

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE GRID

D7.2

National Competence
Centres and Language
Technology Council

About this document

Project	ELG – European Language Grid
Grant agreement no.	825627 – Horizon 2020, ICT 2018-2020 – Innovation Action
Coordinator	Dr. Georg Rehm (DFKI)
Start date, duration	01-01-2019, 36 months
Deliverable number	D7.2
Deliverable title	National Competence Centres and Language Technology Council [Board]
Type	Report
Number of pages	34
Status and version	Final – Version 1.0
Dissemination level	Public
Date of delivery	Contractual: 30-09-2019 – Actual: 30-09-2019
WP number and title	WP7: Grid Community – Communication and Competence Centres
Task number and title	Task 7.2: Set up and coordinate NCCs and European LT Board
Authors	Georg Rehm (DFKI), Katrin Marheinecke (DFKI)
Reviewers	Khalid Choukri (ELDA), Jana Hamrlova (CUNI)
Consortium	<p>Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz (DFKI), Germany</p> <p>Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), Greece</p> <p>University of Sheffield (USFD), United Kingdom</p> <p>Charles University (CUNI), Czech Republic</p> <p>Evaluations and Language Resources Distribution Agency (ELDA), France</p> <p>Tilde SIA (TILDE), Latvia</p> <p>Sail Labs Technology GmbH (SAIL), Austria</p> <p>Expert System Iberia SL (EXPSYS), Spain</p> <p>University of Edinburgh (UEDIN), United Kingdom</p>
EC project officers	Philippe Gelin, Alexandru Ceausu
For copies of reports and other ELG-related information, please contact:	<p>DFKI GmbH European Language Grid (ELG) Alt-Moabit 91c D-10559 Berlin Germany</p> <p>Dr. Georg Rehm, DFKI GmbH georg.rehm@dfki.de Phone: +49 (0)30 23895-1833 Fax: +49 (0)30 23895-1810</p> <p>http://european-language-grid.eu © 2019 ELG Consortium</p>

Table of Contents

List of Figures	4
List of Tables	4
List of Abbreviations	4
Abstract	5
1 Introduction	5
1.1 Purpose of the Document	5
1.2 Relation to other Documents	5
2 National Competence Centres (NCCs)	6
2.1 Tasks and Responsibilities	6
2.2 Role and Structure	7
2.3 Letters of Intent	9
2.4 Visibility and Promotion	11
2.5 Subcontract and Cost Compensation	12
2.6 Survey	12
2.6.1 Responses	13
2.6.2 Country-specific LT or Language-Centric AI Activities	13
2.7 Meetings	13
3 Language Technology Council (LTC)	14
3.1 Function and Objectives	14
3.2 Composition and Membership	15
3.3 Organization of Work	17
3.3.1 Meetings	17
3.3.2 Inaugural Meeting	17
4 Outlook	17
A. Annex	19
A.A. Further information on the National Competence Centres	19
A.B. Further Information on the Language Technology Council	28

List of Figures

Figure 1: Letter of Intent (example)	10
Figure 2: Excerpt from NCC page	11
Figure 3: Complete NCC page on the ELG website (1/3)	19
Figure 4: Complete NCC page on the ELG website (2/3)	20
Figure 5: Complete NCC page on the ELG website (3/3)	21
Figure 6: Agenda of the NCC kickoff meeting	22
Figure 7: Complete survey sent to all NCC (1/2)	23
Figure 8: Complete survey sent to all NCCs (2/2)	24
Figure 9: Survey answers provided by NCCs (1/3)	25
Figure 10: Survey answers provided by NCCs (2/3)	26
Figure 11: Survey answers provided by NCCs (3/3)	27
Figure 12: Suggested members of the LTC (draft) (1/2)	28
Figure 13: Suggested members of the LTC (draft) (2/2)	29
Figure 14: Agenda of the inaugural LTC meeting	30
Figure 15: Operational Procedures LTC (1/4)	31
Figure 16: Operational Procedures LTC (2/4)	32
Figure 17: Operational Procedures LTC (3/4)	33
Figure 18: Operational Procedures LTC (4/4)	34

List of Tables

Table 1: List of National Competence Centres	8
Table 2: Participation in and overlap with existing initiatives	9

List of Abbreviations

CEF AT	e-Translation system of the European Commission
CLARIN	Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure
ECSPM	European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism
EFNIL	European Federation of National Institutions for Language
ELG	European Language Grid
ELRC	European Language Resource Coordination
LTC	Language Technology Council
META-NET	Network of Excellence forging the Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance
NAP	National Anchor Point within ELRC
NCC	National Competence Centre
NPLD	Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity

Abstract

This document describes the concept and the setup of the network of National Competence Centres (NCC) as well as the concept, function and composition of the European Language Technology Council¹. In Section 2, we discuss the tasks and responsibilities of the NCC, explain the reasoning behind the formation of this group and introduce its structure and the NCCs themselves. Moreover, the first survey conducted among the NCCs will be depicted. In Section 3, the concept of the European Language Technology Council is explicated. Then, the composition of this body is described and the modes of membership and organisation of work is defined. The last Section gives an overview of the next steps and milestones to be reached by both groups.

1 Introduction

The European Language Grid (ELG) is a scalable cloud platform, that will ultimately provide, in an easy-to-integrate way, access to hundreds of commercial and non-commercial Language Technologies (LT) for all European languages, including running services and tools as well as data sets and resources. It will enable the European LT community to deposit and upload their technologies and data sets into the ELG, to deploy them through the grid, and to connect them with other resources. The ELG will boost the Multilingual Digital Single Market towards a thriving and prospering European LT sector, creating new innovations, new jobs and new opportunities.

The diverse *Multilingual Europe* community, consisting of multiple stakeholder groups, is an important component of our concept for the ELG. This heterogeneous set of stakeholder groups includes LT provider companies, LT user/buyer companies, research centres and universities involved in LT research, development and innovation activities, various language communities, politics and public administrations, national funding agencies, language service providers and translators as well as the European citizen at large.

1.1 Purpose of the Document

This deliverable reports on the setup of the NCC network of networks. It lists the NCCs as well as activities to be carried out with or by the NCCs. The document also includes an analysis of the setup procedure and the involvement of the NCCs so far (M1-M9). Furthermore, the deliverable reports on the setup of the European LT Council, formerly known as European LT Board. It explains the necessity of such a body for the European LT community as a central point of contact for strategic discussions and decisions in the European landscape. The report explains how this initiative is composed and why.

1.2 Relation to other Documents

This document relates to the deliverable D7.1 (“Communication Plan”), and the deliverables D7.5, D7.6 and D7.7 (ELG Conference and LTC Meeting 2019, 2020 and 2021).

¹ In the ELG proposal and grant agreement, the European Language Technology Council is called “European Language Technology Board”. The group was renamed as it has more the character of a council that discusses and agrees upon strategic aspects and directions for the European LT community rather than governing or even controlling the European LT community.

2 National Competence Centres (NCCs)

ELG is benefitting from structures and instruments that have been set up by partners of the ELG consortium since 2010 and that have been in active use for almost ten years, including, among others, META-NET, the META-FORUM conference series, the META Technology Council and the META-SHARE infrastructure. Through these activities the ELG consortium has very good working relationships with organisations like EFNIL (European Federation of National Institutions for Language), NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity), ECSPM (European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism), LT Innovate (European LT business association), ELRC (European Language Resource Coordination) and other stakeholder groups. In ELG, we make use of these connections, established infrastructures and communication instruments. The involvement in these different activities and networks made it possible to set up a highly representative network of National Competence Centres during the proposal preparation phase, i.e., before the project actually started.

