# Cedefop European Training Thesaurus

*Marc Willem, Cedefop, Thessaloniki*

CEDEFOP

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| **Publisher** | Cedefop — European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training |
| **Contact** | library@cedefop.europa.eu |
| **Website** | http://libserver.cedefop.europa.eu/ett/ |
| **Coverage** | The European Training Thesaurus (ETT) is a multilingual, structured and controlled vocabulary of reference for vocational education and training (VET) in Europe |
| **Language** | Hard copy and online access: English and French.<br>The following language versions have been finalised and will soon be available online: Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Swedish. |
| **Creation date** | The European Training Thesaurus was developed by Cedefop in the early 1980s. |
| **Last release** | Hard copy (2008) in English and French<br>Online version, 2007<br>Online update to be released end of 2010 |
| **Update frequency** | Biannual |
| **Statistics** | European Training Thesaurus (ETT):<br>2 500 terms (1 550 are preferred terms, and 950 non preferred terms) in 11 languages. It is linked to other linguistic tools namely:<br>▪ Cedefop glossary (terminology of European education and training policy), 100 terms in 14 languages;<br>▪ Controlled vocabulary list (CVL), for tagging Cedefop web portal, 89 terms in English |
| **Polyhierarchy** | n. a. |
| **Display** | Alphabetical, hierarchical, classified list, rotated index<br>In the future also by domain, microthesaurus |
| **Format** | HTML, PDF, XML, TXT<br>RDF/SKOS will soon be available |
| **Usage** | **European Training Thesaurus**<br>▪ to index and search VET-Bib, Cedefop's bibliographic database (http://libserver.cedefop.europa.eu), and to define online thematic bibliographies (http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Information-services/bibliographies.aspx )<br>**Cedefop Glossary**<br>▪ intended for researchers and practitioners and identifies key terms that are essential for an understanding of current education and training policy in Europe (http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu/europass/home/hornav/Glossary.csp)<br>**Controlled vocabulary list (CVL)**<br>▪ to tag and search Cedefop webportal content by keywords (http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/EN/Browse-by-keyword.aspx) |
| **Initiatives** | Cedefop ontology project<br>▪ linking all Cedefop linguistic tools (European Training Thesaurus, Cedefop Glossary, Controlled Vocabulary List) in order to create an ontology and a proper semantic net in the field of vocational training, skills, vocational qualifications and lifelong learning |
| **Maintenance** | Cedefop library and documentation service in close cooperation with ETT Thesaurus Working Group (representatives from five ReferNet members, Bibb, Centre Inffo, FAS, ISFOL and BKKK, and from OP, Eurydice) |

# TESE – Multilingual Thesaurus on education systems in Europe

*Marc Willem, Cedefop, Thessaloniki*

**EURYDICE**

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| **Publisher** | EACEA<br>Executive Agency Education, Audiovisual and Culture |
| **Contact** | wim.vansteenkiste@ec.europa.eu |
| **Website** | http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/eurydice/portal/page/portal/Eurydice/TESEHome |
| **Coverage** | Multilingual controlled vocabulary on education systems in Europe designed by the Eurydice network as an indexing tool for all European providers of education information. Eurydice provides information on and analyses of European education systems and policies. It consists of 35 national units based in all 31 countries participating in the EU's 'Lifelong learning' programme (EU Member States, EEA countries and Turkey). |
| **Language** | The 2009 edition of TESE is available in 15 language versions: Czech, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish and Turkish. |
| **Creation date** | 1981 (European Education Thesaurus) |
| **Last release** | 2009 |
| **Update frequency** | TESE (first edition 2006; second edition 2009) |
| **Statistics** | 6 fundamental facets, 17 microthesauri, 4 flat lists, 1 387 descriptors |
| **Polyhierarchy** | A descriptor can be found in several hierarchies. |
| **Display** | Alphabetical, rotated and systematic |
| **Format** | XML, PDF and CSV |
| **Usage** | Among current users that have integrated TESE into their information systems are the libraries and documentation centres of European universities, ministries of education, national education agencies, academic staff trade unions and other education-related organisations. |
| **Initiatives** | Eurydice Network |
| **Maintenance** | Eurydice TESE management group |

