frequencies as inclusion criterion, no upper bound Acceptability of synonyms at discretion of NRC
- **Qualifier value, Observable entity, Clinical finding**: exact meaning only partly covered by SNOMED CT documentation but also the content underneath. Option for approximated translations, e.g. **klinisch relevante Erscheinung** for **Clinical finding**.
- Identification of word sequence frequencies. Pre-translation of the most frequent ones: Example: **co-occurrent and due to** occurred 565 times, translated as **gleichzeitig auftretend mit und verursacht durch**
- Single word compounds, e.g. **Oberarmfraktur** is given preference over multi word expressions **Fraktur des Oberarms**.



Translation Guideline: specific rules (II)

- For preferred terms, (complicated) spelling rules as provided by medical publishers and medical dictionaries are followed. Examples: preference of **Magenulkus** over **Magenulcus**, and **Calciummangel** over **Kalziummangel**,
- Particular rules (capitalization, hyphenation, plurals) for loanwords, e.g. **Ulcus ventriculi**, **Cri-du-chat-Syndrom**, **Babys**
- Very common, but non-canonic spelling variants principally allowed as acceptable synonyms
- Gender-sensitive language: For preferred terms, coordination of gender-specific terms is preferred, e.g. **Patient / Patientin**
- Definite article used for entities of single occurrence: “**Verbrennung der Zunge**” (one tongue) in contrast to “**Extraktion eines Zahns**” (many teeth).
- - Formatting limited to subscripts and superscripts; English formatting symbols (>3< , ^3^) are used; special ASCII characters (², ³) are allowed in synonyms.





Tooling & Workflow



GTG - Overview of tools (I)

All tools were supported by SNOMED International and available free of charge

Refset & Translation Tool (<https://refset.ihtsdotools.org/>) supporting

- Subset creation
- Import of existing or externally done translations
- Translation
- Review + Feedback

SNOMED Community Browser (<https://community-browser.ihtsdotools.org/>)

- Publication of translations
- Public feedback via SNOMED Intl. Jira or per mail



GTG - Overview of tools (II)

SNOMED International Confluence (<https://confluence.ihtsdotools.org>)

