

TAPICC Charter

Translation API (Use) Cases and Classes Charter

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The original Project Statement and other key links can be found here: <https://www.gala-global.org/tapicc>

Statement of Purpose

The Translation API (Use) Cases and Classes (TAPICC) Project is a collaborative, community-driven, open-source initiative to advance API standards in the localization industry.

The goal of the initiative is to:

- Identify use cases for API standardization in the localization industry; classify and categorize these use cases and match them with any existing projects in order to provide a starting point for further standardization and as a “catalog” for industry agents to “find each other”
- Harmonize the business metadata of existing projects, extend them with community-driven input and publish standardized sets of business metadata for future use for anyone wishing to implement them. These sets should strive to be backward compatible for any of the projects from which they were derived
- Create API classes which can be implemented by clients, LSPs, and tools vendors alike. The target deliverables for these API classes will depend on the track and community input

The overall purpose of this initiative is to provide a metadata and API framework on which users can base their integration, automation and interoperability efforts, rather than proliferating proprietary implementations which hinder collaboration and are expensive to maintain.

Mode of Operation

TAPICC is intentionally set up as a collaborative community project within the GALA framework. TAPICC openly encourages participation by all community stakeholders, including LSPs, end clients, tools vendors, researchers, etc. All contributions are governed by our open source policies, detailed in the Legal section, as well as this Charter. GALA will act as and provide resources to administer the project in terms of meetings, content repositories, discussion group architecture, webinars, information dissemination and public relations / marketing.

TAPICC will be supervised by a Steering Committee. This Steering Committee will set priorities, deliverables and target schedules for the individual tracks after open discussion in the community. For each track identified under *Scope of Work* below, a Subcommittee will be engaged to discuss the topic and produce a recommendation back to the TAPICC Steering Committee, which will then pass it to community deliberation and decide on the next steps. The Steering Committee is comprised of at least one delegate of GALA, one tool vendor, one LSP, one end client and one research representative.

While some of the initiative's deliverables may eventually be passed to a standards body for formal standardization, TAPICC is not conceived to end with providing a certain deliverable, but rather to be an ongoing collaborative project to enable the industry to discuss and agree on open standards for exchanging business data or localizable content and enriching content with localization relevant data.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee (SC) makes decisions based on consensus, without veto power of any of its members. The current SC members are: Klaus Fleischmann, David Filip, Serge Gladkoff, and Laura Brandon. Other interested experts may join the SC upon SC approval. The SC determines project strategy and direction, as well as project deliverables and flow of work and efforts. The SC may invite interested individuals to be Subcommittee Members (SBCM). The SC publishes progress reports monthly, based on overall flow of work and Subcommittees' reports. The SC approves work flow changes proposed by Subcommittees and Contributors.

Subcommittees

Subcommittees (SBC) make decisions based on consensus, without veto power of any of its members. SBCs may invite interested individuals to be contributors to the subcommittee. Subcommittees report to the SC bi-weekly, based on their work. Subcommittees may propose work plan changes to SC for approval. SBCs must adhere to the approved work plan and report to the Steering Committee.

Contributors

Contributors are individuals who work on deliverables in any useful form, be it research, writing, programming, or any other effort to move project forward in the form of working hours spent by themselves or their company employees. Contributors receive their areas of work from SBCs. Contributors report to SBCs weekly. Contributors may propose changes to the plan of work, and any other feedback.

Scope of Work

Given the mode of operation, the scope of TAPICC will most likely be continually redefined. For the project's starting phase, four main standardization tracks have been identified and sorted by relevance and priority:

1. **Supply chain automation:** Enable the exchange of business metadata, localizable content and automation-relevant functionality between content repositories and localization environments
2. **Transfer of localizable content on a segment or unit level:** Enable the handing over of segments and units within the localization process, for instance between different localization tools
3. **Enrichment of localizable content:** Enable the markup of localizable content with linguistic information such as TM matches, MT output, terminology markup, "good enough" layout markup and other meaningful data for the actual localization work

4. **In-layout translation:** Enable an abstract layout representation in localization content to allow translation and review process to happen in layout, independent of the content source

Any specification work should strive to be or become grounded in the OASIS Universal Business Language (UBL) as the business metadata model and XLIFF 2.1 or higher as the content representation standard wherever possible.

Infrastructure and Communications

The general discussion group, repository for key documents, and general mailing list for the initiative reside in the TAPICC Group on the GALA Connect platform (<https://www.gala-global.org/tapicc-translation-api-class-and-cases-initiative>). All project participants must register with this group. Subcommittees should use this group to facilitate discussion with the broader community and share news about important milestones.

Subcommittees may also launch separate (private) groups on GALA Connect to allow for more detailed discussions regarding their subcommittee work. The SC members will be included in the mailing lists of the Subcommittee groups for the sake of synchronicity across the TAPICC initiative.

GALA will also maintain a project workspace on GitHub. GitHub provides the necessary functionality for project-related Wikis collaborative development.

Deliverables

The Steering Committee is the only body of TAPICC that can publish deliverables after clearing them with both the subcommittees and the community at large. The following high-level deliverables will be developed and published, in alignment with the statement of purpose above, for each of the four tracks:

- **Use Case Catalog:**
A categorized compilation of industry projects and efforts in one of the four standardization tracks, including a categorization model for easier traceability and retrievability
- **Metadata Mapping:**
Harmonized data model sets in each of the four tracks set out in the Scope
- **API Classes:**
Concrete API classes for each of the tracks set out in the Scope, including but not limited to SOAP and REST sample implementations of the standardized business metadata

Legal Terms

All contributions made to TAPICC shall be made under the following license terms:

1. BSD-3 Clause License (code): <https://opensource.org/licenses/BSD-3-Clause>
2. CC-BY 2.0 (documentation): <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/legalcode>

All participants must accept the terms of the licenses, as well as this charter.

Audience

The expected audience for the work of TAPICC includes but is not limited to:

- Content owners and managers that seek to publish their content in multiple localized versions (“end clients”)
- Service providers for internationalization, localization, and translation (“LSPs”)
- Localization tools architects and developers (“Tools vendors”)
- Multilingual content, software and process architects and strategists, multilingual content publishers
- Research facilities, universities, consultants

Language

English (US spelling)