

Addressing Challenges in Terminology Translation: Insights From EU Medical and Public Health Documents Translated Into Albanian

Maklena Çabej*

Departments of Linguistics, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

Marsela Robo

National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation, Tirana, Albania

Aljula Jubani

Institute of European Studies, University of Tirana, Tirana, Albania

Abstract—This paper examines the challenges in terminology translation related to European Union documents in the field of medicine and public health, with a particular focus on institutional translation into Albanian. The translation of the *Acquis Communautaire* represents a core component of Albania's European integration process. However, it is frequently marked by evident problems in standardization, terminological inconsistency, and non-idiomatic borrowed words from source languages—especially English. The study adopts a descriptive and analytical methodology, including a comparative analysis of documents such as the National Plan for European Integration and the 2024 Progress Report. Findings indicate that the Albanian translations often fail to preserve the legal function of the original texts, struggling to convey their informative and directive content with clarity and precision. This leads to ambiguity and implementation challenges. Moreover, the analysis of the above-mentioned documents highlights the absence of a stable terminological corpus, a lack of inter-institutional coordination, and the insufficient involvement of linguistic and subject-matter experts in the translation process. This paper provides specific recommendations, including the development of a multilingual glossary aligned with the IATE database, the establishment of a national terminological platform, the training of specialized translators for each field, and the promotion of interdisciplinary collaboration. Ultimately, this paper seeks to contribute to the improvement of translation quality in this critical domain and to support the alignment of Albanian legislation with the EU legal framework, recognizing translation as a strategic activity in service of the integration process.

Index Terms—terminology standardization, institutional translation, EU legislation translation

I. INTRODUCTION

The translation of the *Acquis Communautaire*, or the body of European Union legislation, into Albanian constitutes one of the fundamental components of Albania's European integration process. To translate this legislation into Albanian is not merely a technical linguistic exercise, but a crucial mechanism for aligning the country's legal, institutional, and administrative systems with those of the European Union. EU legislation encompasses hundreds of thousands of pages of legal and technical documentation that must be translated and incorporated into the national legal documents with clarity and precision.

This process involves both the translation of the EU's legal and administrative corpus into the official languages of the Member States and the translation of documents from these languages into all other EU languages. One of the core principles underpinning this undertaking is the preservation of the semantic equivalence of terms across all languages: each term, concept, or legal notion must carry the same meaning regardless of the language in which it is expressed. This is essential to ensure that legal acts are interpreted and implemented uniformly throughout the EU territory, avoiding conceptual divergences that could undermine legal certainty or hinder the transposition and harmonization of legislation.

To guarantee this consistency, the EU has developed IATE (Inter Active Terminology for Europe)—the interinstitutional terminology database of the European Union. This platform is jointly managed by the main EU institutions and aims to ensure terminological coherence, accuracy, and alignment across all official translations. According to Afzal et al. (2016, p. 63),

term normalization or concept recognition is more complex than term recognition only – it assigns a unique

* Corresponding Author.

identifier to the recognized term, which links it to a source that contains further information about the concept, such as its definition, its preferred name and synonyms, and its relationships with other concepts.

Within this broader context, Chapter 28: Consumer and Health Protection represent one of the most critical sectors for the transposition of legislation and the necessary legal adjustments. EU documents in this domain include directives, regulations, technical guidelines, and qualified standards that provide detailed descriptions of the norms governing areas related to product safety, consumer information, representation, and market surveillance on one hand, and public health protection through preventive measures, the safety of medical products, occupational hygiene, infection control, the protection of healthcare workers, and epidemiological surveillance, on the other.

As a result, the accurate and functional translation of these documents is essential for their effective implementation and for the successful integration of Albania's public health policies with those of the EU's. It is also worth noting that religious translations and those in the field of medicine are among the earliest documented forms of specialized translation in the Albanian language.

According to Džuganová (2018, p. 9), "English for Medical Purposes (EMP) constitutes one of the main branches of English for Specific Purposes (ESP), while also positioning itself within both English for Academic Purposes (EAP) and English for Occupational/Professional Purposes (EOP/EPP)". This linguistic field addresses the academic needs of students and future professionals in university settings, as well as the communicative requirements of practicing professionals in medical environments.