2.1 Tasks and Responsibilities

The NCCs are supposed to support the ELG project and initiative in various ways. This international network of national networks will not only significantly contribute to the population of the ELG with services, resources and data sets, they will also play an important role for broadening the reach of the ELG project and initiative.

First of all, they are asked to provide information and share their knowledge, e.g., on national/regional information about services, data sets, resources, tools, technologies, research centres, experts, communities, companies, initiatives, projects etc.

Secondly, the NCCs are crucial as multipliers in order to spread the word about ELG and to inform regional and national stakeholders and organisations about ELG and its benefits. This will be operationalised through events like training workshops or hackathons. The NCCs should also feed local needs, ideas and demands back to the ELG to make sure that the ELG development takes the requirements of their constituency into account.

Moreover, the NCCs are meant to help with general outreach and dissemination activities, e.g., promoting events like the ELG conferences or the open calls for pilot projects through their established channels. After concrete local activities have taken place, the NCCs will be asked to contribute national or regional success stories for the ELG blog. These could be, among others, stories on successful pilot projects, workshop reports, articles on new national initiatives or similar posts. Where applicable, the NCCs can help establish contacts to national funding agencies and venture capital stakeholders.

Last but not least, the NCCs will play an essential role in the newly established Language Technology Council, also established under the umbrella of the ELG project. Not only do they serve as members of this body, but they have also been asked to nominate potential council members from their regions and countries, so that a regionally balanced composition can be ensured.

Whereas some of the activities can be performed with sending emails and providing quickly accessible information, there are a number of tasks to be performed by the NCCs (partially or in full) that require more effort. These include:

- Organisation of a **regional/national ELG workshop** including the following: agenda preparation; advertising (web, social media, emails); identification and invitation of participants and speakers (the ELG consortium will make an effort to provide at least one speaker to attend the workshop); the workshop

should be organised on the premises of the NCC or, for example, in a conference hotel; potentially translating marketing materials, provided by the ELG consortium, into the regional/national language; preparation of a workshop report (two to three pages plus photos); publication of workshop results in a blog post on the ELG website, social media and other media outlets;

- **Participation in regional/national events** (both scientific and industry conferences and workshops) on behalf of ELG to promote ELG and to interest relevant stakeholders from research and industry.
- **Participation in each of the three Annual ELG Conferences (META-FORUM)** in order to strengthen the LT community, support dissemination activities related to ELG and to foster discussion on current LT-related topics and trends.
- **Desk research and information gathering:** Collection of relevant regional/national information regarding funding programmes and funding agencies, national language (technology) development plans, AI initiatives, AI strategies etc. with the overall purpose of putting together a comprehensive picture of the European Language Technology landscape, to be presented on the ELG website.
- **ELG blog:** Contribute regional/national success stories to the ELG blog (e.g., report on a regional/national pilot project, national initiatives, new national projects etc.).

These tasks correspond to the priorities of the ELG project consortium, but are to be understood as recommendations rather than mandatory activities. The actual selection of tasks to be organised in the NCC's country depends on the situation in this very country and will be determined individually.

2.2 Role and Structure

The rationale behind setting up this international network of national networks is to broaden the reach of the ELG consortium, to provide input with regard to the linguistic situation in the different countries and to fuel the knowledge transfer and sharing between national programmes and initiatives on the one hand and ELG on the other. Since the EU Member States and additional European countries have different situations and diverse language policies, a “one-size-fits-all” approach doesn't work. It is crucial for the ELG project to have access to dedicated experts in all countries to turn to and ask for input. However, due to their vast set of personal connections, the NCCs are ideally suited to make the ELG initiative known in the local markets and in the research spheres of their home countries. All NCCs are academic organisations with very good connections to local industry in order to guarantee independence from any commercial interests.

Each of the 32 NCCs² consists of the national NCC Lead and multiple additional members on the regional and national level that also contribute to the mission, coordinated by the NCC Lead. The network of NCCs has been compiled based on participation in existing structures and initiatives (META-NET, ELRC NAPs, CLARIN etc.), taking into account scientific standing and existing connections to industry and research centres. To grant political and economical independence, the NCC Lead role is filled by academic organisations only. Table 1 lists the NCC Leads, their country and affiliation.³

² In addition to the 28 EU Member States, Iceland, Norway, Serbia and Switzerland are also represented. This is due to the good working relations with representatives of these countries over many years and it completes the group in a useful way.

³ Due to the intense preparation and communication before the ELG project started, only minimal adjustments had to be made to arrive at the current group of NCCs based on the original list of NCCs contained in the ELG proposal.

Name	Country	Institution
Gerhard Budin	Austria	Zentrum für Translationswissenschaft, Universität Wien
Walter Daelemans	Belgium	Comp. Ling. and Psycholing. Res. Centre (CLiPS), University of Antwerp
Svetla Koeva	Bulgaria	Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Marko Tadic	Croatia	Inst. of Linguistics, Faculty of Hum. and Social Science, University of Zagreb
Fryni Kakoyianni Doa	Cyprus	University of Cyprus
Jan Hajic	Czech Republic	Inst. of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Charles University in Prague
Bolette S. Pedersen	Denmark	Centre for Lang. Tech., Dpt. of Nordic Research, University of Copenhagen
Kadri Vider	Estonia	Estonian Language Resources Center and the University of Tartu
Krister Linden	Finland	Department of Digital Humanities, University of Helsinki
François Yvon	France	CNRS – LIMSI
Georg Rehm	Germany	German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)
Maria Gavrilidou	Greece	Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), R.C. “Athena”
Tamás Váradi	Hungary	Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson	Iceland	School of Humanities, University of Iceland
Andy Way	Ireland	School of Computing, Dublin City University
Bernardo Magnini	Italy	Human Language Technology, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)
Inguna Skadina	Latvia	Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Latvia
Albina Aukšoriūtė	Lithuania	Institute of the Lithuanian Language
Eric Ras	Luxembourg	Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology
Michael Rosner	Malta	Department Intelligent Computer Systems, University of Malta
Jan Odijk	Netherlands	Utrecht Institute of Linguistics, Universiteit Utrecht
Koenraad De Smedt	Norway	Dept. of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies, University of Bergen
Maciej Ogrodniczuk	Poland	Institute of Computer Science, Polish Academy of Sciences
António Branco	Portugal	Department of Informatics, University of Lisbon
Dan Tufiş	Romania	Research Institute for AI, Romanian Academy of Sciences
Cvetana Krstev	Serbia	Faculty of Mathematics, Belgrade University (UBG)
Radovan Garabik	Slovakia	Ludovít Stur Institute of Linguistics, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Simon Krek	Slovenia	Jozef Stefan Institute
Núria Bel	Spain	Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada, University Pompeu Fabra (UPF)
Lars Borin	Sweden	Department of Swedish Language, University of Gothenburg
Hervé Bourlard	Switzerland	Idiap Research Institute
Kalina Bontcheva	UK	Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield

Table 1: List of National Competence Centres

Table 2 shows the involvement of the NCC Leads in other relevant initiatives. The overlap with these other initiatives is intended and ensures the outreach and the interconnectedness with important LT stakeholder groups.

