



Annual Public Report 2011

Table of contents

1. Project objective.....	3
2. Expected results and target audience	3
3. Summary of activities	4
4. The FLAVIUS platform	6
5. Dissemination and raising awareness	8
6. Consortium and contact	9
7. Further information.....	10

1. Project objective

FLAVIUS, Foreign Language Version of Internet and User-generated Site, is an EC-Project that aims at bridging the communication gap between the Internet content publishers who write in their own language and the end-users who search for content in another language. Its objective is to provide Internet content publishers with a cost-efficient, quick and easy solution to generate multilingual versions of their website and have them indexed.

FLAVIUS is thus a step towards creating a web environment where all citizens, companies and governments have an equal opportunity to access information in their own language.

2. Expected results and target audience

The expected result of the FLAVIUS project is the creation of a web platform that allows any website or program publisher to generate multilingual versions in three ways:

- ✔ **Give the URL of the website**, get it translated and publish the translated versions on the FLAVIUS servers.

In this first use scenario, FLAVIUS is an end-to-end solution. It does not require any technical skills and it is adapted to any kind of technologies. However, it particularly fits the needs of mostly “static” website that showcases physical products or websites.

- ✔ **Upload the “resource” files**, get them translated and retrieve the translated files

It is a more flexible solution, which especially suits programs (for instance mobile or .NET application) and also CMS content (WordPress for example).

- ✔ **Use the FLAVIUS REST API for power users**, to access all main Flavius features (translate and retrieve files or a whole website)

It is a more advanced solution, allowing the power users to deeply integrate Flavius into their applications or websites.

3. Summary of activities

The FLAVIUS project started in March 2010. During the first year of the project, we focused on establishing the cooperation between the partners as well as defining the workflow and the interaction between the different technical modules.

In brief, the FLAVIUS platform is a web portal that interfaces with several technological components. Each of them is dedicated to a specific task and developed by a FLAVIUS partner. The workflow encompasses several steps. Some of them are optional, and aim at improving the translation quality:

1. **Data retrieval:** The FLAVIUS platform retrieves and **extracts the data to be processed;** any type of data can be processed, except images and Flash.
2. **Spell checking** (optional): A larger part of internet content is now provided by users directly, who care less about spelling or grammar mistakes than the websites owners. The presence of these errors leads most of the time to wrong translations, in addition to making the reading experience less comfortable. Correcting or harmonizing the source text is a key step to enable quality translations. That is the reason why the FLAVIUS platform contains an optional module to spell check the source text. This component - developed by Daedalus - provides a spelling and grammar analysis of the submitted texts whether they are written in Spanish, Italian, English or French. Moreover, it automatically corrects non-ambiguous errors and gives suggestions, when there is ambiguity.
3. **Translation:** The translation module is provided by Language Weaver. It can be customized by user dictionaries and trained to a specific domain, for example tourism (this feature has not been implemented yet). Besides, it can be combined with a translation memory – powered by Across. In this case, the FLAVIUS platform looks up first in the translation memory. Then, if no result is found, the segment is translated by the translation engine.
4. **Post-edition** (optional): The translated segments can be reviewed manually and then fuel the translation memory for the next translations.
5. **Translated content retrieval:** The translated data is retrieved in the same format as it was submitted, either as a file or a URL. In the “URL” case, the translated website(s) can be hosted on the FLAVIUS servers.

