IO1: Interviews analysis with comments (Slovenia)

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Table 1: PERLSI- IO1: Interviews analysis with comments (Slovenia)

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I: Relationship with and use of Easy language	
1. Describe your personal relationship with Easy language.	- The interviewed workers in education (teacher of Slovene, teacher of Slovene and English, social worker, and librarian) prepare texts for lessons/classes (with exception of the librarian). - Other interviewees adapt different texts for the institutions in which they work (home for the elderly, housing units for the elderly and people with intellectual disabilities, or people living in institutions after acquired head injuries). - It turns out that immigrants and emigrants are a group with completely different needs from those of people with intellectual disabilities, e.g.: they use the Internet, acquire vocabulary intensively, learn grammar rules, and progress regularly. - Children and teachers in primary schools have difficulty understanding textbooks; they recommend teaching materials in easier language. - Workers working in organizations for adults point out the lack of legal texts, texts in the field of medicine (illness and health), in the field of social work (decrees, etc.).

2. What target group do you work with as regards Easy language?	Three very different target groups of end-users emerge: - Immigrants, emigrants - CHILDREN AND ADULTS: adaptations are needed for a shorter period; initial language learning. - ADULTS: People with intellectual disabilities; people after acquired brain injury, the elderly. This group of end-users usually needs Easy language permanently; the first one all the time, the second and third from some point in life onwards (although they may have been good readers before). - CHILDREN AND ADULTS: Deaf, hard of hearing, blind, visually impaired, speech and language disorders, dyslexia and more. Children are further divided into two subgroups: a) Primary school with a lower educational standard b) Primary school with adjustments in regular standards.
3. How long have you been working in the field of Easy language?	Everyone who answered the questions was introduced to Easy language during the last ten years, most of them in the last two years.
4. How exactly do you employ it? (Monitor (M) initially poses general, then directional questions – do you use Easy language texts for work; write Easy language texts yourself; translate existing texts to Easy	- The challenges depend on the abilities of the person for whom the text is for. - A group of immigrants and emigrants receives an already adapted text that is the same for everyone. - A group of primary school children receives a modified text that has not been tested/validated with them.

language to use with the target group?)	- A group of adult end-users with cognitive barriers also participates in checking the comprehension of the texts (validation) that are addressed to them.
5. What Easy language related problems do you face when working with target groups? What difficulties do you face when writing or translating texts to Easy language?	-The most problematic are legal texts, as it is difficult to adapt them in such a way that some information is not lost (this is mainly reported by employees of institutions for adults).
6. Is there a lack of Easy language guidelines based specifically on the conventions of Slovenian language? Would you say that there is no government support and understanding for Easy language?	- All interviewees state that the guidelines are very good, transparent; both handbooks Lahko je brati are efficient. - For the most part, they do not know the legal basis well enough to be able to judge the state's support for Easy language. In one case, it was suggested that the development of Easy language should be a priority for the ministry (not specified which one). The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Culture have already prepared a National Strategy for the Development of Reading Literacy, which was approved by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia at the end of 2019.
7. Would you agree that public awareness and understanding of Easy language in Slovenia (choose the respective country) is lacking?	All interviewees mentioned Zavod RISA as a central space for information and materials in Easy language (literature, handbooks, newspapers) and knowledge on Easy language (the Lahko je brati website).

II Public engagement in use of Easy language	
1. To what extend do you think the access to communicative inclusion is compromised in our country. Do you feel a particular lack of accessible information in Slovenia?	- Easy information is for everyone; of course, it depends on the circumstances, the topic of the material, etc. One of the interviewees wrote, e.g.: "As a Slovene, of course I also enjoy more demanding literary works, but when I have to read various notices, instructions…, I am very grateful if they follow the principles of Easy language at least a little." - Some special needs are more marginalized, e.g., the population of people with mental health difficulties is already marginalized, and even when we talk about their rights, we often forget that they also have the right to information that they can understand.
2. What share of general public should, in your opinion, have access to texts in Easy language? (ask spontaneously first, then directionally – all society? Specific groups? Which groups?)	- Information should be accessible for all areas of public life, and the end-user should decide whether to choose to use the easier version or not.
3. What information in Easy language is the most necessary?	- Information that enables efficient, as independent living in society as possible (news, laws, regulations, instructions, notices…). - Health related information. - Those that enrich life on other levels (entertainment, art…). - Those interviewees who teach in schools believe that it would be necessary to adapt textbooks and other information materials and literature for reading.