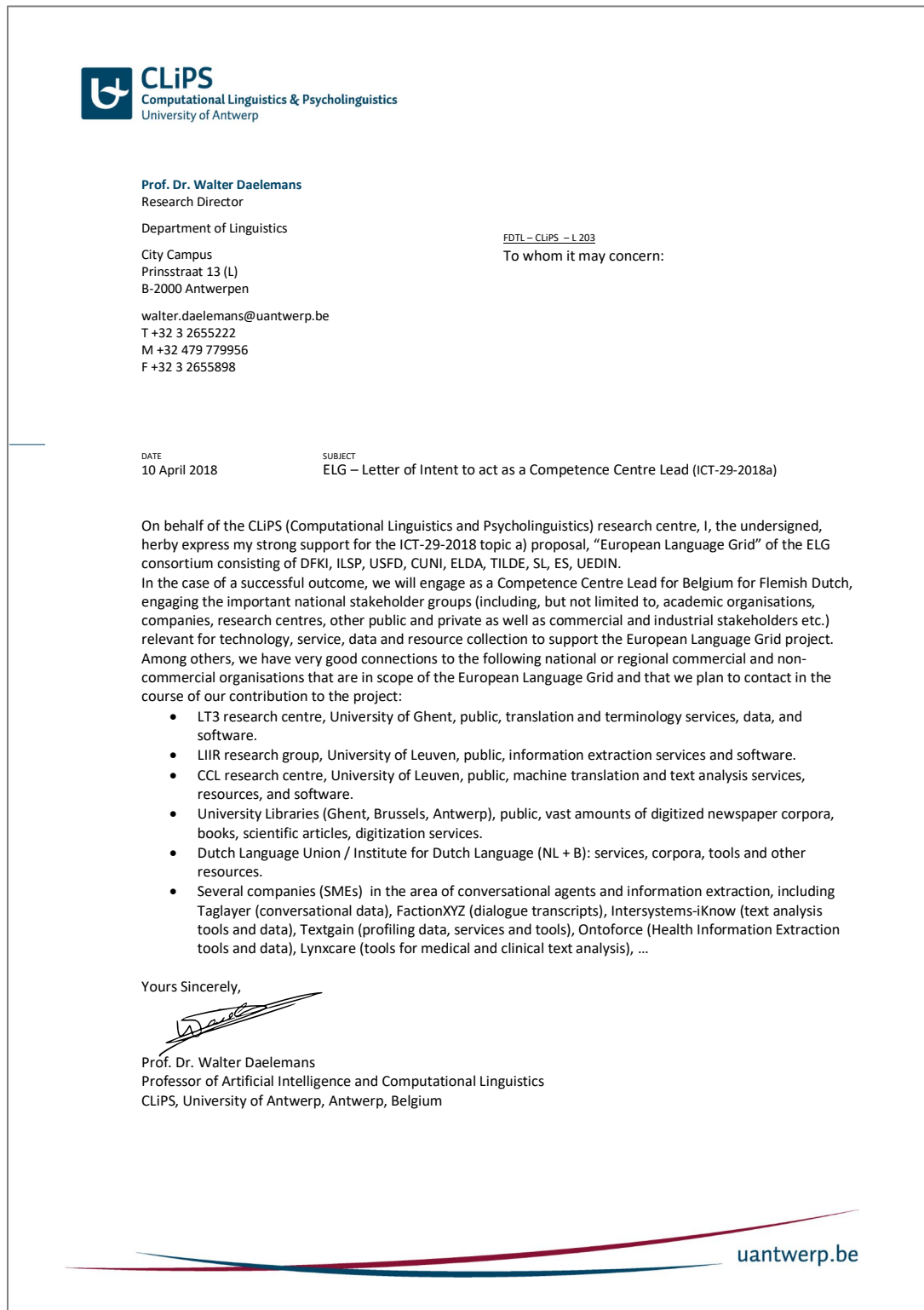
Name	Country	NCC	ELRC NAP	META-NET	CLARIN
Gerhard Budin	Austria	x	x	x	
Walter Daelemans	Belgium	x		x	
Svetla Koeva	Bulgaria	x	x	x	
Marko Tadic	Croatia	x	x	x	x
Fryni Kakoyianni Doa	Cyprus	x	x		
Jan Hajic	Czech Republic	x	x	x	x
Bolette S. Pedersen	Denmark	x	x	x	
Kadri Vider	Estonia	x	x	x	x
Krister Linden	Finland	x	x	x	x
François Yvon	France	x	x	x	
Georg Rehm	Germany	x		x	
Maria Gavrilidou	Greece	x	x		x
Tamás Váradi	Hungary	x	x	x	x
Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson	Iceland	x	x	x	x
Andy Way	Ireland	x	x	x	
Bernardo Magnini	Italy	x		x	
Inguna Skadina	Latvia	x		x	x
Albina Aukšoriūtė	Lithuania	x			
Eric Ras	Luxembourg	x			
Michael Rosner	Malta	x	x	x	
Jan Odijk	Netherlands	x	x		x
Koenraad De Smedt	Norway	x		x	x
Maciej Ogrodniczuk	Poland	x	x	x	
António Branco	Portugal	x	x	x	x
Dan Tufiş	Romania	x	x	x	
Cvetana Krstev	Serbia	x		x	
Radovan Garabik	Slovakia	x		x	
Simon Krek	Slovenia	x	x	x	
Núria Bel	Spain	x	x	x	
Lars Borin	Sweden	x		x	x
Hervé Bourlard	Switzerland	x		x	
Kalina Bontcheva	UK	x			

Table 2: Participation in and overlap with existing initiatives

2.3 Letters of Intent

During the ELG proposal preparation phase, we approached the 32 language experts that meet the mentioned criteria (participation in relevant initiatives, members of academic organisations, good connections to industry and research) and asked if they were willing to act as Leads of the National Competence Centres.

We also asked them to provide us with a Letter of Intent in which they explain their support in the development of ELG and list companies and research institutes with whom they have a good working relationship (see Figure 1 for an example).



CLiPS
Computational Linguistics & Psycholinguistics
University of Antwerp

Prof. Dr. Walter Daelemans
Research Director
Department of Linguistics
City Campus
Prinsstraat 13 (L)
B-2000 Antwerpen
walter.daelemans@uantwerp.be
T +32 3 2655222
M +32 479 779956
F +32 3 2655898

FDTL – CLIPS – L 203
To whom it may concern:

DATE
10 April 2018

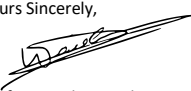
SUBJECT
ELG – Letter of Intent to act as a Competence Centre Lead (ICT-29-2018a)

On behalf of the CLiPS (Computational Linguistics and Psycholinguistics) research centre, I, the undersigned, hereby express my strong support for the ICT-29-2018 topic a) proposal, “European Language Grid” of the ELG consortium consisting of DFKI, ILSP, USFD, CUNI, ELDA, TILDE, SL, ES, UEDIN.

In the case of a successful outcome, we will engage as a Competence Centre Lead for Belgium for Flemish Dutch, engaging the important national stakeholder groups (including, but not limited to, academic organisations, companies, research centres, other public and private as well as commercial and industrial stakeholders etc.) relevant for technology, service, data and resource collection to support the European Language Grid project. Among others, we have very good connections to the following national or regional commercial and non-commercial organisations that are in scope of the European Language Grid and that we plan to contact in the course of our contribution to the project:

- LT3 research centre, University of Ghent, public, translation and terminology services, data, and software.
- LIIR research group, University of Leuven, public, information extraction services and software.
- CCL research centre, University of Leuven, public, machine translation and text analysis services, resources, and software.
- University Libraries (Ghent, Brussels, Antwerp), public, vast amounts of digitized newspaper corpora, books, scientific articles, digitization services.
- Dutch Language Union / Institute for Dutch Language (NL + B): services, corpora, tools and other resources.
- Several companies (SMEs) in the area of conversational agents and information extraction, including Taglayer (conversational data), FactionXYZ (dialogue transcripts), Intersystems-iKnow (text analysis tools and data), Textgain (profiling data, services and tools), Ontoforce (Health Information Extraction tools and data), Lynxcare (tools for medical and clinical text analysis), ...

