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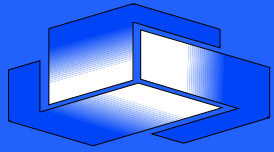
# Quality of Life Group

Brussels – April 2004

# Translations

Dr. Michael Koller / Karen West

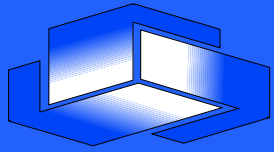
EORTC Quality of Life Unit



# Overview of Presentation

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- **Translation Procedures**
- **Existing Translations**
- **Problems**
- **Solutions and Future Perspectives**



# Overview of Translations

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## Before 2000

Most translations were done by

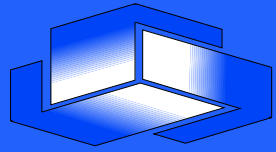
- Clinicians

Translation time

- 1 Year - 2 Years *(including pilot-testing)*  
*Results sent mainly by post or fax*

Longest time taken

- 7 years



# QLQ-C30 & Module Translations

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## Today

**Most translations are done by**

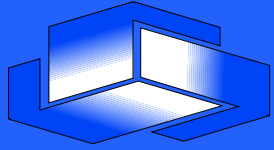
- **Translation Agency**

**Translation time**

- **1 month - 2 months**  
*(does not include pilot-testing)*

**Others (Mainly Asian languages)**

- **Doctors & Medical Students**

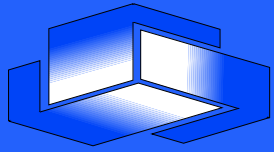


# Translation

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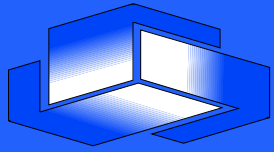
**The translation should be:**

- **Conceptually equivalent to the original**
- **Clear - i.e. able to be read and understand**
- **Language in common use**