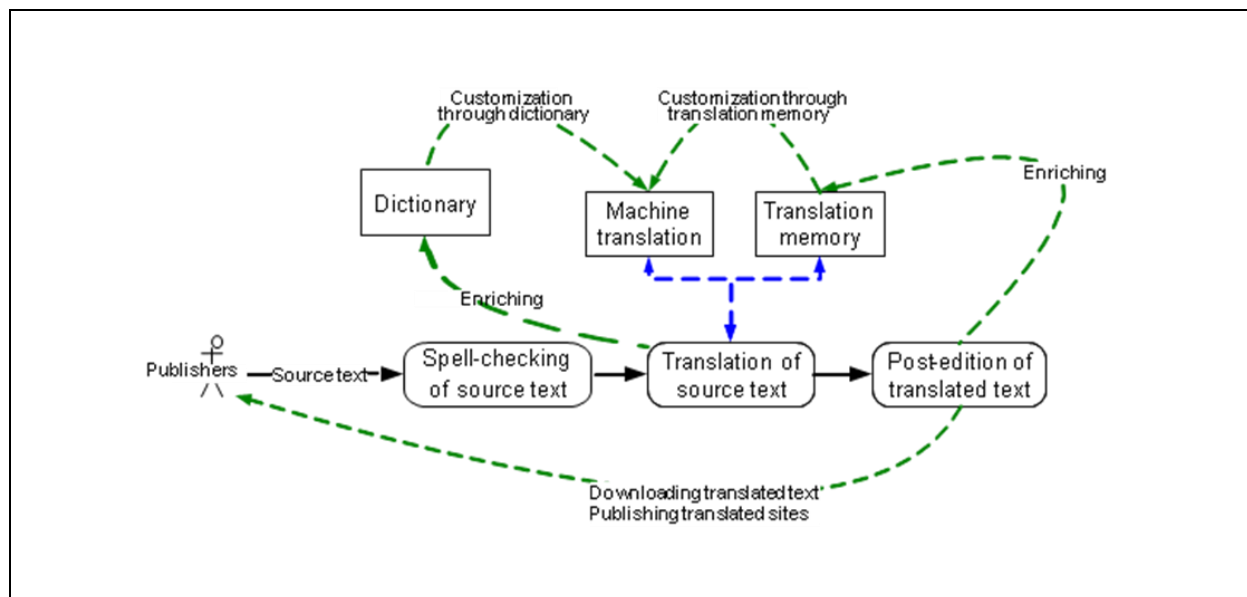


Figure 1. Translation workflow on FLAVIUS platform

During the second year of the project, namely in 2011, we set up the technical architecture, implemented the different modules and designed a user-friendly interface. We integrated the following features:

- ✔ **Spell-checking:** In the “URL” scenario, the errors are automatically detected but not corrected. The user can revise the original website and re-launch the translation job if he/she feels it would be useful. In the “File scenario”, the errors are automatically corrected. We implemented these two different workflows for testing purpose. But we can adapt them easily if needed.
- ✔ **User dictionary:** This enables the use of personal dictionaries. They can be either imported as csv file or created directly on the platform.
- ✔ **Translation memory:** It allows the user to import translation memories (TMX files) and use them in the translation process. For the moment, the feature is only available in the “File” scenario.
- ✔ **Post-edition:** It allows the user to revise the translation. In the “URL” scenario, the translated website can be browsed and revised at the same time. In the “File” scenario, the user has access to the list of translated segments and can modify them manually.

You will find more details in the next part - “The FLAVIUS platform”.

To sum up, we can say that at the end of 2011 the FLAVIUS platform was fully functional and thanks to the dissemination work already carried out, we already had real users.

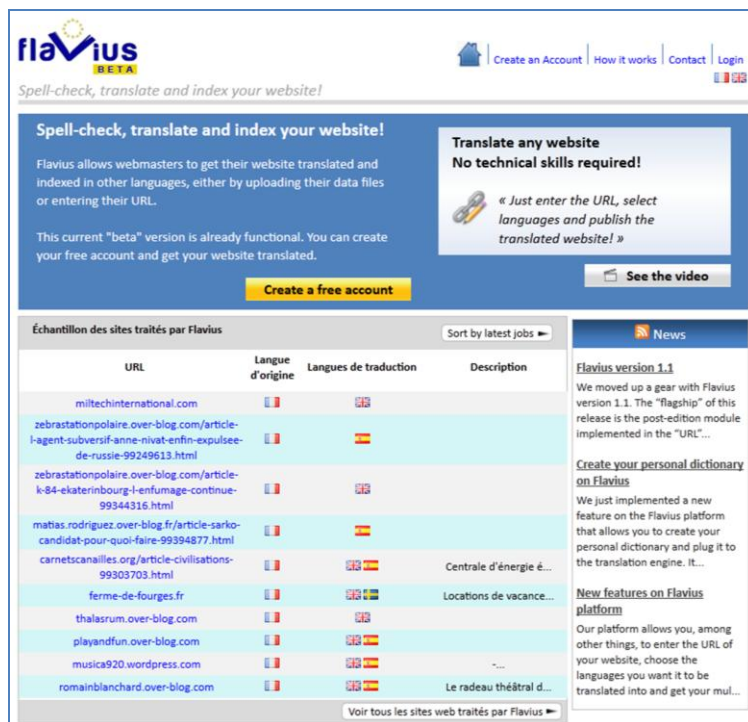
Having real users allows us to collect ongoing feedback and help us continuously improve the platform usability. Moreover, it gives a valuable insight into users' needs.

