EUROPEAN LANGUAGE GRID

ELG Open Call #1 and Open Call #2:
A brief overview of the two open calls

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Open Calls

- **Goals of the European Language Grid Open Call for pilot projects**

  ◦ The pilot projects should demonstrate the usefulness of the ELG as a technology platform, by:

    ▪ Broadening ELG's portfolio of Language Technologies (adding data, tools, services)

    ▪ Developing solutions/applications using the ELG

  ◦ There are no priorities: best projects will be selected that fulfill the above

- **Outcome of the Pilot Projects**

  ◦ (a) Contribute resources, services, tools or data sets to the ELG to increase its coverage, or

  ◦ (b) Develop applications using language resources and technologies available in the ELG.

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- **Key parameters**

  ◦ €1.950.000 to be distributed in total, € 50.000-200.000 per project

    ▪ Using Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) mechanism – widely used in Horizon2020, ICT Workprogramme 18-20

  ◦ 9-12 months project duration

  ◦ One organisation per project only

    ▪ SME and research organizations eligible

  ◦ Two open calls (March/April 2020, October/November 2020)

  ◦ Lightweight procedure, short proposal (approx. 5 – 10 pages)

  ◦ Three independent evaluators per proposal, final selection made by the Pilot Board

  ◦ Proposals submitted via the ELG open calls platform
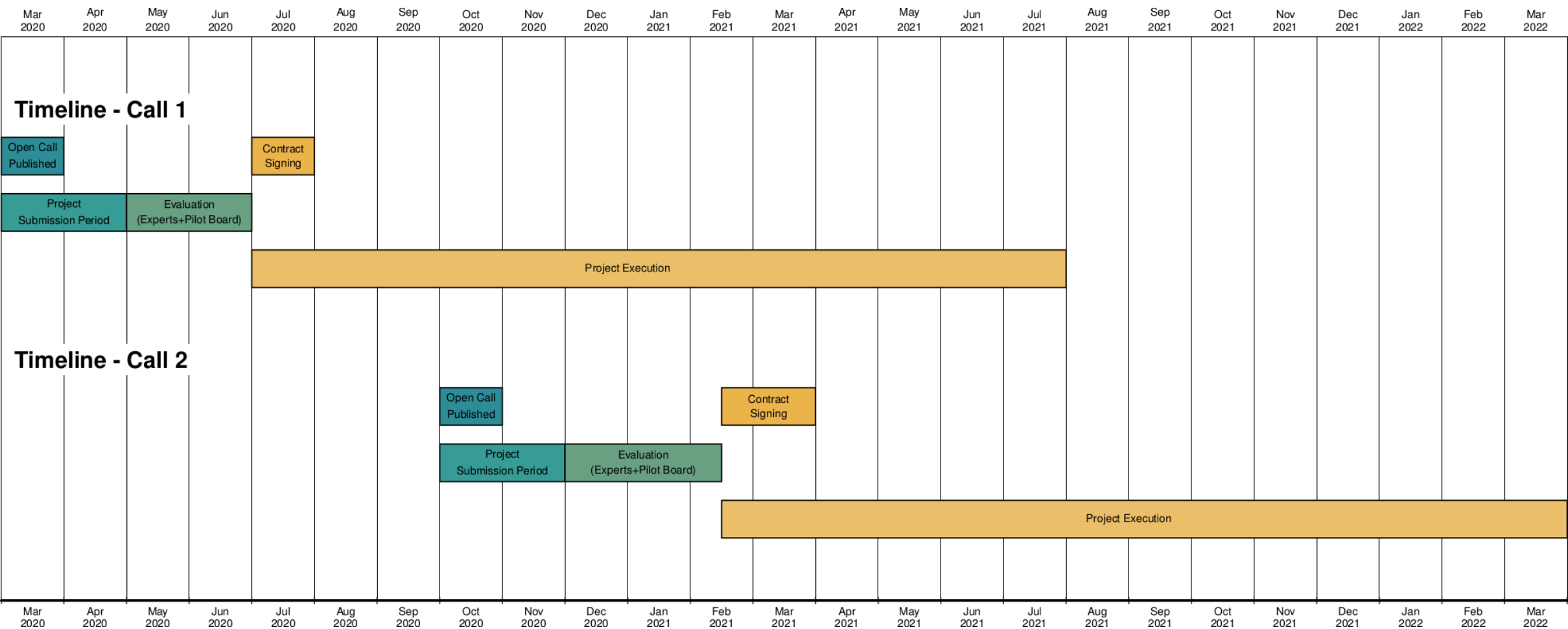
Open Calls

- **Evaluation criteria**
  - Objective fit
  - Technical approach
  - Business, Integration and Dissemination ("BID") plan
  - Budget adequacy
  - Team