# Unesco thesaurus

*Meron Ewketu, Unesco, Paris*

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|---|---|
| **Publisher** | Unesco Library |
| **Contact** | m.ewketu@unesco.org |
| **Website** | http://databases.unesco.org/thesaurus/ |
| **Coverage** | The Unesco thesaurus is a controlled and structured list of terms used in subject analysis and retrieval of documents and publications in the fields of education, culture, natural sciences, social and human sciences, communication and information. Continuously enriched and updated, its multidisciplinary terminology reflects the evolution of the organisation's programmes and activities. |
| **Language** | English, Russian, French and Spanish (Arabic in translation) |
| **Creation date** | Initial print version published in 1977 |
| **Last release** | Online version: July 2010; CD-ROM: 16th edition, 2008 |
| **Update frequency** | Every two to three months |
| **Statistics** | The UNESCO thesaurus contains 7 000 terms in English and Russian and 8 600 terms in French and Spanish. |
| **Polyhierarchy** | Only for geographic descriptors (countries) |
| **Display** | Alphabetical, permuted  and hierarchical |
| **Format** | Online<br>The Unesco thesaurus is also available on CD-ROM.<br>It can also be made available in XML, ASCII, PDF and Excel. |
| **Usage** | Subject analysis and retrieval of documents and publications of Unesco (library, website) . |
| **Initiatives** | |
| **Maintenance** | Group of users of the thesaurus and partners of the collaborative cataloguing project in the Unesdoc database |

# GEMET – General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus

*Stefan Jensen, European Environment Agency, Copenhagen*

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|---|---|
| **Publisher** | European Environment Agency (EEA) |
| **Contact** | gemet@eea.europa.eu |
| **Website** | http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gemet |
| **Coverage** | GEMET is a compilation of several multilingual vocabularies, designed as a general thesaurus, developed by the European Environment Agency and the European Topic Centre on Catalogue of Data Sources, aiming to define a core general terminology for the environment. |
| **Language** | 29 languages: Arabic, Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, German, Greek, English (UK), English (US), Spanish, Estonian, Basque, Finnish, French, Irish, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Maltese, Dutch, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Slovenian, Swedish and Turkish |
| **Creation date** | 1996 |
| **Last release** | Version 2.4, 30 January 2010 |
| **Update frequency** | On demand |
| **Statistics** | Super groups: 3; groups: 30; accessory groups: 5; themes: 40 Descriptors: 5 300 Definitions: more than 4 000 |
| **Polyhierarchy** | Each descriptor can be assigned to different themes. |
| **Display** | Systematic, thematic, alphabetic |
| **Format** | Online interface, web service, SKOS RDF, HTML RDF |
| **Usage** | Broad (metadata, indexing, translation). |
| **Initiatives** | OAEI 2007 environment — trilateral thesaurus mapping between GEMET, Agrovoc (FAO) and NAL (United States National Agricultural Library) thesaurus. 2009: GEMET as legally mandated vocabulary for Inspire metadata indexing 2010: Chinese translation and GEMET ontology development ongoing; linked data publication in progress |
| **Maintenance** | EEA, Eionet |

*Update 6 September 2010*

# Agrovoc – Food and Agricultural Organisation Thesaurus

*Johannes Keizer, Food and Agriculture Organisation, Rome*

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| **Publisher** | Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) |
| **Contact** | FAO-Agris-Caris@fao.org |
| **Website** | http://aims.fao.org/website/AGROVOC-Thesaurus/sub |
| **Coverage** | Agrovoc is a multilingual, structured and controlled vocabulary designed to cover the terminology of all subject fields in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food and related domains (e.g. environment). |
| **Language** | 19 languages<br>Six FAO official languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic), Czech, Portuguese, Japanese, Thai, Slovak, German, Hungarian, Polish, Persian, Italian, Hindi, Lao and Korean |
| **Creation date** | The Agrovoc thesaurus was developed by FAO and the Commission of the European Communities in the early 1980s. |
| **Last release** | 15 July 2010 |
| **Update frequency** | Every three months |
| **Statistics** | 31 727 concepts and 25 top concepts<br>572 318 terms from 19 languages<br>Further information: http://aims.fao.org/website/Statistics/sub |
| **Polyhierarchy** | A descriptor can be found in several hierarchies. |
| **Display** | Alphabetical and hierarchical classification schemes |
| **Format** | Online, web service, CSV, SKOS, OWL, MySql, Postgres, MsAccess, TagText and ISO 2709 formats |
| **Usage** | Searches of databases such as Agris (http://agris.fao.org/), Agricola (http://agricola.nal.usda.gov/), AgNIC (http://www.agnic.org/), FSRIO (http://fsrio.nal.usda.gov/) and NALDR (http://naldr.nal.usda.gov/) could be realised using both the Agrovoc thesaurus and the NAL (National Agricultural Library) thesaurus. |
| **Initiatives** | Agricultural Ontology Service (AOS)<br>Ontology mapping: Agrovoc has already been mapped to the following resources:<br>the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences thesaurus (CAT);<br>the Schlagwortnormdatei (SWD) thesaurus from the German National Library; the US National Library thesaurus (NAL) (http://oaei.ontologymatching.org/2007/food/); and the GEMET thesaurus (http://oaei.ontologymatching.org/2007/environment/ or http://www.few.vu.nl/~wrvhage/oaei2007/).<br>FAO is currently collaborating with CABI (http://www.cabi.org) to map Agrovoc to the CAB thesaurus (CABT). |
| **Maintenance** | Agrovoc partner organisations and Agrovoc Concept Server Workbench tool |

