

Summary

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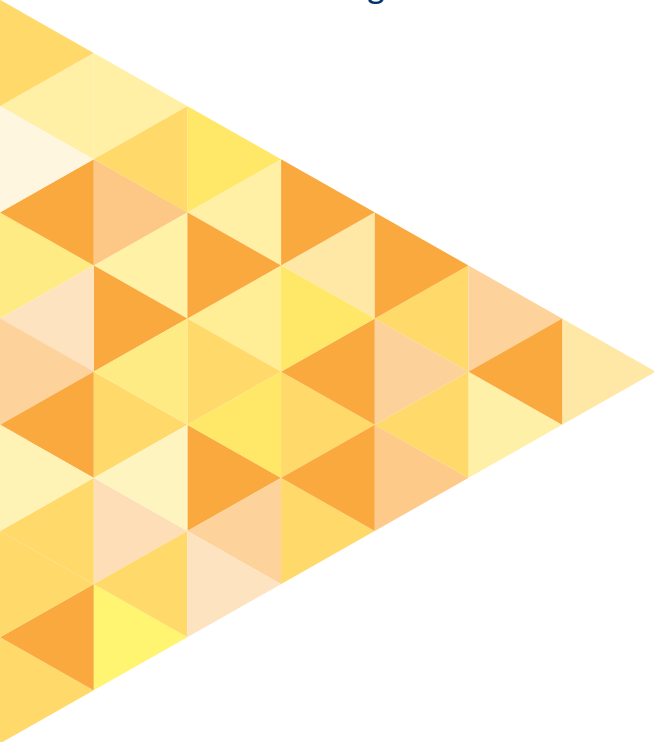
How can AI translations be used for equivalence assessments?

A systematic evaluation of the use of machine translation tools for the recognition of foreign professional qualifications

Published as:

Wie können KI-Übersetzungen für die Gleichwertigkeitsfeststellung eingesetzt werden?

Eine systematische Bestandsaufnahme zum Einsatz maschineller Übersetzungstools für die Anerkennung ausländischer Berufsqualifikationen



BIBB Discussion Paper

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Summary

- As part of the recognition procedure, the equivalence assessment makes it possible for skilled workers with foreign vocational qualifications to demonstrate the comparability of their qualifications with a German reference occupation. Since the check is based on documents, different types of proof have to be presented and generally translated into German as the administrative language. This is time-consuming and expensive.
- The first stakeholders from the recognition sector are already testing the use of machine translation tools as a way of making the process more efficient.
- Experiences from practice that were collected in interviews with participating stakeholders show that machine translation tools, especially *DeepL Pro* and the European Commission's translation tool *eTranslation*, are already being successfully used in specific cases. In many cases, the quality of automated translations is assessed as comparable to those provided by sworn or publicly appointed translators.
- There are still various open questions regarding a comprehensive integration of machine translation tools in the everyday working life of the competent authorities. Questions concerning the technical, legal and organisational integration into the work processes of authorities are particularly important to clarify. The following conditions have been identified for a successful implementation:
 - Machine translation tools require digital documents. Submitting digital applications is thus a fundamental requirement for their use.
 - Digital documents have to fulfil certain quality standards in terms of scan resolution and machine readability so that they can be processed by translation tools.
 - The market offers a variety of translation tools. Requirements regarding translation quality, data protection, languages needed, the costs and the (technical) integrability into the work processes of the competent authorities all have to be considered when selecting a suitable product.
 - Employees of the recognition authorities must be trained in using the tools – how can such tools be used in compliance with data protection and what consequences does using them have on legal certainty?
 - Introducing machine translation tools requires careful organisational planning. This includes realistic expectations management as well as training and upper management actively supporting clerks at the competent authorities during the implementation process.
- The article emphasises that numerous possibilities for use already exist and the first pilot schemes can already be started. It is aimed at both the competent authorities as well as political decision-makers and other interested stakeholders in the area of recognition of foreign professional qualifications.