In its further development, EMP has become part of a broader concept known as International Scientific English (ISE), which emphasizes the functional use of English in scientific contexts, where the primary focus is on research rather than language per se. As an integral component of ISE, Medical English encompasses a wide spectrum of disciplines and research areas. It serves a diverse group of users, including physicians from various specialties, undergraduate and postgraduate medical students, as well as language professionals—such as linguists, translators, and interpreters—specialized in medical communication.

Effective language use in this domain is essential for scientific communication, professional training, and international collaboration in both research and healthcare practice. For many years, scholars in both Albania and Kosovo have worked toward the normalization and standardization of terminology in the fields of medicine and public health in the Albanian language (Jubani, 2022). Several dictionaries have contributed to this effort, including "Fjalor latinisht–shqip i mjekësisë" (Latin–Albanian Dictionary of Medicine, 1975), "Fjalor anglisht–shqip i mjekësisë" (English–Albanian Dictionary of Medicine, Gjika, R., 1978), "Fjalor i termave të obstetrikës dhe të gjinekologjisë" (Dictionary of Obstetric and Gynaecological Terms, 1987), and "Fjalor i terminologjisë mjekësore" (Dictionary of Medical Terminology, Velija, N. N., 2013), among others. In addition, numerous scientific papers published in Albanian and international journals have helped lay the foundations of Albanian medical terminology and have supported the accurate translation and use of medical concepts in both clinical and academic practice.

However, many of the explanatory and bilingual dictionaries are outdated, and existing studies are insufficient to keep pace with recent developments in medical science or with the requirements for harmonizing Albanian medical terminology with that of the European Union. Nevertheless, these early works provide a valuable foundation for current translations carried out within the framework of the EU integration process.

Importantly, translation in this context extends beyond a purely technical function; it assumes an institutional and normative dimension. It directly affects the drafting of legal acts, the creation of administrative procedures, the development of sectoral guidelines, and the preparation of training materials for healthcare professionals (Gishti & Çabej, 2022). A lack of terminological coherence or inconsistency with the source text may result in inaccuracies, misunderstandings, and implementation difficulties.

In the context of translating and processing specialized texts - such as biomedical documents - the challenges are not limited to terminological complexity but also involve the need to maintain semantic precision across different languages. One study addressing this issue is that of Afzal et al. (2016), which focuses on concept recognition in French biomedical texts through machine translation.

According to Afzal et al. (2016, p. 63),

while many such terminological resources are available in English, other languages are covered much less well or not at all. For example, in the Meta-Thesaurus of the Unified Medical Language System (UMLS), one of the largest biomedical terminology resources, only a few percent of the English terms are also available in French.

The aim of this paper is to highlight the terminological challenges and translation strategies associated with EU documents in the field of medicine and public health, by analysing selected case examples and offering recommendations for improving current practices. The paper seeks to address the following key questions:

- What are the most common linguistic and terminological challenges encountered in the translation of EU documents in this domain?
- How does the lack of terminological standardization affect the implementation of legislation?
- What are the best practices and recommendations for ensuring the quality of institutional translation into Albanian?

Through a combined textual and institutional analysis, this study contributes to a better understanding of the translator's strategic role in the European integration process and in strengthening the absorption capacities of the *Acquis Communautaire* in essential sectors.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Legal and technical translation occupies a distinct place within translation studies, as it does not merely involve the transfer of a message from one language to another, but constitutes a complex act that intertwines legal conventions, institutional contexts, and principles of legal interpretation. Unlike literary or journalistic translation, it is characterized by the need for terminological precision, conceptual coherence, and functional clarity, given that legal and technical texts produce real-world effects:

Different texts are produced for different purposes and audiences; translating them requires a good understanding of how they are analysed and categorized. As translators, however, we need to look at the idea of text types in more detail. The main reason is that, as translators, we need a more in-depth understanding of the workings of a text and because we are dealing with two language/text systems, and we need to assess the compatibility of the two. (Byrne, 2006, p. 83)

Semantic and functional equivalence of terms is a prerequisite for ensuring a coherent translation. It is argued that legal translation must be adapted to the legal system of the country into which the legal act is transposed, while preserving the legal effects of the source text. In the context of the European Union, such texts are part of a multilingual system in which each language holds equal legal status (Wagner et al., 2001). This formal equality of languages in the EU makes it even more imperative to maintain a balance between fidelity to the original and clarity in the target text.