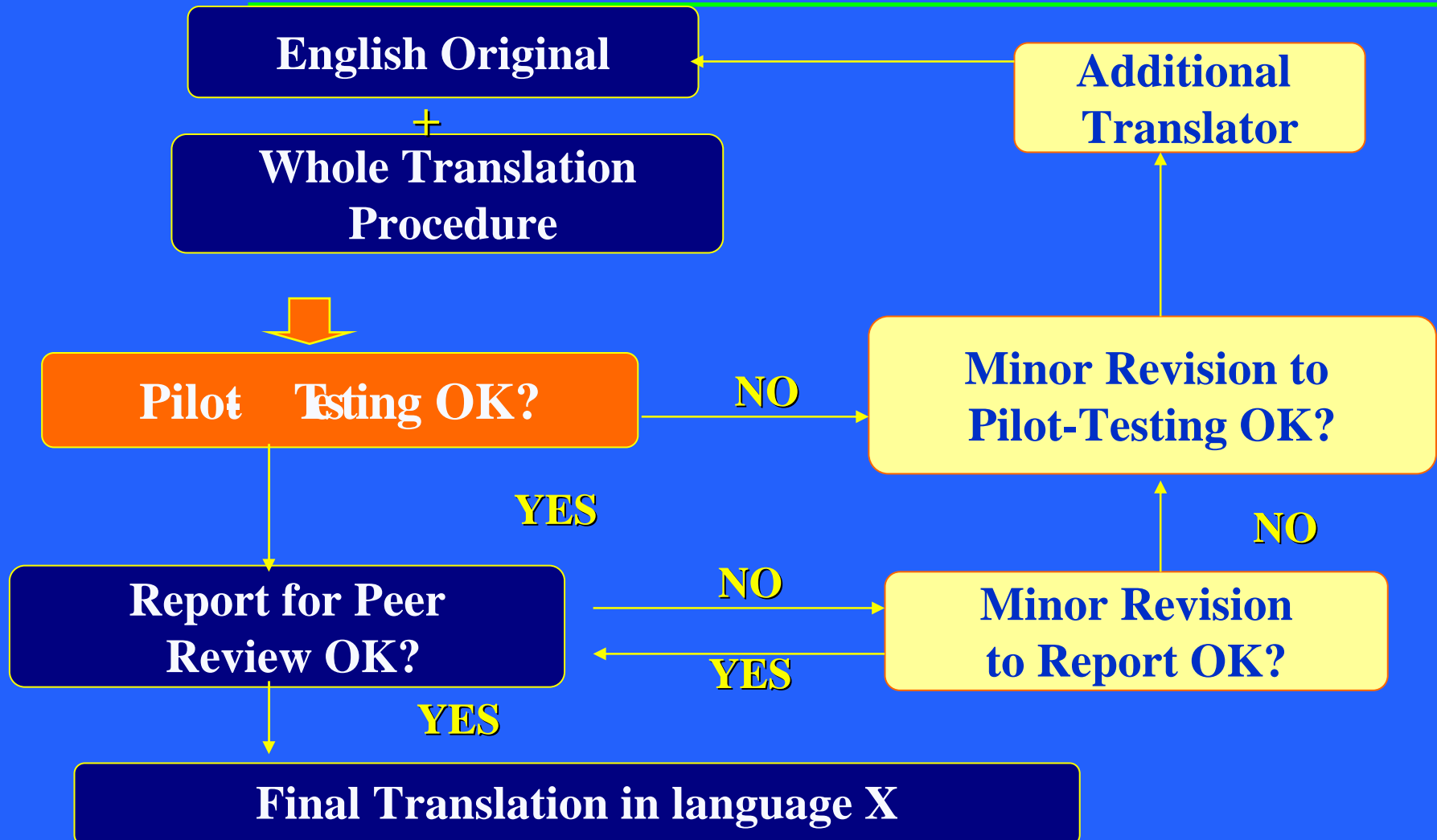


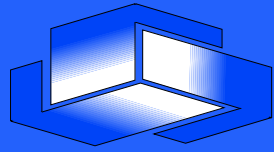
## Translation Procedure From English into Language X





# Pilot-Testing





# Translations (last six months)

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## QLQ-C30

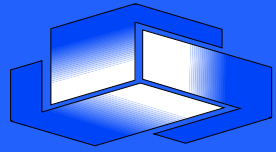
**Ongoing:** Burmese, Icelandic, Indonesian, Malay, Marathi, Sinhali, Pushto (Pak), Tagalog (Philip's), Telegu (India) and Vietnamese

**New:** Punjabi

## Validated Modules

(BR23, H&N35, LC13, OES18 & OV28)

H&N35: **Ongoing** Greek



# Translations (last six months)

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## Modules Phase III /IV

**BLS24 - Ongoing:** Greek

- **New:** Gujarathi, Hindi & Marathi

**BLM30 - Ongoing:** Chinese & Greek

- **New:** Arabic, Gujarathi, Hindi & Marathi

**BN20 - Ongoing:** Arabic, Czech & Korean

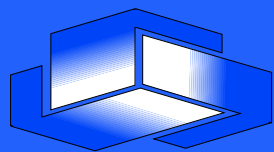
- **New:** Finnish, Hungarian, Polish & Russian

**CR38 - Ongoing:** Turkish

- **New:** Afrikaans, Russian & Zulu

**CX26 - New:** Croatian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, Swedish & Turkish

**INFO30 - Ongoing:** Korean



# Translations (last six months)

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## Modules Phase III /IV

**LMC21 - New:** Dutch

**NET35 - Ongoing:** French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Spanish & Swedish

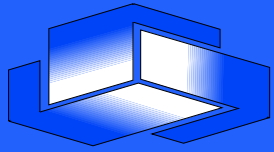
- **New:** Bulgarian, Czech, Croatian, French Canadian, Finnish, Hungarian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese Brazilian, Romanian & Russian

**PR25 - New:** Gujarathi, Hindi & Marathi

**SAT32 - Ongoing:** Icelandic

- **New:** Lithuanian & Turkish

**STO22 - New:** Russian



# Problems

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Involvement of native speakers is mandatory, otherwise spelling or other minor mistakes may go unnoticed