The project will end in September 2012. In the meantime, we have planned to:

- ✓ Improve the design and ergonomics and provide more guidelines;
- ✓ Implement new features, such as the possibility to invite external reviewers to revise the translations, customize the URL with the user's domain name, download the translated website, upload translation memories in the "URL" scenario and save the post-edition changes in a translation memory;
- ✓ Finalize the business model and the offer in order to be ready to go commercial in September 2012.

4. The FLAVIUS platform

The Flavius platform is already fully functional and is accessible at flavius.reverso.net.



The screenshot shows the FLAVIUS platform homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Create an Account', 'How it works', 'Contact', and 'Login'. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads 'Spell-check, translate and index your website!'. A central text block explains that the platform allows webmasters to get their website translated and indexed in other languages, either by uploading data files or entering their URL. It also mentions that the current 'beta' version is already functional and that users can create a free account. A prominent yellow button says 'Create a free account'. To the right, there is a box titled 'Translate any website No technical skills required!' with a quote: '« Just enter the URL, select languages and publish the translated website! »' and a 'See the video' button. Below this, there is a table titled 'Échantillon des sites traités par Flavius' with columns for 'URL', 'Langue d'origine', 'Langues de traduction', and 'Description'. The table lists several websites and their translated versions. To the right of the table, there is a 'News' section with three articles: 'Flavius version 1.1', 'Create your personal dictionary on Flavius', and 'New features on Flavius platform'.

URL	Langue d'origine	Langues de traduction	Description
miltechinternational.com	FR	EN	
zebrastationpolaire.over-blog.com/article-l-agent-subversif-anne-nival-enfin-expulsee-de-russie-99249613.html	FR	EN	
zebrastationpolaire.over-blog.com/article-k-84-ekaterinbourg-l-enfumage-continue-99344316.html	FR	EN	
matias.rodriguez.over-blog.fr/article-sarko-candidat-pour-quoi-faire-99394877.html	FR	EN	
carnetscanailles.org/article-civilisations-99303703.html	FR	EN, ES	Centrale d'énergie é...
ferme-de-fourges.fr	FR	EN, ES	Locations de vacance...
thalasrum.over-blog.com	FR	EN	
playandfun.over-blog.com	FR	EN, ES	
musica920.wordpress.com	FR	EN, ES	...
romainblanchard.over-blog.com	FR	EN, ES	Le radeau théâtral d...

Figure 2. FLAVIUS platform's homepage

Users can already create a free account and run a translation job. They have the choice between two use scenarios:

- ✔ **“URL”**: it is the easiest way to use the platform. The user gives the URL of his/her website, defines the translation languages and possibly selects translation options, namely spell-checking to automatically detect errors on the original website and user dictionary if he/she has previously created one. Once the translation job is finished, he/she can visualize the translated versions and revise it interactively. Then, the translated versions can be published and indexed in one click.