Yours Sincerely,



Prof. Dr. Walter Daelemans
Professor of Artificial Intelligence and Computational Linguistics
CLiPS, University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

uantwerp.be

Figure 1: Letter of Intent (example)

2.4 Visibility and Promotion

The NCCs will provide valuable insights and feedback to the ELG project and initiative. In return, the project consortium will increase the visibility of the NCCs and their institutions, for example, by placing the NCCs and their respective organisations on the ELG website. At the ELG conferences, the organisers dedicate a session to the activities and concerns of selected NCCs and also address locally relevant aspects in the conference programme. Furthermore, the NCC meetings and the meetings of the Language Technology Council (Section 3) serve as focal points and discussion platforms where the NCCs can promote their topics and exchange experience and knowledge with colleagues from other countries. Figure 2 shows an excerpt of the NCC page on the ELG website (the complete page is included in the annex).



Figure 2: Excerpt from NCC page

2.5 Subcontract and Cost Compensation

The ELG Coordinator has prepared a subcontract that determines the conditions and details of the cooperation between ELG and the NCCs. By signing the subcontract, both parties agree to carry out their activities according to the contract. The NCCs agree to take over tasks in the interest of disseminating and promoting the European Language Grid in their countries with the activities described. For these efforts, the NCCs will receive financial compensation from the ELG project. The ELG project reimburses costs incurred by the NCCs if they comply with the agreed upon guidelines. Each NCC will be granted a total sum of up to 8,000.00 EUR that can be used until the end of the project. The reimbursable activities include:

- One or more regional or national ELG workshop/workshops (up to 3,000.00 EUR). This includes all cost for room rental, AV equipment, dissemination material, catering etc.
- ELG dissemination material (up to 1,000.00 EUR). This includes all cost for posters, roll-ups, merchandise, administrative cost etc.
- Participation in the annual ELG conferences 2019, 2020, 2021 (up to 600.00 EUR each). This includes all cost for travel and accommodation.
- Participation in regional or national conferences or other events to promote ELG (up to 800.00 EUR available for participation in two to four events). This includes all cost for travel, accommodation and conference registration fees.
- Desk research and information gathering (up to 1000.00 EUR). This includes compensation of time expenditure for research and preparation of summaries, responses to surveys or questionnaires, communication via email and participation in virtual meetings.
- Misc. (up to 400.00 EUR). This includes further activities not foreseen above.

The given amounts serve as guide values and the actual payment is foreseen against invoice. The invoice should provide the details of the efforts and costs of the performed work. All invoices from external service providers have to be attached to the invoice. The items “Desk Research” and “Misc.” can be invoiced with the help of a self-prepared invoice document or voucher.

The agreement is valid throughout the runtime of the ELG project but can be terminated by an extraordinary notice of cancellation if necessary.

2.6 Survey

In August 2019, the ELG Coordinator conducted a survey on new developments in the *Multilingual Europe* community among the NCCs to gather input and feedback. The NCCs were requested to take part to share information on aspects like if there are specific funding programmes or activities with regards to Language Technology in their countries, and what they perceive as the biggest challenge for ELG in their regions. They were also asked to name companies or research organizations that are active in Language Technology or Language-centric AI development activities. Furthermore, they were asked to nominate potential members of the European Language Technology Council. Finally, we wanted to know if they could give us information about national, regional, organisational, or individual Language Resource repositories or catalogues that might be relevant to be included in the ELG platform. The survey itself as well as the individual answers can be found in the Annex. The responses will be used as a starting point for further activities of the ELG and for the cooperation between the NCCs and ELG.

2.6.1 Responses

Out of the 21 answers to the question whether there are funding programmes or activities focusing on Language Technology in their countries, only four NCCs (Romania, Iceland, Estonia and Malta) named concrete programmes. Five more reported support for LT through other funding programmes and activities. Out of 21 answers 17 reported that there are minority languages in their countries, but with great variety as to how much importance the issue of minority languages has. As the greatest challenges for ELG in their regions, the NCCs name insufficient funding of large-scale research for under-resourced languages and a lack of interest of private companies in developing and using LT tools and services.

2.6.2 Country-specific LT or Language-Centric AI Activities

Most of the NCCs reported that there is either no or very limited research funding in their home countries for LT-related research. Sometimes, funding can be obtained through other programmes. For example, in Greece, there is no specific LT-focused funding programme but funding for LT, AI or language-related projects, research or educational activities can be provided through other programmes. In the UK, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council funds Natural Language Processing research, however, Language Technology and research infrastructures, in general, are not perceived currently as high funding priority.

Examples where governments addressed the LT research more explicitly are Romania, Malta, Estonia and Iceland. In Romania there are two large projects,⁴ both of which have a significant part related to speech resources and processing for the Romanian language. Malta has a national funding programme to develop ASR for Maltese. In Estonia, there is a national Programme for Estonian Language Technology.⁵ It is planned to reveal an AI Action Plan in 2019 with the goal of applying language technology in the public sector. Country-specific initiatives in the field also take place in Iceland, where the Icelandic Government has decided to implement and fund a five-year Project Plan for Icelandic Language Technology that will start in late 2019.⁶

2.7 Meetings

The NCCs will meet once a year for a face-to-face meeting that is co-located with the annual ELG conference in order to minimise travel costs. The first face-to-face meeting of the NCCs will take place on 7 October 2019, as a pre-conference meeting of META-FORUM 2019 in Brussels.⁷ Here, the NCCs Leads are asked to report on the situations in their countries and discuss the planned activities and foreseen tasks. Also, contractual and organizational matters will be discussed. Virtual meetings and telcos can be organized as necessary.

⁴ Roboții și Societatea: Sisteme Cognitive pentru Roboți Personali și Vehicule Autonome (ROBIN), ReTeRom “Resurse și Tehnologii pentru dezvoltarea interfețelor om-mășină în limba Română”

⁵ https://www.keeletehnologia.ee/en?set_language=en

⁶ <https://notendur.hi.is/eirikur/mlt-en.pdf>

⁷ The agenda of this meeting can be found in the Annex.

3 Language Technology Council (LTC)

As described in Section 2, the ELG project is setting up a network of 32 National Competence Centres as a large international network of national networks to strengthen outreach and visibility. In addition to the NCCs, the project initiates a new body, the European LT Council (LTC).⁸ The LTC is also supposed to widen the reach of ELG but it takes on also strategic tasks and is expected to support the idea of technology-enabled and technology-supported multilingualism in Europe in general. Whereas the group of NCCs is a means to enhance the ELG and to make it known Europe-wide, the LTC is meant to be, first and foremost, a forum that enables easy and efficient communication and coordination at the European level, specifically with regard to ongoing and emerging international and also national activities relating to LT research, development and innovation.

The ELG platform and the LTC will contribute to the shaping and emergence of the European approach towards technology-enabled multilingualism by bringing in multidisciplinary expertise from all relevant activities in research, development and innovation as well as from administrations and governments. The European LT Council will foster the coordination and strategic as well as political discussion, representing all relevant stakeholder groups. One of its crucial tasks will be the preparation of strategic recommendations, especially geared towards national and European administrations and funding agencies. The ELG project will compile the initial suggestions, which are then discussed, finalised and approved by the LTC, taking into account the ideas, demands, wishes, needs and suggestions of all LTC members.

During the runtime of the ELG project, the LTC will be logistically supported by the ELG project, especially by the ELG Coordinator and project office. After the runtime of the project, the emerging ELG legal entity is expected to take over the logistical support of the LTC. A preliminary version of the Operational Procedures has been accepted by the Steering Committee after several iterations. The document might undergo further revisions until the soft launch of the LTC. The current version can be found in the Annex.