According to Robertson (2011, p. 63),

transposition implies: first, analysing the directive, interpreting it, understanding the intentions, objectives and methods, deconstructing it, discarding purely EU elements (such as EU committee procedures and EU review arrangements); second, making an analysis of national law point by point for each element in the directive and identifying whether the obligation is already respected or requires new national laws and if so what; third, constructing national texts within the national legislative framework in accordance with national rules on drafting (intertextually) in order to implement the EU policy.

The functional approach, proposed by Nord (2005), places emphasis on the function of the text in the target language (Skopos theory), viewing the translator as an agent oriented toward the receiver and the pragmatic function of the text within the local context. In contemporary translation practice, the focus is increasingly shifting from the source text toward the intended function of the text in the target culture:

Every translation is intended to achieve a particular communicative purpose in the target audience, and if we analyse who the target audience will be and what they may need and expect, we might be in a better position in order to deliver a product that suits their needs and expectations. (Nord, 2005, p. 17)

This approach is particularly relevant for EU technical and legal documents, which are often laden with complex syntactic structures and technical terms that lack clear equivalents in the target language—as is the case with Albanian. The absence of a standardized terminology in technical fields such as medicine, biology, or pharmacology in Albanian complicates the translation process and often pushes translators toward borrowings or hybrid forms that may not align with established professional communication practices at the national level (Temmerman, 2000).

In her attempt to develop an alternative approach to the description of terminology, Temmerman draws on domains characterized by rich terminological density and rapid conceptual development. These fields are marked by the continuous creation of new terms and the interplay between specialized language and the cognitive and social processes of scientific research. Temmerman chooses to build her empirical corpus precisely on the life sciences, which represent the most challenging ground for traditional models of standardization: “These include biology, genetics, molecular genetics, genetic engineering, biochemistry, recombinant DNA technology, biotechnology, and medicine” (Temmerman, 2000, p. 234).

This reality necessitates the integration of terminological and functional approaches within translation practice. Consequently, the theoretical framework of this study combines principles of legal translation (with an emphasis on functional-legal equivalence), Nord’s functionalist approach, and Temmerman’s socio-cognitive perspective on terminology development and management. This integrated approach allows for the analysis of translation not merely as a linguistic act, but as an interdependent process shaped by institutional, cognitive, and pragmatic factors.

III. METHODOLOGY

This study employs a descriptive and analytical methodology, drawing on comparative content analysis of texts translated by Albanian institutions within the framework of the standardization process aligned with European Union legislation. The main objective is to examine the use of technical and legal terminology in the translation of documents related to medicine and public health, analysing the degree of correspondence with the source text and the extent to which their legal and institutional function is preserved.

The texts used for this analysis consists of two primary translated documents: the National Plan for European Integration and the 2024 Progress Report. In these two documents we selected sections related to Chapter 28 (Consumer and Health Protection) that have been translated into Albanian.

In Chapter 28: Consumer and Health Protection (National Plan for European Integration, pp. 433–448), which serves as the focus of this analysis, we encounter complex and sensitive terminology from both legal and technical perspectives. This analysis is developed along two main axes:

a) Terminological standardization analysis, through which technical terms used in the original documents and their equivalents in the Albanian translations are identified, along with the semantic coherence and consistency of terms used within the same document. This section examines concepts such as medical devices, personal protective equipment, and others, with an emphasis on semantic accuracy and consistent usage.

b) Functional analysis, which aims to assess whether the translated terms retain their legal and normative function within the Albanian context, in accordance with the principles of institutional translation (Wagner et al., 2002), and whether the translation as a whole has been adapted in a way that is accessible and understandable to the Albanian audience (including physicians, pharmacists, patients, and institutions). This analysis helps us understand that the translation of EU documents in the field of medicine and public health serves not only a linguistic function, but also an informative, legal, regulatory, and educational one. A high-quality translation must accurately convey not only the lexical content of the original, but also the purpose for which the document was drafted. This requires careful adaptation to the context, the reader, and the function of the text. Otherwise, the message may be distorted, leading to misunderstandings—for example, regarding the use of medicines; public information documents may lack clarity; and legal ambiguity may arise in the implementation of regulations.

