

## Workshop F8: Web 2.0, social software, intercultural communication and EDC/HRE

The web 2.0 evolution offers surprising new approaches for networking. This workshop aims at introducing the possibilities and learning environments of social software for intercultural HRE/EDC networking purposes.

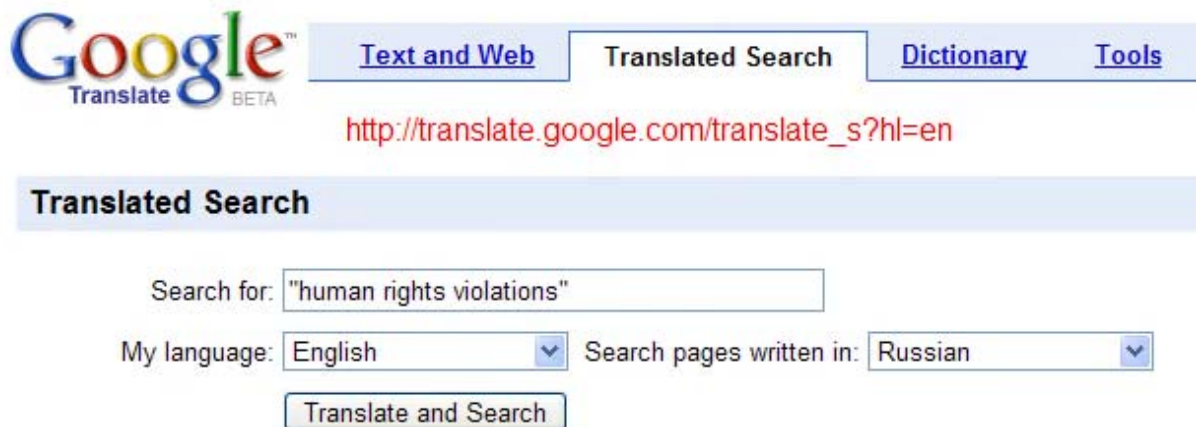
Wolfgang Schumann, University of Tübingen

### Minutes

Why should you or DARE deal with Web 2.0? The answer is quite straightforward, as it offers new, unique opportunities to enhance your work in EDC and HRE in an unprecedented way.

First of all, Web 2.0 provides tools for online cooperation and collaboration most of you won't be able to imagine (web-based project management, working on common documents or presentations in real time, using wikis or databases to gather information etc., etc.). With Web 2.0, geographical distance has lost its meaning and teams with members distributed across locations all over the world can collaborate as if they were sitting in the very same office!

Secondly, because Web 2.0 greatly facilitates getting information about human rights issues by, for example, eliminating the language barrier. Don't believe me? Then surf to Google Translate, choose the „Translated Search“ Tab, choose English as „My language“, Russian – or another language of your choice – in the field „Search pages written in“, fill in „human rights violations“ in the „Search for“ field and click on „Translate and Search“ – as is depicted in the following screenshot.



What you'll get is not only the original Russian results but an English translation of these results as well! Moreover, new technologies, like for example RSS (a short video tutorial on YouTube offers a wonderful explanation for non-techies in less than 4 minutes), help keeping track on new developments in you fields of interest much more efficiently than up to now.

Thirdly, because the so-called citizen journalism, enabled by new Web 2.0 based technologies, has brought about a variety of new ways of keeping track of human rights violations and dealing with human rights issues. Examples include Ushahidi, The Hub or Witness – to mention but a few.

Last but not least, because Web 2.0 offers amazing opportunities for DARE, to develop e-learning courses and curricula and thus disseminate knowledge about EDC/HRE in attractive, interactive ways.

This short enumeration was not and has not intended to be exhaustive; it should have made clear, however, that the time available today, a mere three hours, will neither allow for dealing with all of

these aspects nor even delving into all the details of at least one of them. That is why I decided to focus not only on one aspect but moreover offer this course as a blended learning event.

Blended learning in our case means that we will start dealing with our selected subject area, namely online cooperation and collaboration with Web 2.0 tools, this afternoon, where I will try to give you a complete picture supplemented by some practical exercises. Our course won't end on 6.30 pm tonight, however, it will rather continue online and be completed by an online platform. On this online platform, you not only will find an abundance of additional material (tutorials, presentations, videos etc.), but moreover a forum dedicated to discuss all the questions, which will arise when you will start integrating these tools in your daily workflow.

The reason for selecting "international cooperation and collaboration with Web 2.0 tools" as the subject area for this seminar simply was that during my preparatory talks with the DARE staff we came to the conclusion that dealing with this field could greatly improve the efficiency of DARE's activities in the short-run.