3.1 Function and Objectives

ELG will assemble representatives from all important stakeholder groups relevant for the *Multilingual Europe* topic (including Language-centric AI) in the LTC for the purpose of establishing a platform and forum that enables a structured dialogue with all relevant national and international stakeholders. The LTC's objectives are the Europe-wide discussion and coordination with regard to, among others, the following set of broader topics:

- Multilingual Europe and technology-enabled Multilingualism
- Multilingual Digital Single Market
- Language equality in the digital age
- Digital language extinction
- Technologies for lesser used or low resourced languages
- Language-centric AI and its potentials
- Other related topics

Particularly, the European LT Council will

- discuss challenges, strategies, approaches, and solutions concerning the topics mentioned above;

⁸ The blueprint for the LT Council is the Language Resource Board (LRB), which was set up under the umbrella of CEF AT/ELRC.

- coordinate and network with national and international initiatives and organisations;
- draft recommendations for national and international administrations and funding agencies.

The Council will be chaired initially by the Coordinator of the ELG project. After the runtime of the project, an election of a new chair can be initiated. The statutes of the LTC will be amended accordingly after the appropriate procedure has been agreed upon.

3.2 Composition and Membership

The European Language Technology Council consists of two groups of members:

1. Country- and sector/area-specific members

This group is foreseen to comprise seven representatives each of a total of 32 countries.⁹ The seven stakeholder groups to be represented in the LTC for each country are the following:

- a. Research (all representatives of the National Competence Centre)
- b. Government (significant overlap with ELRC's Public Service NAPs)
- c. Language Community (significant overlap with the members of EFNIL)
- d. Industry: Language Service Providers, Machine Translation, Multilingual Technologies
- e. Industry: Text analytics, social media analytics, data mining, business intelligence etc.
- f. Industry: Speech, interaction, chatbots, conversational AI etc.
- g. Industry: Knowledge, resources, data sets, media etc.

While we strive for complete coverage of all seven stakeholder groups in all 32 countries, we do realise that some countries may not have certain industry groups. At the same time, we also understand that some countries may have a fairly big landscape of LT developers, which may require two representatives instead of one. Exceptions of this kind will be discussed within the LTC before coming into effect.

2. Representatives of important pan-European associations, organisations and networks

There are several pan-European associations, organisations and networks that need to be approached for membership in the LTC due to their very high relevance. These include AI4EU, BDVA, CLAIRE, CLARIN, ECSPM, EFNIL, ELEN, FLAReNet, LT Innovate, META-NET, ELRA and NPLD.

The first group is expected to contain approx. 230-240 members after most or all spots have been filled, while the second group will consist of approx. 10-15 members. In total, the final LTC will comprise approx. 250 members, when completed. This is an unusually high number for a council that is supposed to be a discussion plat-

⁹ Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom.

form and that will provide strategic guidance towards decision makers. Nevertheless, we believe that this complexity is necessary to cover, in a fair and balanced way, all European countries and their individual languages, to include the national governments, researchers and language communities and especially the important industry sectors.

The LT industry landscape is usually divided into the three broader areas Translation, Text analytics and Speech. We added a fourth category: Resources, Data sets, Models, Media etc. to include all relevant stakeholders in the body.¹⁰ With the addition of the representatives of the pan-European initiatives there will not be any gaps or generalisations whatsoever. In other words, the wider Multilingual Europe community will be fully covered for maximum membership balance, which is of utmost importance for the acceptance and impact of the LTC.

To keep the body manageable and to make sure that, despite the large number of members, discussions on relevant topics remain possible, it is planned to establish task forces or working groups that deal with special issues. We could think of, e.g., a task force “Machine translation” or a task force “Industry” or a combination of both. The results of work in these groups can then be reported and discussed in the large group and then flow into position or strategy papers.

Members of the LT Council are natural persons, i.e., members are invited on an *ad nominem* basis, typically with regard to one or more specific roles they have. The initial composition of the LTC will be determined by the ELG Steering Committee based on suggestions from the NCCs. As already mentioned, the initial backbone of the LTC will be the 32 NCCs that we will invite to become the *Research* representatives. Additionally, we plan to include one representative each of the nine members of the ELG consortium. Furthermore, we have, by now, a longer list of approx. 100 nominations collected from the ELG consortium and from the NCCs (see Section 2.6) representing LT industry and also relevant initiatives and associations.

As of now, the suggested members of the LTC include approx. 100 names (including the 32 NCCs) for the first group and 14 names for the second group. The 32 NCCs play a crucial role in the LTC composition for several reasons. They have a good overview of the regional/national situation in their countries. Moreover, they are financially supported through small subcontracts within the ELG project and can organise local meetings with the other six country-specific LTC members.

The current draft list of members of the LTC can be found in the Annex. Currently not all positions are filled but it is planned that the composition of the body will be completed by the end of Q1 2020; before the persons currently listed will be invited, we will make sure that they are indeed the most relevant ones. All members of the LT Council will be presented on the ELG website. The LTC will strive for gender balance as well as for a fair balance with regards to geographical distribution among its membership. Ideally, all LTC members should have very big and strong personal networks in order to broaden the reach of the ELG project and platform.

Once operational, the LT Council can add new members without consulting the ELG Steering Committee. Members can leave the LTC by giving notice to the LTC Chair. New members can be invited upon a written proposal to the LTC; written proposals for new members are expected to be submitted by LTC members that represent

¹⁰ We are aware that the definition of industry categories is somewhat arbitrary. E.g., the *Final study report on CEF Automated Translation value proposition in the context of the European LT market/ecosystem* differentiates five industry categories. We tried to restrict ourselves to the most important industries, given the size of the LTC.

the same country. Unless objections are raised by any other LTC member within 21 days after the proposal has been forwarded, the suggested person can be invited to become a member of the LTC and will be included in the mailing list. If there are major objections regarding a suggested new member, the overall approach is to discuss and to resolve the objections in order to arrive at an LTC-wide consensus and agreement. If that is not possible, the new suggested member will not be invited.

3.3 Organization of Work

The ELG Coordinator who is also the LTC chair will organise virtual meetings as necessary as well as one annual face-to-face meeting, typically co-located with the Annual ELG Conference. The annual general meetings are primarily for communication, coordination and arriving at consensus regarding high level topics.

The majority of the work, however, will be performed virtually and asynchronously via shared documents, especially in the weeks and months before the annual LTC face-to-face meeting and before any other important events. All members are encouraged and welcome to participate actively by working on documents, strategy papers and recommendations. Information and communication will take place mainly with the help of one or more dedicated mailing lists that will be administered by the ELG Project Office.

3.3.1 Meetings

The members of the LT Council are encouraged to be present at the annual meeting, but especially considering the size of the group and the many different other responsibilities of its members, there is no obligation to attend. They shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings (face-to-face or virtual). Any member of the LT Council may add items to the agenda by written notification to the Chair.

Decisions will only be binding after the minutes of that meeting have been accepted. Decisions may also be taken without a meeting if the Chair circulates a written document to all members, which needs to be agreed upon by at least half of all Members. Each Member of the LT Council present or represented in a meeting has one vote and decisions can be taken by a simple majority of the votes.

