

# 1. Aim and scope of the study

The aim of this study is to produce a full report on the terminology of the European Union's<sup>1</sup> development cooperation policy<sup>2</sup>. It is intended to provide the *status quo* of the EU's terminology in this field as well as to reflect the evolution of its terminology since the establishment of a common European development cooperation policy.

In order to be understood and accurately used, terms have to be seen and explained in context. Consequently, the object of study can only be the language used by the European Union in the domain in question. This special language is made accessible via texts written by the EU institutions for and about its development cooperation policy. Therefore, a corpus of EU texts that can be drawn upon to identify, describe and present the key concepts and terms constituting European development cooperation policy has been created.

The interdisciplinarity of terminology work is an essential aspect of this research. As terminology studies "the specialized words occurring in natural language which belong to specific domains of usage" (Cabr  1999: 32), it has to involve both terminological knowledge as well as subject field expertise. This interdisciplinarity is reflected in my research: On the one hand, the thesis deals with the field of terminology, a part of applied linguistics, as it provides the theoretical foundation of the study. On the other, it is concerned with the EU's development cooperation policy as its particular domain or, more precisely, with the concepts representing this domain. A thorough description and understanding of these concepts are the preconditions for a meaningful analysis of the terms used in this domain.

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- 1 The term *European Union* (EU, Union) is used throughout the book although it did not exist prior to the Treaty of Maastricht, signed in 1992. The term *European Economic Community* (EEC), referring to the predecessor of the European Union, is only used when the historical dimension of the Community is relevant, as is the case in the corpus analysis of the Treaty of Rome, the Yaound  and Lom  Conventions. The term *European Community* (EC) is used when specifically emphasizing the role of the first pillar of the EU.
  - 2 Most scholars use the term *development policy* to refer to the strategies and initiatives of the North towards developing countries. This is, at best, an abbreviation, if not a misnomer, as the North cooperates with developing countries in order to contribute to the latter's development. Therefore, the correct term is *development cooperation policy*.

It is essential to understand the role of the terminologist in this study. Unlike research of economists and other experts in European studies who may be interested in economic, legal and political aspects of European development cooperation policy, this study deals with the EU's development cooperation policy from a terminological point of view. Clearly, therefore, it cannot aim at anything more than terminological insights and findings.

This thesis is structured as follows. First, the rationale for the research is explained and the research questions to be dealt with in the study are posed (Section 2). Second, relevant literature in terminology is reviewed in order to provide insight into the theoretical framework of the study along with the basic ideas and issues in terminology (Section 3). Third, the methodology adopted in the study, i.e. a corpus-based approach to terminology, is described in detail and the rationale for using corpora in terminology work is explained (Section 4). Fourth, the EU's development cooperation policy with the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of states is described in detail and the relevant terminology is analysed on the basis of such corpora (Section 5). Finally, the key findings of the corpus-based analysis are summarised and discussed (Section 6).