European Language Equality: Challenges and Opportunities

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08-11-2022 STOA Workshop Towards full digital language equality in a multilingual European Union
http://european-language-equality.eu


Voting (11 Sept. 2018): 592 yes – 45 no

Main Recommendation addressed by ELE:

25. Establish a large-scale, long-term coordinated funding programme for research, development and innovation in the field of language technologies, at European, national and regional levels, tailored specifically to Europe’s needs and demands
European Language Equality (ELE) 1 and 2

http://www.european-language-equality.eu
Coordinator: ADAPT Centre (Dublin City University)
Co-Coordinator: DFKI

Consortium: 52 partners from all over Europe
Objective: development of a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda (SRIA) to achieve digital language equality in Europe by 2030
Runtime: 18 months • January 2021 – June 2022

Consortium: 7 partners
Objective: revision and extension of the SRIA and roadmap
Runtime: 12 months • July 2022 – June 2023
Consortium with 52 partners: 5 core partners, 9 networks and associations, 9 companies, 29 research organisations.
STOA Workshop (December 2013)

STATE OF THE ART OF MACHINE TRANSLATION CURRENT CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

- Present the different applications of MT today and what are the trends on a longer term.
- Identify what are the different technologies and methodologies available for MT in use today, what are their respective advantages and disadvantages;
- Identify what are the different obstacles in the development of MT, both from a technological point of view, but also from an organisational one;
- Identify if there are specific obstacles to obtaining an identical level of quality in all EU languages;
- Explore what are the technologies and organisational options to consider by the key stakeholders in this field to further improve the quality MT with an identical level of quality for all EU languages;
- Explore what are the possible policy options in support of the organisational and technological options considered above.

CHAIR Algirdas Saudargas, MEP

SPEAKERS

- Jaap van den Broeke, TAUS (Translation Automation Users' Society) – ‘MT as the New Lingua Franca’
- Georg Busa, DFKI, META-NET – “Europe's Languages in the Digital Age: Multilingual Technologies for overcoming Language Barriers and Preserving Digital Language Endowment”
- Heidt Depraz, CrossLang, “Current and future applications of Machine Translation”
- Manfred Weiß, Darmstadt Institute of Technology (HTW) – “Speech Machine Translation – Current status and long term prospectus”
- Zee Naya, Charles University in Prague – “The future of MT - A paradigm change: From word-based statistical Machine Translation towards high-quality, hybrid systems”

Information: Peter de-Karadaglic at info@catalyst-lsg.de, phone +32 2 283 4417 – http://www.nestor.europa.eu/stoa/
Deadline for registration is 20th November 2013, subject to the number of seats available.
STOA Workshop (January 2017): “Language equality in the digital age”

STOA Study, published in March 2017, recommends setting up the Human Language Project
Presentation in EP Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages (5 March 2022)

Dear Members of the Intergroup,

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the next Minority Intergroup meeting, which will be held on Thursday, 5 May from 15.30 to 12.30. The format will be communicated early next week.

We have invited the UN Special Rapporteur on Minority issues, Dr. Fernand de Varennes, at the occasion of celebrating this year the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, which continues to be the most important UN instrument devoted to minority rights. We will speak about the role of the Declaration both at international and European level and look together at the future challenges and possibilities for improvement of minority rights and their enforcement.

During the second topic on the agenda Prof. Dr. Georg Rabin, Principal Researcher and Research Fellow at the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI) in Berlin and co-Coordinator of the ELE project, will present the European Language Equality (ELE) project. It is a large consortium consisting of 52 partners covering research and industry and seven pan-European initiatives, the European Language Equality (ELE). Our project focuses on a strategic research and implementation agenda with recommendations, as well as a roadmap with concrete steps, for achieving digital language equality in Europe by 2030. The ELE project is a response to the European Parliament resolution “Language equality in the digital age”, which was passed by the EP in a bumper vote – 420 votes in favour and only 45 against – in September 2018. The Professor will present the methodology followed in the project, the current set of preliminary results with regard to language barriers in Europe, and the steps it envisages in terms of technology support of European languages. Based on these preliminary findings, the ELE project team is currently developing a strategic research agenda and implementation agenda, to be presented to the European Institutions in June/July 2022.

Interpreters in English, French, Spanish and Hungarian will be available during the meeting.

We look forward to meeting you in Strasbourg.

Best regards,

Kings Gilb
Francesco Alfonso
Lordet Vince
Co-Chairs of the Minority Intergroup
Presentation to EP on Sign Languages & Translation (30 Sept 2022)

EU Parliament Workshop Agenda
30th September 2022 | 10am - 12pm

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:05</td>
<td>The SignON Project</td>
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<td>10:20</td>
<td>Languages, Communication &amp; SignON</td>
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<td>10:35</td>
<td>AI &amp; SignON</td>
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<td>10:50</td>
<td>Expectations, Outputs, Limitations and Next Steps</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Panel Discussion</td>
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Towards DLE by 2030 – Scope in ELE 1

• Strategic agenda and roadmap towards Digital Language Equality (DLE) in Europe by 2030

• SRIA informed by 66 project reports (2400+ pages)

• 92 languages taken into account

• DLE: concept and metric defined in terms to compute state of digital readiness of each language at any point in time and visualise on the Dashboard

• The plan represents voices from research, industry and civil society

  1. Research: 30+ reports on situation of individual languages; various surveys; 60+ interviews

  2. Industry: SME partners produced four technical deep dives; various surveys

  3. Civil society: European citizen survey with approx. 20,000 responses

  approx. 500-750 people contributed
Next Steps and Recommendations

• A significant number of European languages in danger of digital extinction.

• Europe wants AI to be “based on and respecting European values”. We must develop AI-based technologies for all our languages. Right now, European LT development and support is not equal, i.e. not based on European values.

• We need a shared, long-term European funding programme – between the EC and member states. All languages, i.e., countries and regions need to be brought on board (no more sporadic, partial support).

• Extremely strong need for large language models (LLMs) for all European languages.

• Prerequisites: powerful data and compute infrastructure and vast amounts of FAIR, open language data for all European languages, uses, apps. etc. – there is lots of data but it’s simply not available right now.

• Global LT market size by 2025 is enormous ($US 341.7B): we want Europe to be a key player. Huge ROI!

• European digital language and data processing infrastructure crucial for digital sovereignty.

• Need for pan-European coordination and a joint scientific goal: Deep Natural Language Understanding.
Programme of this Workshop

09:50 Digital Language Equality in Europe: How are our languages doing?
Maria GIAGKOU, Research Associate, Athena Research Centre, Greece

10:00 Technology Support for Irish
Teresa LYNN, Research Fellow, Dublin City University, Ireland

10:05 Technology Support for Bulgarian
Svetla KOEVA, Professor, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

10:10 Technology Support for Basque
German RIGAU, Associate Professor, Universidad del País Vasco, Spain

10:15 Recommendations towards full Digital Language Equality by 2030
Georg REHM, Principal Researcher, DFKI GmbH, Berlin, co-coordinator of ELE

10:25 Panel discussion and Q&A
The European Language Equality project has received funding from the European Union under the grant agreements № LC-01641480 – 101018166 (ELE) and № LC-01884166 – 101075356 (ELE 2).

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