3.3.2 Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the LTC will take place on 7 October 2019, in the afternoon. It is co-located with the first annual ELG conference (META-FORUM 2019). The participation in the inaugural meeting of the LTC is no prerequisite for membership. A report of this meeting will be included in Deliverable D7.5 (ELG Conference and LTC Meeting 2019).¹¹

4 Outlook

The next important steps for both, NCCs and European LT Council will be the inaugural meetings of both bodies that will take place as satellite events on the day before META-FORUM 2019 as the first annual ELG conference. The meetings will mark the starting points of the active work of both initiatives. For the NCCs, the promotion of the open calls for the pilot projects is an important activity to guarantee a good and wide-reaching variety of

¹¹ The agenda of this meeting can be found in the annex.

pilot project proposals. In 2020, the NCCs are also expected to start conducting workshops and training activities to ensure that ELG becomes known quickly and widely.

With regard to the LT Council, its balanced composition is important to make sure that all stakeholders of the LT field are represented and all requirements and issues can be addressed equally. After the soft launch, the empty spots in the LTC member table need to be filled so that the body will be completed and fully operational by the end of Q1 2020 at the latest. With regard to the efforts of the LTC, the next important milestone will be the adoption of a strategy paper containing recommendations for the LT community and for governmental bodies in this field.

A. Annex

A.A. Further information on the National Competence Centres



The screenshot shows the 'National Competence Centres' page on the European Language Grid website. The page features a header with the ELG logo and navigation links. The main content area is titled 'National Competence Centres' and includes a map of Europe with highlighted member states. Below the map, there is a list of member states and their respective NCC coordinators.

European Language Grid
About Grid Community Open Calls Events News Consortium Contact

National Competence Centres

The European Language Grid initiative has a strong and broad network of 32 National Competence Centres (NCCs). The NCCs act as local and national bridges to the ELG consortium and the European Language Grid.

Their responsibilities include collecting national and regional information about Language Technology services and resources, local and national projects, research centres, experts, companies, and initiatives. The NCCs will also organise workshops and events. They will promote ELG in their region and establish bridges to their local funding agencies. As a group and network, the NCCs will form the foundation of the emerging European Language Technology Council.

Austria | Belgium | Bulgaria | Croatia | Cyprus | Czech Republic | Denmark | Estonia | Finland | France | Germany | Greece | Hungary | Iceland | Ireland | Italy | Latvia | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Malta | Netherlands | Norway | Poland | Portugal | Romania | Serbia | Slovakia | Slovenia | Spain | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom | NCC Coordination

Austria
 **GERHARD BUECHY**
Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna

Belgium
 **WALTER DAELMANS**
Computational Linguistics and Psycholinguistics, University of Antwerp

Bulgaria
 **SHETLA KOEVA**
Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Croatia
 **MARKO TADIC**
Department of Linguistics, University of Zagreb

Cyprus
 **FEYNI KARAYIANNI DOA**
University of Cyprus

Czech Republic
 **JAN HRABEC**
Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Charles University Prague

Denmark
 **BOLETTE SANDFORD-PEDERSEN**
Centre for Language Technology, Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics, University of Copenhagen

Figure 3: Complete NCC page on the ELG website (1/3)















Estonia	 KADI VIDER Estonian Language Resources Center and the University of Tartu
Finland	 KRISTEN LINDÉN Department of Digital Humanities, University of Helsinki
France	 FRANÇOIS YVON French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) – Computer Science Laboratory for Mechanics and Engineering Sciences (LIMS)
Germany and NCC Coordination	 GEORG REHM German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)
Greece	 MARA GIVRELIDOU Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), R.C. "Athena"
Hungary	 TAMÁS VÁRADI Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Iceland	 EIRÍKUR RÖGNVALDSSON The Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies
Ireland	 ANDY WRY ADAPT Centre, School of Computing, Dublin City University
Italy	 BERNARDO MAGNINI Human Language Technology, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)
Latvia	 INGUNA SKADINA Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Latvia
Lithuania	 ALBINA ALKSORŠTĖ Institute of the Lithuanian Language
Luxembourg	 ERIC BAS Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology
Malta	 MICHAEL ROSNER Department Intelligent Computer Systems, University of Malta

Figure 4: Complete NCC page on the ELG website (2/3)


Netherlands



JANI ODOJK

Utrecht Institute of Linguistics OTS, Utrecht University


Norway



KOENRAAD DE SMEDT

Department of Linguistic, Literary and Aesthetic Studies, University of Bergen


Poland



MACIEJ OGRODNICZUK

Institute of Computer Science, Polish Academy of Sciences


Portugal



ANTÓNIO BRANCO

Department of Informatics, University of Lisbon


Romania



DAN TUFÎŞ

Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Romanian Academy of Sciences


Serbia



CVETANA KRSTEV

Faculty of Mathematics, Belgrade University (UBG)


Slovakia



RADOVAN GARABÍK

Ludovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics, Slovak Academy of Sciences


Slovenia



SIMON KREK

Jozef Stefan Institute


Spain



NÚRIA BEL

Institute for Applied Linguistics, Pompeu Fabra University


Sweden



LARS BOREN

Department of Swedish Language, University of Gothenburg


Switzerland



HERVÉ BOURLARD

Idiap Research Institute

United Kingdom



KALINA BONTCHEVA

Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield

Updates, Events, Open Calls

Figure 5: Complete NCC page on the ELG website (3/3)



National Competence Centres: Kickoff Meeting

7 October 2019, 10:00-13:00

BluePoint Brussels, 80 Bd A. Reyers Ln, 1030 Brussels, Belgium

Room: Archimedes (tbc; please check the displays indicating the rooms)

Agenda

9:30 Registration

10:00 Welcome and Introduction

- ELG: Overview and recap
- ELG NCCs: Overview and composition
- Survey results: current situation in the countries

10:30 Tasks foreseen for the NCCs

- Expectations and requirements
- Activities and timeframe
- Input from the NCCs
 - Collection of relevant organizations and companies
 - Collection of additional data/metadata repositories
 - Collection of additional services and tools
 - Local demands towards LT development necessitate local ideas
 - Information on solutions for minority languages
 - Workshops and training events

11:45 Coffee break

12:00 Organizational matters

- Subcontract between NCCs and ELG
- Reimbursable activities and tasks
- Virtual Meetings
- European Language Technology Council
- AOB

Figure 6: Agenda of the NCC kickoff meeting



The image shows a screenshot of an online survey form titled "ELG NCC Online Survey: New Developments in the European LT landscape". The form is set against a background with an orange top half and a light grey bottom half. The survey text is as follows:

ELG NCC Online Survey: New Developments in the European LT landscape

Dear ELG National Competence Centre representative,

we would like to learn more about the situation regarding Language Technology in your country. Since you are not only an expert but also ELG's local and national bridge to the relevant stakeholders in your region, we would like to ask you for your feedback with regard to a couple of questions (see below). Please take some minutes to complete our short online survey. Your input is highly appreciated. Thank you very much.

Katrin Marheinecke and Georg Rehm on behalf of the whole ELG team

Which country do you represent?

Meine Antwort: _____

Are there any specific funding programmes, activities or actions in your country with regards to Language Technology or Language-centric AI?

Meine Antwort: _____

Are minority languages an issue with political relevance in your country? If so, which are these languages?

Meine Antwort: _____

Please list the companies or research organizations who are active in Language Technology or Language-centric AI development activities in your country and to which you have some kind of connection already?

Meine Antwort: _____

What do you perceive as the biggest challenge for ELG in your region?