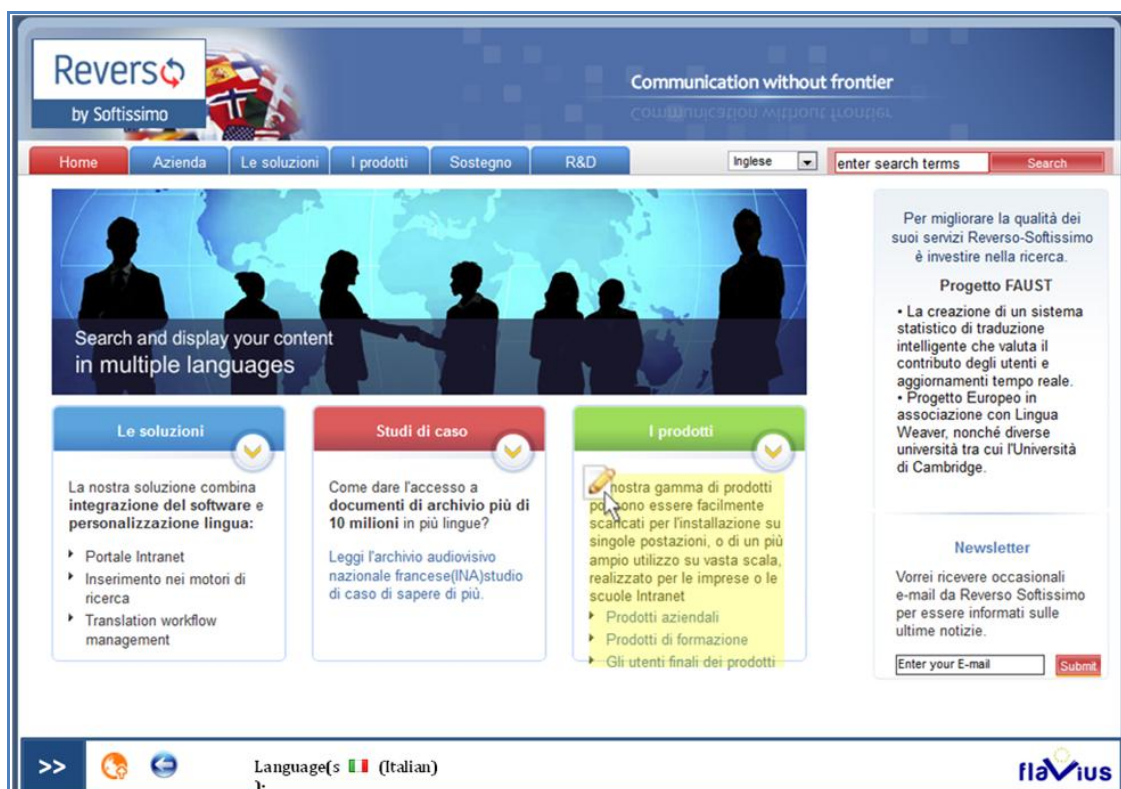
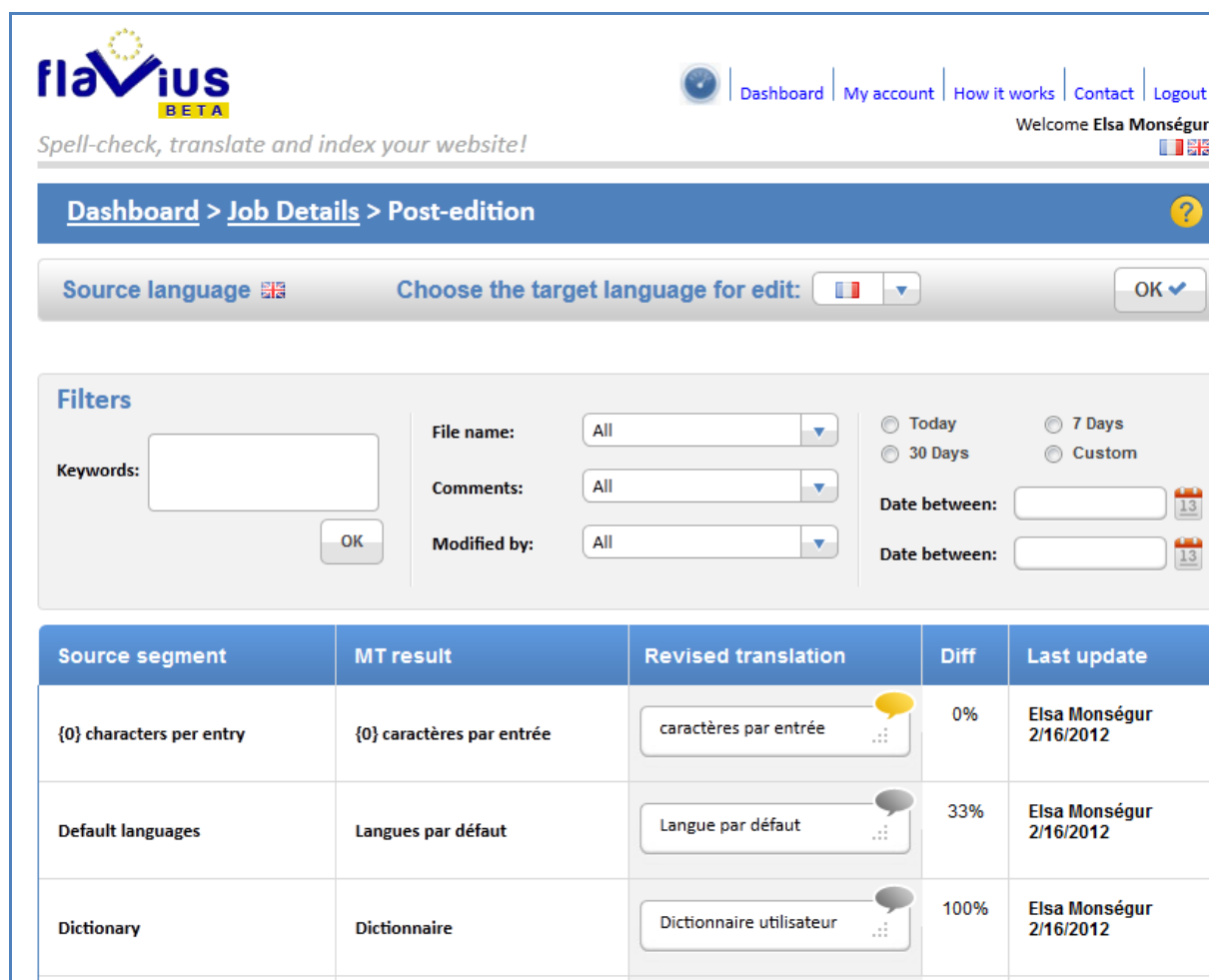