Additionally, computer-assisted translation analysis tools were employed, such as AntConc, to identify the frequency of key terms in the documents and to detect terminological variation.

This combination of textual and contextual analysis aims to provide a comprehensive assessment of translation quality, to identify existing gaps, and to offer concrete recommendations for improving the translation process within the framework of European integration.

IV. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

The following analysis focuses on the linguistic and terminological review of the Albanian translations of European Union documents related to Chapter 28 of the *Acquis Communautaire* – “Consumer and Health Protection”. Various official documents were examined for this purpose, including the European Commission’s 2024 Progress Report for Albania (in both Albanian and English versions), as well as the National Plan for European Integration (NPEI).

Based on the principle that institutional translation in the EU context requires not only linguistic accuracy but also semantic coherence and conceptual cross-linguistic equivalence, the analysis revealed frequent issues such as terminological inconsistencies, linguistic borrowed words, non-idiomatic structures, and lack of conceptual clarification in the formulation and translation of terms:

- the use of borrowed words from English (e.g., *gatishmëri shëndetësore* “health preparedness”, etc.);
- ambiguous collocations in Albanian (e.g., *imitime të rrezikshme* “dangerous imitations”, *plakje aktive dhe e shëndetshme* “active and healthy ageing”, etc.);
- terminological inconsistency (e.g., the English term *medical devices* is translated in different places as *pajisje medicinale* “medicinal devices” and *produkte mjekësore* “medical products”);
- lack of clarification for international terms that require mandatory explanation (e.g., One Health, RAPEX).

The analysis was conducted based on critical annotations made for each relevant paragraph, focusing specifically on the translation of segments where the technical or legal context demands particular attention to avoid functional inaccuracies. This approach is informed by literature on specialized translation (Byrne, 2006), socio-cognitive terminology theory (Temmerman, 2000), and institutional translation ethics (Koskinen, 2014), reflecting the need for standardization, transparency, and normalization of translations that directly impact Albania’s legal harmonization with EU legislation.

The main findings are grouped into three categories: (1) terminological challenges, (2) intertextual inconsistencies, and (3) the impact of insufficient institutional coordination on translation quality.

A. Terminological Challenges in the Translation of EU Documents

The most critical challenges identified concern terminological inconsistencies, which undermine the accurate interpretation of EU legal and scientific provisions. The translation of technical and health-related terms often fails to reflect the functional context and the standards established in European directives (Byrne, 2006; Temmerman, 2000).

Illustrative examples include:

- Product safety is translated as *siguria e konsumatorëve* (consumer safety) instead of *siguria e produkteve* (product safety), shifting the focus from the object (products) to the subject (consumers).
- Risk assessment is translated as *vlerësim i pasojave* (assessment of consequences), omitting the core notions of predictability and risk management, which are fundamental in public health and food safety policy.
- Consumer protection strategy is translated merely as *strategjia për konsumatorët* (strategy for consumers).

In addition, in the NPEI document (pp. 433–448), several specialized terms remain unstandardized:

- Rapid Alert System for Dangerous Non-Food Products (RAPEX) is translated as *Sistemi i Alarmit të Bashkimit Evropian* (European Union Alert System), lacking a functional description of the system as a network for identifying dangerous non-food products—an essential element for implementation context.
- Substances of Human Origin (SoHO) is inconsistently translated across various documents, although it is correctly translated as *substanca me origjinë njerëzore* (substances of human origin) in the NPEI (p. 441).

B. Intertextual Inconsistencies and Terminological Variation

The analysis revealed that the lack of a standardized and coherent terminology leads to discrepancies between official documents and their translations. These inconsistencies occur not only between the source text and the translation but also within translations produced by the same institution.

For example:

- In one section of the NPEI (p. 434), it is accurately stated that “the *acquis* consists of measures related to tobacco control, cross-border threats, blood, tissues, cells, and organs”, while in the 3MII Report the corresponding terms are sometimes replaced with broader expressions such as “public health issues”.
- The blood field guidelines (p. 442) are mentioned as part of the translation process, but there is no reference to whether they have been harmonized with EU standard manuals such as the Guide to the preparation, use and quality assurance of blood components, raising concerns about terminological alignment.