Meine Antwort: _____

Figure 7: Complete survey sent to all NCC (1/2)

Do you know of national, regional, organisational, or individual language Language Resource repositories or catalogues that might be relevant to be included in the ELG platform? If so, please provide the information using this spreadsheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Qly6m7NAUnIHHSQS2K82kMPWh7NAgaZ-Yeagg_I3U/edit?usp=sharing

Meine Antwort

Up to three nominations for the Language Technology Council

As part of the ELG project, a body called European Language Technology Council (ELTC) will be established in order to gather all relevant national and international stakeholders of the field (this body was previously known as European LT Board – we recently changed the name to the much more appropriate "Council"). Among these stakeholders will be representatives of research centres (including, crucially, you, i.e., all 33+ NCCs), industry national and international stakeholder initiatives, relevant international associations etc. You as one of the 32 NCCs will be the backbone of the ELTC as representatives of the LT research community. To complement the research-oriented group of NCCs, we are now looking for industry players from your country or region and for persons who represent national or regional administrations, including funding agencies. Please come up with up to three names of persons you would like to nominate as potential members of the European Language Technology Council. Please also include a reason for the nomination (for example, "Is the CEO of the biggest LT developer in our country", "Has very good connections to national and international funding agencies" or "Respected and visionary technology leader in our country"). Please nominate up to three persons below (including their affiliation, role, domain, reason for nomination and contact email).

Person 1 (name, affiliation, role, domain, reason for nomination and contact email, if known)

Meine Antwort

Person 2 (name, affiliation, role, domain, reason for nomination and contact email, if known)

Meine Antwort

Person 3 (name, affiliation, role, domain, reason for nomination and contact email, if known)

Meine Antwort

Please enter your name and email address below. Thank you for your valuable input!

Meine Antwort

SENDEN

Sie erhalten Passwörter über Google Formulare weiter.

Dieser Inhalt wurde nicht von Google erstellt und wird von Google auch nicht unterstützt. [Missbrauch melden](#) - [Nutzungsbedingungen](#)

Google Formulare

Figure 8: Complete survey sent to all NCCs (2/2)

Figure 9: Survey answers provided by NCCs (1/3)

Figure 10: Survey answers provided by NCCs (2/3)

Figure 11: Survey answers provided by NCCs (3/3)

A.B. Further Information on the Language Technology Council

European Language Technology Council (LTC)							
1) Country - and sector/area-specific members							
Country	Research (= NCCs Leads)	Government (overlap with ELRC)	Language Community (overlap with EFLIL)	LSP, MT, Multilingual	Industry		
1 Austria	Gerhard Budin						
2 Belgium	Walter Daelenans			Luc Meertens	Christoph Prinz Guy De Pauw		Martin Kallenbock Christophe Lederq
3 Bulgaria	Svetla Koeva						
4 Croatia	Marko Tadic						
5 Cyprus	Fryni Kakoyianni Doa						
6 Czech Republic	Jan Hajic	Petr Otko		David Canek	Julius Rusnak	Jan – Honza – Černocký	Milos Jakubicek
7 Denmark	Bolette Sandford Pedersen		Sabine Kirschmeier		Mads Rydahl		
8 Estonia	Kadri Vider						
9 Finland	Kristen Linden						
10 France	Francois Yvon	Thibault Grouas		Jean Senelart	Frédérique Segond	Axel Buendia	Khalid Chouki
11 Germany	Georg Rehm		Henning Lobin	Andrew Bredenkamp	Patrick Bunk	Christoph Peylo	Peggy van der Kreeft
12 Greece	Maria Gavrilidou	Nancy Routzouri	Maria Atapopoulou	Yola Georgakopoulou		Tiemos Stafiakis	Stelios Pperdis
13 Hungary	Tamas Varadi			Balazs Kis			
14 Iceland	Eirkur Rögnvaldsson			Jóhanna Vígdís Guðmunds Vilhjálms Thorsteinsson			
15 Ireland	Andy Way	Michael Ó Conaire					
16 Italy	Bernardo Magnini			Marco Trombetti	Roberto Navigli	Alessandro Tescari	
17 Latvia	Inguna Skadina			Andrejs Vasiljers			
18 Lithuania	Albina Aukšaitė						
19 Luxembourg	Eric Ras						
20 Malta	Michael Rosner						
21 Netherlands	Jan Odijk		Frieda Steurs		Jakub Zavel		Jaap van der Meer
22 Norway	Koenraad De Smet		Kristine Gunn Elde		Robert Engels		
23 Poland	Maciej Ogrodniczak			Andrzej Nedoma			
24 Portugal	Antonio Branco			Maxim Khalilov			
25 Romania	Dan Tufis	Mihail Cazacu		George Bara			
26 Serbia	Cvetana Krstev						
27 Slovakia	Radovan Garabik				Marek Košťa	Jernej Zganeč Gros	
28 Slovenia	Simon Krek						
29 Spain	Nuria Bel	David Perez Fernandez		Manuel Herranz	José Manuel Gómez Pérez		Richard Benjamins
30 Sweden	Lars Borin		Rickard Domeij		Jussi Karlgren		

Figure 12: Suggested members of the LTC (draft) (1/2)

Figure 13: Suggested members of the LTC (draft) (2/2)



Inaugural Meeting European Language Technology Council

7 October 2019, 14:00-17:00

BluePoint Brussels, 80 Bd A. Reyers Ln, 1030 Brussels, Belgium

Room: Archimedes (tbc; please check the displays indicating the rooms)

Agenda

13:45 Registration

14:00 Introduction and Overview

- Composition of the European Language Technology Council (LTC)
- Suggested additional members?
- Goals of the LTC
- Procedures and approach

14:45 Introduction and Overview

- First strategic paper of LTC
 - Presentation of the paper
 - Discussion and additional items
 - Approval of the paper

15:30 Coffee break

15:45 Additions to the Council

- Discussion of additional LTC members
 - Scientific organizations (like EACL and EAMT)
 - Emerging AI PPP (like ELLIS, EUrobotics)
 - LTC members from large non-European Tech enterprises

16:30 Additions to the Council

- Timeline and upcoming activities
- Next meeting
- AOB

Figure 14: Agenda of the inaugural LTC meeting



European Language Technology Council: Operational Procedures

06 September 2019 – Version 1.1

Preamble

The **European Language Grid (ELG)** is a scalable cloud platform, that will ultimately provide, in an easy-to-integrate way, access to hundreds of commercial and non-commercial **Language Technologies (LT)** for all European languages, including running services and tools as well as data sets and resources. It will enable the commercial and non-commercial European LT community to deposit and upload their technologies and data sets into the ELG, to deploy them through the grid, and to connect with other resources. The ELG will boost the **Multilingual Digital Single Market** towards a thriving and prospering European LT sector, creating new innovations, new jobs and new opportunities.

To support the European Language Grid in terms of outreach and visibility but especially, to support the idea of technology-enabled and technology-supported multilingualism, the project is setting up 32 **National Competence Centres (NCCs)** as a large international network of national networks, as well as the **European LT Council (LTC)**. The LTC is meant to be, first and foremost, a forum that enables easy and efficient communication and coordination on the European level, specifically with regard to ongoing and emerging international and also national activities relating to LT research, development and innovation (including funding opportunities).

The ELG platform and the LTC will contribute to the shaping and emergence of the European approach towards **technology-enabled multilingualism** by bringing in multidisciplinary expertise from all relevant activities in research, development and innovation as well as administrations and governments. The European LT Council will foster the coordination and strategic as well as political discussion, representing all relevant stakeholder groups. One of its crucial tasks will be the preparation of strategic recommendations, especially geared towards national and international administrations and funding agencies. The ELG project will prepare the initial suggestions, which are then discussed, finalised and approved by the LTC, taking into account the ideas, demands, wishes, needs and suggestions of all LTC members.

During the runtime of the ELG project (2019-2021), the LTC will be logistically supported by the ELG project, especially by the ELG Coordinator and Project Office. After the runtime of the project, the emerging ELG legal entity is expected to take over the logistical support of the LTC.