# Inspire Feature Concept Dictionary

*Cristiano Fuggaza, Joint Research Centre*

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| **Publisher** | Joint Research Centre, European Commission (JRC) |
| **Contact** | inspire-registry-info@jrc.ec.europa.eu |
| **Website** | http://inspire-registry.jrc.ec.europa.eu/registers/FCD |
| **Coverage** | The Inspire Feature Concept Dictionary (IFCD) acts as a common feature concept dictionary for all Inspire data specifications. The common feature concept dictionary contains terms and definitions required for specifying thematic spatial object types and its main role is to support harmonisation effort and to identify conflicts between the specifications of the spatial object types within the different themes. |
| **Language** | English<br>Labels and definitions are planned to be provided in all other official European Union languages (except Irish): Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, German, Greek, Spanish, Estonian, Finnish, French, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Latvian, Maltese, Dutch, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Slovak, Slovenian and Swedish. |
| **Creation date** | 2008 |
| **Last release** | 19 January 2010 |
| **Update frequency** | On demand |
| **Statistics** | Themes: 34; spatial object types: 180 (Inspire Annex I), to be extended with several hundred additional spatial object types in 2011 (Inspire Annex II and III) and codelists |
| **Polyhierarchy** | No |
| **Display** | By item identifier, item class, name, status, date accepted, date amended, retired and superseded terms available |
| **Format** | Online interface, planned to be published as XML (ISO 19135) and SKOS-RDF through a RESTful API |
| **Usage** | Inspire development and implementation (data specifications, network services, metadata) |
| **Initiatives** | Used in the Genesis and EuroGEOSS FP7 projects for data and service annotation, used in GEOSS AIP-3 for resource retrieval and query expansion |
| **Maintenance** | JRC-IES |

*Update 22 October 2010*

# ESCO – European Taxonomy of Skills Competencies and Occupations

*Henric Stjernquist, European Commission,*
*Employment, Social Affairs and*
*Equal Opportunities DG, Brussels*

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| **Publisher** | European Commission, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities |
| **Contact** | empl-esco-secretariat@ec.europa.eu |
| **Website** | http://ec.europa.eu/esco |
| **Coverage** | ESCO — the European Skills, Competences and Occupations taxonomy — is a multilingual classification of occupations, skills, competences and qualifications. ESCO will serve as the common language between the labour market and the education/training sector.<br><br>ESCO will improve information exchange and facilitate cooperation between education/training and employment service providers, between public and private employment services and between public employment services of different countries.  It will allow for electronic interchange of vacancy information (EURES) and CVs (Europass/EURES) as it will be fully compatible with these systems and easily understood by major labour market and education actors. |
| **Language** | 22 (All EU official languages except Irish) |
| **Creation date** | 2009 (long-term project) |
| **Last release** | First public release late 2010 (Version 0) |
| **Update frequency** | Frequency to be decided |
| **Statistics** | 6 000 skill descriptions (each occupation has been analysed to establish the skills required in that occupation) and 5 000 job titles. Names of qualifications/educations will be added at a later stage |
| **Polyhierarchy** | |
| **Display** | Systematic (ISCO), alphabetical |
| **Format** | Online, SKOS RDF, web service |
| **Usage** | A pre-version of ESCO is already used on the EURES portal (http://www.eures.europa.eu). National public employment services will use ESCO either directly or via mapping to their own taxonomies to facilitate exchange and matching of jobs and CVs. |
| **Initiatives** | A tool to assist mapping to and from national and sectoral taxonomies of occupations and skills and competences is being developed. Upgrade from ISCO 88 to ISCO 08 |
| **Maintenance** | Board, maintenance committee, reference groups coordinated by the European Commission (Employment and Education and Culture DGs). |