Such inconsistencies hinder the development of a stable legal and technical discourse in the Albanian language, as also emphasized by Temmerman (2000) in her socio-cognitive model for term definition.

C. Comparative Analysis of the Use of Albanian Terminology in Official Documents

To illustrate the issues encountered in the translation and adaptation of medical terminology from European Union documents into Albanian, we present below two comparative tables containing selected data extracted from the analysis of the documents under review: the European Commission’s 2024 Progress Report for Albania (in both Albanian and English), and the National Plan for European Integration (NPEI), specifically Chapter 28 of the *Acquis Communautaire* – “Consumer Protection and Health Protection”.

In Table 1, we have compared several terms used in the English documents with their translations into Albanian. Additionally, for each term examined, we have presented the related terminological issue along with relevant comments. Each of these terms appears multiple times in the documents we analysed, but for illustration purposes, we have referred only to a single page from one of the documents. For each word in Table 1, a short description of translation problems is provided below it.

TABLE 1
TERMINOLOGICAL ISSUES IN TRANSLATION FROM ENGLISH TO ALBANIAN

English Term	Translated Term in Albanian	Page in the Albanian Document	Terminological Issue and Comments
1. medical devices	<i>pajisje mjekësore, pajisje medicinale</i>	NPEI, p. 434	Terminological Inconsistency
2. injury prevention	<i>parandalimi i lëndimeve</i>	NPEI, p. 433	Borrowed words from English, not fully clear or limited in context
3. aging active and healthy	<i>plakje aktive dhe e shëndetshme</i>	NPEI, p. 433	Linguistic Issue and Interinstitutional Incoherence
4. dangerous imitations	<i>imitime të rrezikshme</i>	NPEI, p. 434	Literal translation from English, unclear, functionally inconsistent, and does not fully reflect the legal concept of the term within the RAPEX framework
5. control of tobacco	<i>kontrolli i duhanit</i>	NPEI, p. 434	Literal translation from English, conceptual mismatch
6. health preparedness	<i>gatishmëri shëndetësore</i>	NPEI, p. 439	Literal translation from English, non-idiomatic, unclear, conceptual mismatch
7. avian influenza	<i>influenca e shpendeve</i>	Raporti 3MII, p. 25	Literal translation from English, lack of standardization
8. screening	<i>screening</i>	Raporti 3MII, p. 30, 32	Untranslated, inconsistent with EU institutional translation standards

1. In the same document, the term “medical equipment” is translated at times as *pajisje mjekësore* and at other times as *pajisje medicinale*. This reflects not only a terminological inconsistency but also an unnatural literal translation from English, where the term *medical* is rendered as *medicinale*. The standardized term used in Albanian legal acts and in official EU translations is *pajisje mjekësore* (medical devices).
2. The word *lëndim* (injury), as defined in the Dictionary of the Albanian Language (2006, p. 547), is primarily explained according to the meaning of the verb *lëndoj* (to injure): to wound someone or leave a mark on the body; to affect or aggravate a wound. A secondary meaning is bodily harm, wound; physical or emotional pain. In the context of medicine and public health, when translated in this way, the term is limited in scope, non-professional, and not commonly used in technical or legal documents. In medical terminology, the more appropriate and widely used expression is *parandalimi i traumave* (trauma prevention).