## HUNGARIAN

**QLQ C0** (missing 'N')

Agymértékben

*Brain Sized*

Nagymértékben

*Very Much*

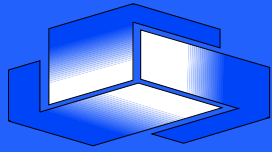
**LC B** (missing 'it')

*Menny*

*Heaven*

*Mennyit*

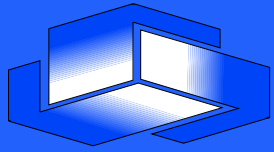
*How Much*



# Problems

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- **Obscure languages**
  - Do we translate Y/N
  - Who will do the back translations
- **Cultural adaptations**
  - We should encourage not oppose Dutch/Flemish – French/Canadian
- **What to do with difficult questions?**
  - “To what extent was the treatment inconvenient for you?”  
“How much did the treatment cause discomfort”.

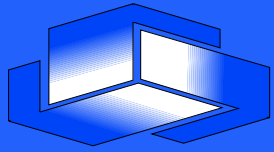


# Problems

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## German:

- **Spelling reform - subtle changes**
  - **Capital letters / small letters**
  - **Write words together / apart**
  - **ß = ss (sometimes, not always!!)**

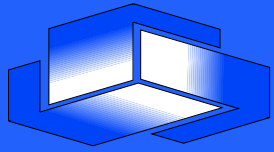


# Problems

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## German:

- **Spelling reform**
  - **Basic idea: to make German easier and more logical**
  - **Effect: more complicated**
  - **Inconsistencies in current questionnaire versions: old, new and mixed styles**



# Problems

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## German:

### Wording of scales

1 überhaupt nicht

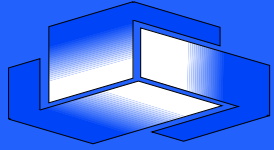
2 wenig

3 mäßig

4 sehr

interval characteristics (semantic meaning)

1    2    3    4



# Problems

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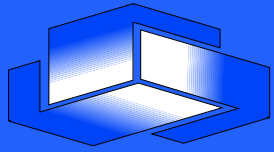
## Danish:

**Requirement for an informal version of the questionnaire (in addition to the formal one)**

“du”, “dig” & “din”

Or

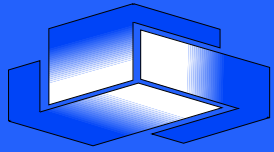
“De”, “Dem” & “Deres”



# Solution / Future

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- **Close cooperation of the Translation Committee**
  - **Module developers**
  - **Cross-cultural projects**
  - **Item-Bank**

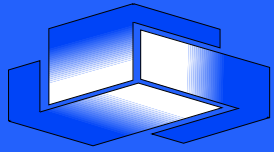


# Solution / Future

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## Good cooperation with the Cervix Module (Eva)

- **Discussed questions and procedures before the translations began**
  - **Eliminates the use of problems words / questions**
  - **Agreed not to duplicate procedures which overlap in both the pilot testing of the translations and the pilot testing of the module**
- **Regular contact via email**



# Solution / Future

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- **Matrix of problems**

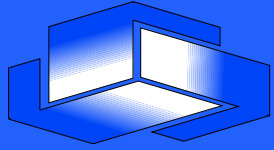
issues / symptoms that are

-- easy to translate

-- difficult to translate across various languages  
(e.g., “belching”, OES module, bothered)

- **Limits of translation efforts**

cross-cultural differences in the meaning of illness,  
symptoms, pain, what is a good life



# Cultural Differences

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- **BN20 Q.33**

Where you concerned about disruption of family life?

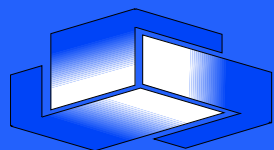
- **Arabic backtranslation:**

Have you worried about the possibility of a crisis in your family life?

- **Chinese backtranslation:**

Have you worried about the break up of your family?

- **Asia:** Sexual questions considered to be too direct



## **Solutions / Future**

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**Any comments or problems with your translations?**

**Contact Karen West, EORTC QLU Brussels**

**[kwe@eortc.be](mailto:kwe@eortc.be)**