

PIARC (World Road Association) Strategic Plan - 2024-2027

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE – TERMINOLOGY COMMITTEE

Updating the World Road Association Dictionary

Purpose:

- Update and upgrade the existing version of the web-based Road Dictionary in each of the current languages.
- Increase the number of languages of translation of the Road Dictionary in liaison with World Road Association member countries.
- Improve the management of the web-based Road Dictionary and keep adapted to potential developments of the website of the World Road Association (including the development of an app for the use of the Dictionary on tablets and smartphones if resources are available)
- Encourage coordination with Technical Committees and Task Forces of PIARC to analyse new needs to collect technical words and definitions.

Description: In 1931, the first edition of the 'Technical Dictionary of Road Terms' was published in six languages (Danish, English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish). The World Road Association has continued working on terminology ever since. In 2007, the eighth edition was released in five languages (English, French, German, Portuguese, and Spanish).

The multilingual terminology database can be accessed on-line for making term searches and searches per theme, and the results can be displayed simultaneously in three languages.

This database is constantly updated by the PIARC Committee on Terminology, thanks to contributions from all PIARC Technical Committees. This coordination with other Technical Committees of PIARC is a key point for the next Cycle. In order this to be achieved, information should flow between committees. Thus, Committee on Terminology will be able to collect and analyse technical words and definitions, and afterwards, be included in World Road Association Dictionary.

Each line of the Dictionary provides the following information: the term, its definition (or a reference to the main term related to the concept involved), the term's code and its translation into the other languages, always set out in the same order.

This dictionary has been compiled in alphabetical order, as customary in dictionaries or glossaries. At the end of the dictionary a nomenclature with a logical methodical classification is presented, followed by the codes of all terms recorded.

The on-line Road Dictionary is far more comprehensive than the printed version; moreover, it is regularly updated. It offers you to search for one word or part of a word in one language and to obtain the results simultaneously in other languages, including the search language. Grammatical attributes, synonyms and their geographical origins, terminology classification and any illustration shown with the general term are displayed immediately.

The languages available on the Internet since January 2016 are: Arabic, Czech, Chinese, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Persian, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. However, the input of equivalent terms is improvable because it is still incomplete in most of these languages.

Thanks to the interactivity provided by the Internet, everybody is invited to suggest the addition, amendment or deletion of a term directly on the website. Thus, with the involvement of PIARC's Technical Committees and everyone's contributions, this collective work will become a most valuable tool for both experts and the general public.

A more intensive promotion of the Road Dictionary as a PIARC flagship product would be very important, both within the Association (including for the translation of its technical reports, manuals, other publications and reference documents) and outside it.

Committee on Terminology will focus on promoting the inclusion of specialized glossaries in the reports and manuals developed by the Technical Committees and on the use of these glossaries. Develop an app for smartphones and tablets, and the possibility of creating and printing personalized lexicons with baskets of words or themes, would be a great improvement for this Committee.

Deliverables: Upgrade and update the web-based Road Dictionary.

Potential Duration: project completed June 2027.