# European on International Relations and Area Studies

*Axel Huckstorf, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin*

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| **Publisher** | European Information Network on International Relations and Area Studies (Einiras)<br>(project coordinator: Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) |
| **Contact** | eurothesaurus@swp-berlin.org |
| **Website** | http://www.ireon-portal.de/index.php?id=91&no_cache=1&js=&L=1&sessionid=260BBC27B110FDF0BFE58D0F0F6320EB |
| **Coverage** | Multilingual thesaurus covering all aspects of international affairs and area studies (international relations, international security, international law, international economy, state, society, politics and policy, culture, education, social affairs/health, etc.). |
| **Language** | Print version: seven languages (Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish)<br>Online version: nine languages (Croatian, Czech, English, French, German, Italian, Polish and Russian (Greek version in translation)) |
| **Creation date** | 2007 |
| **Last release** | September 2007 (print version)<br>November 2009 (online version) |
| **Update frequency** | Once a year |
| **Statistics** | 24 subject fields<br>8 250 descriptors in nine languages and additional entry vocabulary (non-descriptors) for each linguistic version. |
| **Polyhierarchy** | A descriptor can be assigned to several broader terms. A descriptor can also be assigned to more than one subject field. |
| **Display** | Alphabetical, systematic (print and online version) |
| **Format** | Online version in nine languages available on IREON Gateway (http://www.ireon-portal.de/)<br>Printed (seven-language systematic part, monolingual alphabetical parts)<br>English PDF version (systematic and alphabetical)<br>German print version (systematic and alphabetical) |
| **Usage** | Retrieval of literature and factual information (international agreements) in the academic web portal IREON (International Relations and Area Studies Gateway).<br>Indexing and retrieval in the collaborative database of the German Fachinformationsverbund Internationale Beziehungen und Länderkunde (World Affairs Online) as well as in the bibliographic databases of the Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM), Warsaw, and of the Institute of International Relations (IIR), Prague. |
| **Initiatives** | Cross-concordances have been established to the following related thesauri: Standard Thesaurus Economics (STW), Thesaurus for Social Sciences (TheSoz), Thesaurus for Economic and Social Development (TWSE), and PAIS Subject Headings Thesaurus. |
| **Maintenance** | European Thesaurus Development Group (annual meetings). |

# UNBIS – United nations thesaurus

*Alexandra McLeod, Dag Hammarskjöld Library,*
*United Nations, New York*

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| **Publisher** | Dag Hammarskjöld Library<br>United Nations Department of Public Information (New York) |
| **Contact** | dhl_www@un.org |
| **Website** | http://lib-thesaurus.un.org/LIB/DHLUNBISThesaurus.nsf or<br>http://unhq-appspub-01.un.org/LIB/DHLUNBISThesaurus.nsf |
| **Coverage** | The UNBIS thesaurus contains the terminology used in the subject analysis of documents and other materials relevant to United Nations programmes and activities. It is multidisciplinary in scope, reflecting the organisation's wide-ranging concerns. |
| **Language** | Official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) |
| **Creation date** | 1981 |
| **Last release** | The online database represents the fourth edition and is the first to appear in all UN official languages; the third edition was the final one to appear on paper in 1995. |
| **Update frequency** | Committee meetings are held when a sufficient number of new terms or amendments to existing terms have been proposed. |
| **Statistics** | More than 7 000 terms |
| **Polyhierarchy** | A descriptor can be assigned to multiple categories. |
| **Display** | Hierarchical; browse alphabetical list, browse categories |
| **Format** | Online |
| **Usage** | It is the subject authority of UNBISnet (http://unbisnet.un.org/), the library's online catalogue, and has been incorporated as the subject lexicon of the United Nations Official Document System (ODS) (http://documents.un.org/advance.asp). It greatly facilitates subject searches in these two online document retrieval systems.<br><br>The UNBIS thesaurus has been sent to development agencies, university libraries and library schools, government ministries and other education-related organisations.<br><br>Usage: metadata to organise web content; subject headings for library collections; cataloguing and indexing; training aid for library and information studies students; creation of an Arabic thesaurus. |
| **Initiatives** | To link the terms within the thesaurus to facilitate browsing and to make searching more successful |
| **Maintenance** | Thesaurus committee |