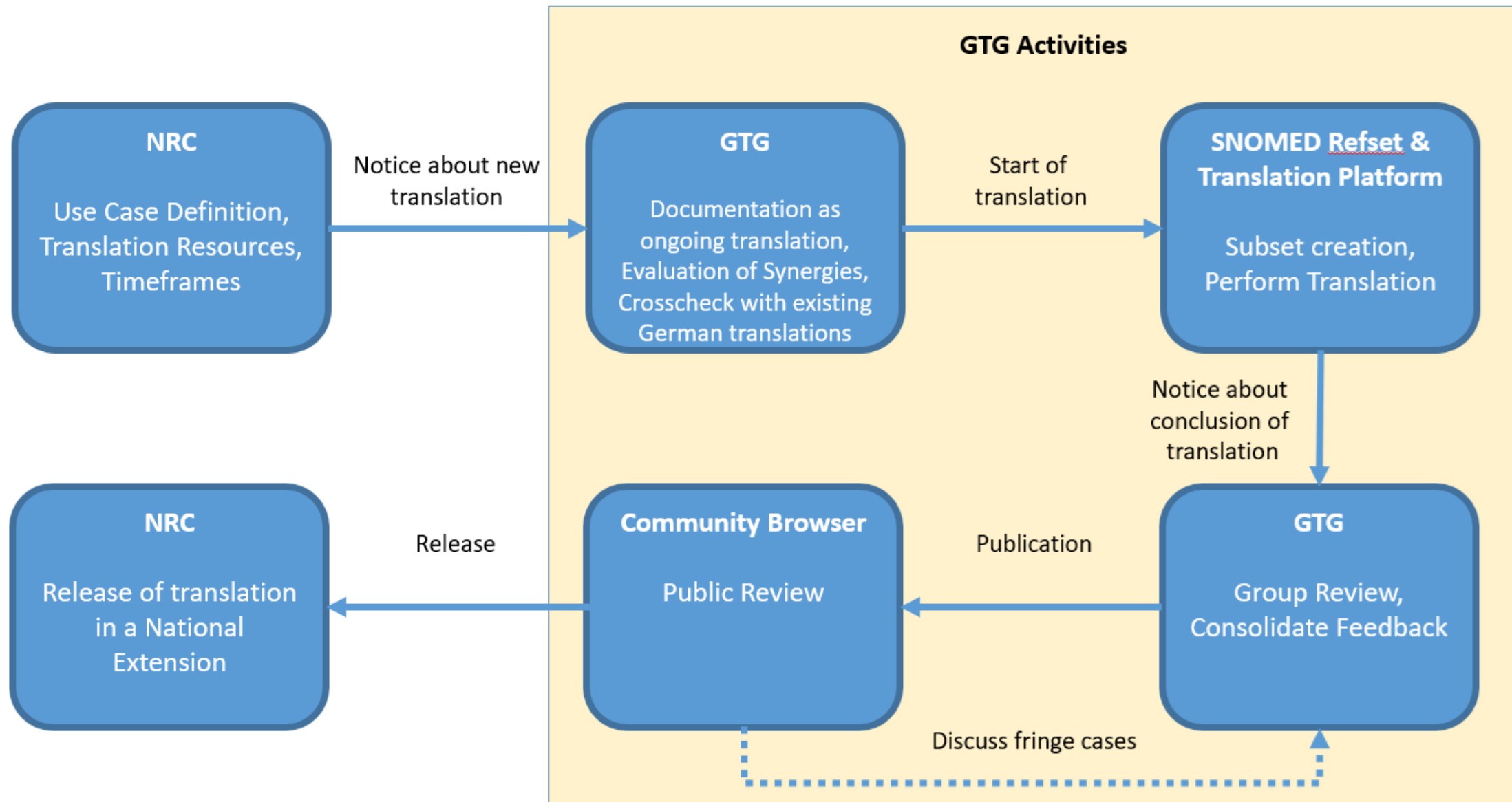
- Documentation of meetings, to-do items, process descriptions etc.
- Creation of German Translation Document
- Internal and external section for public access
- Announcements

SNOMED Authoring Platform (<https://at-authoring.ihtsdotools.org>)

- Common German Translation project (CDE)
- (Smaller) changes to translations after initial publication and public feedback
- Basis for already existing German translations in the authoring platform



GTG – Workflow for translations



German Translation Group – Lessons Learnt

- Good tooling is fundamental to support the complexity of the translation process
- SNOMED Intl. provides adequate tools and support. to set up a cross-border translation project.
- The timely provision of tools by SNOMED Intl. free of charge is highly appreciated.
- Some tools need improvement (e.g. the translation tool)
- Maintaining a group, defining processes, planning and coordinating regular meetings takes time and effort.
- Lasting commitment and motivation for a group that will work together for years is a challenge
- It is helpful to change the coordinating party at regular intervals



German Translation Group – Achievements

- 07/2020: First meeting of the group
- 09/2020: First version of the Translation Guideline released
- **Date**: Second version of the Translation Guideline released
- 04/2022: First translated content available in the Community Browser for public feedback
- **Date**: First Suisse National Extension with GTG-translated content released
- 08/2022: First Austrian National Extension with GTG-translated content released
- 09/2022: 3rd version of the Guideline in progress



German Translation Group – Outlook

- Establish process for handling of content that has changed in the International Edition (currently we are only focussing on adding new translations)
- Add translations for
 - Vaccination content:
 - Adverse reactions
 - Allergies
 - Diseases
 - Administration
 - Products
 - Substances
 - Manifestations
 - Units
 - Microbiology content (>20.000)
 - Medical devices
 - Pregnancy
 - ICNP content
 - etc.





Any Questions?



snomed@elga.gv.at



[GTG Confluence Space](#)



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