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4. Do you see any current obstacles for use of Easy language? What are they? Do you see any ways to remedy or remove these obstacles?	No specific barriers are listed. Perhaps the most problematic thing is that we do not have the right to edit/change texts due to copyright. Of course, we respect copyright: we ask for the permission of the author or the heirs, if the rights are not yet free (70 years after the author's death), or it is folk literature.
5. How often do you encounter lack of public knowledge on Easy language and its use?	On the one hand, the public is insufficiently informed, so people do not even know about the existence of Easy language, and on the other hand, those who know it also know where to look for texts in Easy language (accessibility).

III Institutional efforts and topicality of Easy language	
1. What are the main sources of information (institutions, occupations etc.), the content of which should, in your opinion, primarily be prepared in Easy language? Any others besides those?	- What should be available: laws, rules / house rules, statutes, instructions, etc. - Institutions should prepare materials on their work: social work centres, health centres, schools, public administration, banks, the Pension and Disability Insurance Institute, insurance companies… all public institutions. The answers showed exactly where the interviewee was employed.
2. What is your view on the current interest level – would Latvian/Lithuanian/Slovenian (choose the respective country)	The interviewees mostly answered YES, i.e., in the affirmative. They believe that this is to facilitate the flow of information; however, it has been shown at this point that the groups really have very different needs: - schools in relation to parents of foreign/immigrant children,

institutions and other actors in public sector be interested in communicating with the population in Easy language? If yes, why? If no, why?	- administrative offices when editing documents, - healthcare professionals in contact with patients, - centres for social work, - ministries, health institutions, - news, laws. It is therefore about communication in the field of health care, work, education, life in general.
3. How would you rate the current level of support from public bodies in cases when people do not understand the information they provide?	The attitude towards social groups from the margins (these are all groups that are extremely in need of Easy language) is sometimes not the best: - someone who works in a specific field (not necessarily an expert, it can be a bank clerk) does not present information in a way that is understandable to other people, - complex forms and instructions, -it is difficult to surf the websites, etc. One interviewee remarked, "The skill is to explain more complex things easily and simply."
4. How knowledgeable and able to explain are the specialists?	To this question, which was perhaps not precise enough, two groups of answers emerged: - Easy language experts are excellent in Slovenia, they explain work methods and communication methods well, - Experts in a particular field (any field) mostly communicate poorly with the public (they do not know how to state their findings simply enough), so they do not know the principles of Easy language.

IV Current information on Easy language and future communication	
1. Is current information on Easy language and opportunities offered by it publicly visible and understood? Why yes or no?	The information is understandable and visible; perhaps only occasionally under-observed, e.g., one of the interviewees wrote: "The RTV SLO portal entered the public space with the portal Enostavno and showed that Easy language has it's place in public in Slovenia.''
2. Which, in your opinion, would be the best information channels to employ to inform on Easy language? Why those specific ones?	- traditional media (especially for the elderly), e.g., TV, radio, printed books (including books for the blind people) - internet: especially for immigrants and foreigners and emigrants; children with speech and language disorders, deaf children, or hard of hearing - newsletters / brochures / handouts at a specific institution (health centre, administrative unit, school…)
3. What are your suggestions for future advancement of Easy language? What is working well currently and what should be improved/changed in the future?	- Perhaps another handbook would be welcome, where there would be a concrete presentation of the adaptations- the original and the adapted text would stand in parallel, the dilemmas of the author of the adaptations might also be exposed. - Obtaining European funds. - The introduction of a compulsory subject in all study fields inside the educational sector - To cover as many areas of life as possible and to enable every person as easy as possible access to information and materials in Slovene. - Agency for Easy language: organization of new jobs for adapting texts into Easy language as a system solution.