3. This phrase has been translated literally from English, but it appears to be accepted and consolidated in official documents. Nevertheless, from a syntactic perspective, a more accurate translation would be *plakje aktive e shëndetshme* (active and healthy ageing). In addition, there is an intertextual inconsistency. In the document *National Health Strategy 2016–2020 (Draft)* (2017, p. 31), the term used consistently is *plakje e shëndetshme* (healthy ageing).
4. The word *imitim* (imitation), as defined in the *Dictionary of the Albanian Language* (2006, p. 403), is primarily explained through the meaning of the verb *imitoj* (to imitate): to do something in the same way as someone else has done it; to make something resemble something else. In the field of medicine and public health, this term is not functionally accurate, as it does not clearly convey the appropriate concept.
5. In the document *National Health Strategy 2016–2020 (Draft)* (2017, p. 40), the term *kontrolli i duhanpirjes* (tobacco control) is accurately used in accordance with the context.
6. In English, this term refers to a system of measures, emergency plans, and organized capacities designed to respond to public health threats (such as pandemics, natural disasters, etc.). Therefore, the translation must be functional, reflecting both the technical meaning and the accurate use of Albanian in official and medical documents.
7. In the medical terminology employed by the Ministry of Health, the Institute of Public Health, the World Health Organization, and the European Commission, the term *gripi i shpendëve* (avian influenza, or bird flu) is used.
8. By remaining untranslated, this term becomes unclear to a broader audience and does not align with the established medical terminology of the Albanian language.

As shown in Table 1, the translation of European Union documents into Albanian in the field of medicine and public health presents terminological challenges that must be addressed in order to ensure Albania's effective integration into EU public health policies.

Following Jubani (2023), Table 2 presented a comparative, data-driven terminological analysis designed to assess the degree of consistency and standardization of Albanian-translated terminology in the field of consumer protection and public health (Chapter 28 of the *Acquis Communautaire*).

Specifically, the analysis was based on three interlinked sources:

National documents in Albanian, including:

- National Plan for European Integration (NPEI, 2024)
- Progress Report on the Integration Process (3MII, 2024)
- Decisions and Guidelines issued by the Council of Ministers and relevant ministries

Online searches and institutional portals in Albania, used to trace the usage of relevant terms in public publications, legal reporting, and strategic documents.

The corpus-based linguistic tool Sketch Engine, which incorporates multilingual EU-translated corpora such as EUR-Lex EN–SQ, *Acquis Communautaire*, and Para Crawl.

Using the Concordance and Word Sketch functions, the analysis measured:

- the frequency of English terms and their corresponding Albanian translations;
- the most common collocations of the terms to analyse usage context;
- terminological variation in translation across documents and corpora.

This combined methodology - drawing from official sources and corpus-based analysis—offers a complementary and effective approach to that used in Table 1. It provides a detailed overview of the consistency, prevalence, and accuracy of Albanian translations of technical and legal terminology under Chapter 28, identifying problematic areas and the need for institutional standardization.

The table below summarizes key terms identified during the comparison between translated documents (NPEI, 3MII), original English documents, and public Albanian-language sources (institutional portals, Council of Ministers decisions, administrative guidelines, etc.).

TABLE 2
A COMPARATIVE, DATA-DRIVEN TERMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

Albanian Term	English Translation	Usage in Official Documents	Frequency of Use	Remarks
Siguria e produkteve	Product safety	Yes	Limited	Found in technical texts, but not in strategic integration documents
Vlerësimi i rrezikut	Risk assessment	Yes	Moderate	Present in technical guidelines, primarily in the fields of environment and water
Strategjia për mbrojtjen e konsumatorit	Consumer protection strategy	Yes	Sporadic	Limited use in conferences or academic papers; absent from official documents
Përgatitje për emergjencë në shëndetin publik	Public health emergency preparedness	No	Unused	Usage in documents is general, without specification for public health
Sistemi i Njoftimit të Shpejtë për produkte joushqimore (RAPEX)	Rapid Alert System for Non-Food Products (RAPEX)	Yes	Present	Mentioned on several platforms, but lacks a consolidated official translation
Substanca me origjinë njerëzore	Substances of human origin	No	Missing	The term is not found in public documents or Albanian terminological databases

This analysis demonstrates a lack of consistency in the institutional use of EU terminology. While some terms are partially included in Albanian documents, their use is often sporadic, non-standardized, and lacks a unified approach. Terms requiring specialized treatment, such as *substanca me origjinë njerëzore* (substances of human origin) or *përgatitja për emergjencë në shëndetin publik* (public health emergency preparedness), are almost entirely absent, revealing significant terminological and translational gaps in the process of alignment with the *Acquis Communautaire*.

This situation highlights the need for:

- the development of a stable bilingual corpus for the terms of Chapter 28,
- Albania’s inclusion in EU shared terminological databases (such as IATE),
- and the institutional formalization of terminology through a coordinated interinstitutional mechanism involving translators, legal experts, and field specialists.