Figure 3. Browsing and revising the translated website on Flavius

- ✔ **“File”**: as previously mentioned, this scenario is more adapted to programs or dynamic websites and requires some technical skills. The user uploads his/her files. He/she can choose between several “type of files” according to the technology used, namely “ReSX” for .NET application, “WordPress” for WordPress site and “All data”, for well-built XML. As in the “URL” scenario, the user selects the translation languages and can tick the following options, spell-checking, user dictionary and translation memory (this option will be also available for the “URL” scenario soon). Once the translation job is finished, he/she can post-edit the segments and then retrieve the translated files.



Source segment	MT result	Revised translation	Diff	Last update
{0} characters per entry	{0} caractères par entrée	caractères par entrée	0%	Elsa Monségur 2/16/2012
Default languages	Langues par défaut	Langue par défaut	33%	Elsa Monségur 2/16/2012
Dictionary	Dictionnaire	Dictionnaire utilisateur	100%	Elsa Monségur 2/16/2012

Figure 4. Revising the translated segments

Currently, there are eight available translation languages, namely French, Spanish, German, Italian, Romanian, Polish, Swedish and Russian.

5. Dissemination and raising awareness

During this year we have focused on three main axes in order to promote the FLAVIUS project:

- Disseminate information about the project through attending conferences and writing the FLAVIUS blog.

We held a poster session at EAMT on May 30th 2011 and also presented the project at the Localization World conference, which took place in Barcelona on June 15- 16.

- ✔ Start spreading the word about the platform through networking and communication with target users.

The objective was to increase the traffic on the FLAVIUS platform and get testers. Overblog communicated on its forum and published articles on its blog. The most popular high tech bloggers on Overblog were also contacted personally. It had a positive impact since more than 1000 new users have created an account on Flavius within one month.

- ✔ Develop pedagogy and user interaction.

We set up a contact form on the Flavius platform in order to collect user feedback. We have been receiving messages every day ever since. Most users are enthusiastic about the FLAVIUS concept but ask for more guidelines. This has confirmed the need for pedagogy on the website. Therefore, we have created a tutorial video that presents the different steps to translate a website, and shows the different screens and actions the user will have to perform. But we need to go further, especially by providing more guidelines and improving the ease of use.

6. Consortium and contact

The consortium partners have been carefully chosen to bring together the required set of skills. The spell-checking module is developed by Daedalus. Translation with possible customization is provided by Language Weaver. The translation memory technology is powered by Across. The implementation of the FLAVIUS website is carried out by Softissimo which has a long-standing experience in website development. Another strong aspect of the consortium is the presence of three major European websites, namely Qype, Overblog and TVTrip which represent the “voice of the customer” and will carry out evaluations throughout the project.



Softissimo, FRANCE
<http://www.softissimo.com>



Daedalus, SPAIN
<http://www.daedalus.es>



Language Weaver, ROMANIA
<http://www.languageweaver.com>



Across, GERMANY
<http://www.across.net>



Qype, GERMANY
<http://www.qype.com>



Overblog, FRANCE
<http://www.over-blog.com/>



TVTrip, BELGIUM
<http://www.tvtrip.com/>

Contact:

Joel Benchitrit

Softissimo

jbenchitrit@softissimo.com

7. Further information

The FLAVIUS platform is available at flavius.reverso.net in French and in English.

For further information you can also visit the blog project: <http://www.project-flavius.eu/>.