1 Objectives

ELG will assemble all representatives from all important stakeholder groups relevant for the Multilingual Europe topic (including Language-centric AI) in the LTC for the purpose of establishing a platform and forum that enables a structured dialogue with all relevant national and international stakeholders. The LTC's objectives are the Europe-wide discussion and coordination with regard to, among others, the following set of broader topics:

1

Figure 15: Operational Procedures LTC (1/4)

- Multilingual Europe and technology-enabled Multilingualism
- Multilingual Digital Single Market
- Language equality in the digital age
- Digital language extinction
- Technologies for lesser used or low resourced languages
- Language-centric AI and its potentials
- Other related topics

Particularly, the LT Council will

- discuss questions, challenges, strategies, approaches, and solutions concerning the topics mentioned above;
- coordinate and network with national and international initiatives and organisations;
- draft recommendations for national and international administrations and funding agencies.

2 Composition and Membership

The European Language Technology Council consists of two groups of members:

1. Country- and sector/area-specific members

This group is foreseen to comprise seven representatives each of a total of 32 countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom). The seven stakeholder groups to be represented in the LTC for each country are as follows:

- Research (all National Competence Centre leads)
- Government (overlap with ELRC's Public Service National Anchor Points)
- Language Community (overlap with the members of EFNIL)
- Industry: Language Service Providers, Machine Translation, Multilingual Technologies
- Industry: Text analytics, social media analytics, data mining, business intelligence etc.
- Industry: Speech, interaction, chatbots, conversational AI etc.
- Industry: Knowledge, resources, data sets, media etc.

While we strive for complete coverage of all seven stakeholder groups in all 32 countries, we do realise that some countries may not have certain industry groups. At the same time, we also realise that some countries may have a fairly big landscape of LT developers, which may require two representatives instead of one. Exceptions of this kind will be discussed within the LTC before their operationalisation.

2. Representatives of important pan-European associations, organisations and networks

There are several pan-European associations, organisations and networks that need to be approached for membership in the LTC due to their very high relevance. These include AI4EU, BDVA, CLAIRE, CLARIN, ECSPM, EFNIL, ELEN, FLReNet, LT Innovate, META-NET and NPLD.

We expect the first group to comprise approx. 230-240 members while the second group will consist of approx. 10-15 members. In total, the LTC will comprise approx. 250 members, when completed. This is an unusually high number for a council that is supposed to be a discussion platform and that will provide strategic guidance towards decision makers. Nevertheless, we believe that this complexity is

Figure 16: Operational Procedures LTC (2/4)

necessary to cover all European countries and their individual languages, to include the national governments, researchers and language communities and especially the important industry sectors that are traditionally divided into three broader areas (translation, text analytics, speech). We added a fourth category (resources, data sets, models, media etc.). With the addition of the representatives of the pan-European initiatives there will not be any gaps or generalisations whatsoever. In other words, the wider Multilingual Europe community will be fully covered, which is of utmost importance.

Members of the LT Council are natural persons, i.e., members are invited on an *ad nominem* basis, typically with regard to one or more specific roles they have. The members of the LT Council will be presented on the ELG website including their name, photo and relevant roles. The LTC will strive for gender balance among its membership. Ideally, all LTC members should have very big and strong personal networks in order to broaden the reach of the ELG project and platform.

The initial composition of the LTC will be determined by the ELG Steering Committee (see below for the current state of play). Once operational, the LT Council can add new members (= empty cells in the matrix of LTC countries and members) without consulting the ELG Steering Committee. Members can leave the LTC by giving notice to the LTC Chair. New members can be invited upon a written proposal to the LTC; written proposals for new members are, first and foremost, expected to be submitted by LTC members that represent the same country. Unless objections are raised by any other LTC member within 21 days after the proposal has been forwarded, the suggested person can be invited to become a member of the LTC and will be included in the mailing list. If there are major objections regarding a suggested new member, the overall approach is to discuss and to resolve the objections in order to arrive at an LTC-wide consensus and agreement. If that is not possible, the new suggested member will not be invited.

Current state of play (September 2019): The initial backbone of the LTC will be the 32 NCC Leads that we will invite to become the *Research* representatives (some of the NCCs may be more appropriate for the *Language Community* group). Additionally, we plan to include one representative each of the nine members of the ELG consortium. Furthermore, we have, by now, a longer list of approx. 100 nominations collected from the ELG consortium and, crucially, from the NCCs (who know their countries best), representing LT industry and also relevant initiatives and associations. As of now, the suggested members of the LTC include approx. 90 names (including the 32 NCCs) for the first group and 11 names for the second group. The 32 NCCs play a crucial role in the LTC composition for several reasons: they have a good overview of the regional/national situation in their countries; they are financially supported through small subcontracts and can organise local meetings with the other six country-specific LTC members; these other six country-specific LTC members can also be considered to be members of the respective National Competence Centre.

3 Organization of Work

The majority of the work will be performed virtually and asynchronously via shared documents, especially in the weeks and months before the annual LTC face-to-face meeting and before any other important events. All members are encouraged and welcome to participate actively in the work on documents, strategy papers and recommendations. Information and communication will take place mainly with the help of a dedicated mailing list. The mailing list will be administered by the ELG Project Office. Moreover, the ELG Coordinator will organize virtual meetings as necessary as well as one annual face-to-face meeting, typically co-located with the Annual ELG Conference. The annual general meetings are primarily for communication, coordination and arriving at consensus regarding high level topics.

Figure 17: Operational Procedures LTC (3/4)

4 Organisation of Meetings

4.1 Convening Meetings

The LT Council will come together on an annual basis for a face-to-face meeting. The annual meeting will be co-located with the main ELG Annual Conference. For the remainder of the year, the LTC will communicate via its mailing list and through up to four virtual meetings, initiated by the LTC Chair.

The ELG Coordinator will chair all LT Council meetings.

The members of the LT Council are encouraged to be present at the annual meeting, although there is no obligation to attend. They shall participate in a cooperative manner in the meetings.

The LTC Chair will give notice in writing of a face-to-face meeting to each Member of the LT Council as soon as possible and no later than 30 days preceding the meeting.

The agenda of virtual or face-to-face LTC meetings will be prepared and sent to each member by the LTC Chair no later than seven calendar days preceding the meeting.

Any agenda item requiring a decision by the LTC must be identified as such on the agenda.

Any Member of the LT Council may add items to the agenda by written notification to the Chair up to three days preceding the meeting.

4.2 Meeting Decisions

Decisions will only be binding once the minutes of that meeting have been accepted.

Decisions may also be taken without a meeting if the Chair circulates a written document to all Members, which is then agreed upon by at least half of all Members. Such document shall include a deadline for responses.

Decisions taken without a meeting shall be considered as accepted if, within a period of 14 days, no Member has objected in writing to the Chair. In case of major objections, the overall approach is to discuss and to resolve the objections in order to arrive at an LTC-wide consensus and agreement.

The decisions will be binding once the Chair sends a written notification of this acceptance to all Members of the LT Council.

4.3 Voting Rules

Each Member of the LT Council present or represented in a meeting shall have one vote.

Decisions shall be taken by a simple majority of the votes cast.

4.4 Minutes of Meetings

The LTC Chair shall produce written minutes of each meeting which shall be the formal record of all decisions taken. The Chair shall send the draft minutes to all Members within 21 calendar days after the meeting.

The minutes shall be considered as accepted if, within 14 calendar days from sending, no Member has sent an objection in writing to the Chair with respect to the accuracy of the draft minutes.

The Chair shall send the accepted minutes to all LTC Members and the ELG consortium.

5 Authors

Katrin Marheinecke (DFKI), Georg Rehm (DFKI)

Figure 18: Operational Procedures LTC (4/4)