This dimension - grounded in socio-cognitive terminology methodologies (Temmerman, 2000) and functional technical translation theory (Byrne, 2006) - is essential for ensuring semantic consistency and the accurate legal implementation of European legislation in Albania.

D. Lack of Institutional Coordination and Its Impact on Translation Quality

A key issue that emerged from the analysis is the absence of centralized coordination among Albanian institutions responsible for drafting, translating, and publishing documents related to the *acquis*. Unlike the European Commission’s practice, where terminology is standardized through databases such as IATE and EUR-Lex, the Albanian approach remains fragmented.

This is reflected in several ways:

- Translations of EU directives are not publicly accessible - neither on the portal of the Council of Ministers nor on the websites of the relevant ministries - thus limiting transparency and constraining the development of translational and research capacities (European Commission, 2024).
- The absence of an interinstitutional terminological structure hinders the development of an integrated bilingual corpus that would support translators and researchers in maintaining conceptual and semantic consistency.

Moreover, the translation of documents such as ICD-10 through Council of Ministers Decision No. 135 (p. 444), although representing an important step toward harmonization with WHO and EU standards, still does not reflect the full involvement of translation actors in the drafting and approval of health policies in alignment with EU terminology.

V. DISCUSSION

Based on the analysis conducted and the challenges identified in the translation of European Union documents in the fields of health and public health, this section offers a set of concrete recommendations aimed at improving the quality, coherence, and efficiency of translations in this critical domain. The recommendations are grounded in contemporary literature on institutional translation and specialized terminology (Byrne, 2006; Temmerman, 2000) and are aligned with best practices from EU Member States and the principles of applied ethics in translation.

According to Koskinen (2014), recent developments in translation studies indicate a shift away from abstract theoretical models toward deontological and pragmatic ethics shaped by institutional practice: “applied ethics tends to be driven by pragmatic intentions and has a strong normative tendency. In translation praxis, we have seen a global surge of institutional and organizational codification of translation and, in particular, interpreting ethics” (Koskinen & Pokorn, 2021, p. 4).

This approach raises important questions about the authority and legitimacy of decision-making in the standardization of translations, particularly in the case of legal and technical translations that have a direct impact on policymaking and law implementation.

To clarify semantic meanings and to ensure the coherence and standardization of terms in the fields of medicine and public health, it is essential to develop and adopt an official multilingual glossary aligned with the EU's terminological database, IATE (Inter Active Terminology for Europe). This glossary should be regularly updated and made accessible to all stakeholders involved in the translation process, including translators, editors, officials, and professionals in the medical field. Similar models exist in several EU countries, where public translation agencies follow open policies for sharing terminological resources (Bowker & Pearson, 2002).

- Proper Training of Specialized Translators

Translators, as well as editors working with technical and legal documents in the field of health, must be trained in both medical and legal terminology. As Byrne (2006) emphasizes, technical translation requires specialized competencies that cannot be acquired solely through foreign language proficiency, but through systematic training in the relevant fields and experience in using terminological tools. Translation and interpreting programs at universities should include modules on the translation of specialized texts, including medical content, and the use of bilingual corpora for term identification and verification.

- Interdisciplinary Collaboration among Translators, Medical Professionals, Legal Experts, and Linguists

In the context of translating EU documents—particularly in specialized domains such as medicine - the establishment of interdisciplinary working groups is essential. These groups should bring together translators, editors, linguists, medical doctors, pharmacists, and legal professionals. Their collaborative efforts are crucial for identifying and interpreting key terminology, ensuring terminological accuracy and coherence, and preserving the legal integrity of the translated texts. In several EU Member States, such interdisciplinary collaboration has been formalized through joint protocols involving ministries, academic institutions, and public translation agencies.

- Establishment of a National Terminology and Translation Platform

One of the most significant shortcomings in the institutional translation process into Albanian—particularly in the context of European Union documents - is the lack of a standardized and certified national corpus for the Albanian language. Unlike many other official EU or candidate country languages, Albanian still lacks a stable linguistic database that can be automatically processed by computer-assisted translation (CAT) systems or by artificial intelligence-based machine translation engines. Nevertheless, some open-access resources such as OPUS, Sketch Engine (EUR-Lex EN–SQ), and initiatives like ELRC-SH (European Language Resource Coordination – Shqip) provide multilingual parallel corpora in which Albanian is partially included, mainly through EU documents translated from English or other major languages.

In light of this, it is strongly recommended that Albanian institutions responsible for integration and translation - such as the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Academy of Sciences, and the Council of Ministers - initiate a joint process to build a national bilingual (Albanian - English) corpus based on officially translated documents. This corpus would enable the training of machine translation engines, the development of harmonized terminological lexicons aligned with databases such as IATE, and the implementation of algorithms for semantic and intertextual analysis. In this way, the Albanian language could be more effectively integrated into the EU's multilingual digital ecosystem and benefit from technological advancements in institutional translation and language processing - substantially improving the quality, transparency, and coherence of legal and administrative communication.

Additionally, it is recommended to establish a digital platform to serve as a national hub for translation and terminology management. This platform could integrate glossaries, comparative corpora, databases of translated documents, and computer-assisted translation (CAT) tools, supporting enhanced transparency and interinstitutional collaboration.

VI. CONCLUSION

The descriptive and qualitative analysis of the translations of European Union documents in the field of medicine and public health into Albanian revealed shortcomings in terminological standardization, semantic consistency, and functional equivalence. Learning how to avoid these shortcomings affects not only the linguistic accuracy of the translated texts but also the legal and regulatory implementation of the acts derived from them. The absence of a shared terminological base, intertextual inconsistencies, and the use of non-idiomatic borrowed words highlight the structural problems of the institutional translation process in Albania. Consequently, the translation of EU documents in this field and the alignment with the *Acquis Communautaire* should not be treated merely as a technical activity or a political-administrative process, but as a complex linguistic and conceptual endeavour that requires professional capacity-building, interinstitutional coordination, and reliance on standardized terminological resources. In this context, the development of an official multilingual glossary harmonized with IATE, the creation of a national corpus for institutional translation, and the systematic involvement of translators, editors, legal experts, and health professionals in the process of terminological standardization are strongly recommended. Only through an integrated approach - one that combines functional, socio-cognitive, and legal perspectives - can a sustainable and high-quality translation practice be achieved in support of Albania's effective integration into the European Union.

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Maklena Çabej received her PhD in morphology in 2014, at the University of Tirana. She has been teaching and conducting research at the Department of Linguistics at the University of Tirana, for almost 22 years, focusing on Albanian Language morphology, editing, and terminology. She is the co-author of a scientific monography, author of dozens of scientific papers and presentations. She has been invited and she has collaborated in scientific projects with Albanian and foreign universities, including Humboldt University (Germany), Ca' Foscari University of Venice, etc. She holds the title of Associated Professor at the Department of Linguistics.



Marsela Robo holds a Ph.D. in Pedagogical Sciences, an "Executive Master" in Pedagogical Sciences and a "Master of Science" in Mathematics, all from University of Tirana. She has completed trainings and professional qualifications in USA, Italy, Germany, Japan, England, Norway, Estonia, Latvia, Belgium, Greece, Poland, Slovenia, Romania, etc., in the field of policies and strategies of Higher Education, Scientific Research and Innovation, European Integration, EU and European Research Area policies, also in the field of Management, Critical Thinking and Leadership in Education, etc. Holding management and technical positions in the public administration sector (Ministry of Education), she has more than 30 years of comprehensive and leading experience in the field of Education System in Albania. She is a senior lecturer in research and pedagogy methodology in social science, a trainer at ASPA and as a GIZ certified trainer she has contributed to the training of VET high school staff.



Aljula Jubani is the Director of the Institute for European Studies at the University of Tirana. She has extensive international experience in teaching and research. Her areas of expertise include experimental phonetics, language policy, normative linguistics, terminology, dialectology, and cultural heritage. She is an active contributor to public policy initiatives in education and historical memory studies, collaborating with institutions such as the Authority for Information on Former State Security Documents and the Council of Europe. Her work reflects a strong commitment to advancing education, research, and the promotion of the Albanian language and culture at both national and international levels.