- **Project execution** – Four-phase process, consisting of the following activities:
  1. Open call
  2. Experiment
  3. Integration
  4. Dissemination

Open Calls: Timeline

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Timeline - Call 1

Open Call Published	Contract Signing
Project Submission Period	Evaluation (Experts+Pilot Board)
Project Execution	

Timeline - Call 2

Open Call Published	Contract Signing
Project Submission Period	Evaluation (Experts+Pilot Board)
Project Execution	

Results of the first open call

- **Open Call #1**

  ◦ 110 proposals accepted for evaluation, 29 countries including eligible countries outside the EU (Iceland, Israel, Norway, Serbia, South Africa, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom)

  ◦ More SMEs (62) than research organisations (48)

  ◦ Focus on contributing resources, services, tools, or data sets to the ELG (79) vs. proposals for LT applications using ELG (31)

- **Open Call #1 – projects selected**

  ◦ ELG Pilot Board selected 10 projects, amounting for EUR 1,363,915 (limit for 1st Call: 1,365k EUR)

  ◦ 5 countries – Finland (3x), Austria (2x), Germany (2x), Italy (2x), Spain

  ◦ All ten pilot projects in execution phase now

Selected projects

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Organisation	Project Title	Country
Fondazione Bruno Kessler	European Clinical Case Corpus	Italy
Lingsoft, Inc.	Lingsoft Solutions as Distributable Containers	Finland
Coreon GmbH	MKS as Linguistic Linked Open Data	Germany
Elhuyar Fundazioa	Basque-speaking smart speaker based on Mycroft AI	Spain
Universita' Degli Studi di Torino	Italian EVALITA Benchmark Linguistic Resources, NLP Services and Tools [...]	Italy
University of Helsinki	Open Translation Models, Tools and Services	Finland
Centre for Translation Studies, University of Vienna	Extracting Terminological Concept Systems from Natural Language Text	Austria
University of Turku, Turku NLP research group	Textual paraphrase dataset for deep language modelling	Finland
Weber Consulting KG	Virtual Personal Assistant Prototype	Austria
FZI Research Center for Information Technology	Streaming Language Processing in Manufacturing	Germany

- Five projects aim to contribute language resources or tools to ELG

- Three projects will interconnect their technologies with ELG

- Two projects brings speech-oriented applications

Results of the second open call

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- **Open Call #2**

  ◦ 106 proposals submitted, 28 countries including countries outside the EU (Iran, Israel, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom)

  ◦ More SMEs (61) than research organisations (45)

  ◦ Focus on contributing resources, services, tools, or data sets to the ELG (68) vs. proposals for LT applications using ELG (38)

- **Open Call #2 – results will be published by mid February 2021**

Survey – proposers

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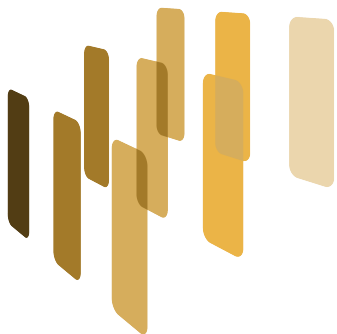| What were the most important reasons for you to prepare and submit a proposal to the ELG open call? Please choose up to three.	Answers	Answers (%)
Contribute services or resources to the ELG platform to make them available to the emerging ELG community	54	74.0
Further development of an existing software or data project	48	65.8
Necessity of financial funding in order to realise a specific project idea	35	47.9
Get more visibility for my organisation and/or products and/or services through the ELG	31	42.5
General interest in the further development and progress of the ELG platform and initiative	27	37.0
Branch out into new markets by means of the ELG platform and initiative	20	27.4
Make use of the ELG cloud platform to distribute my services (my organisation does not run its own cloud platform)	15	20.5

Survey – proposers

What are your main expectations towards the ELG platform and initiative? Please choose up to three options.	Answers	Answers (%)
That I get access to a large repository of functional services and datasets	40	54.8
That ELG strengthens the LT and language-centric AI community in Europe as a whole	38	52.1
That ELG provides increased visibility for my organisation on the European level	36	49.3
That ELG facilitates future collaborations with other developers by establishing a common platform	30	41.1
That ELG becomes a part of a larger LT/AI platform eco-system in Europe	30	41.1
That I have an additional channel for the exploitation of my organisation's research results	29	39.7
That ELG improves interoperability of LT by establishing a common API	25	34.2
That ELG serves as an information hub and matchmaker for buyers and suppliers of LT	21	28.8
That I have an additional sales channel for my organisation's commercial services or datasets	20	27.4

Survey – proposers

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Do you specialise in certain domains, for example, energy, health, mobility? Please provide a comma-separated list of domains.	Answers	Answers (%)
No certain domains	18	33.3
Health	8	14.8
Legal	4	7.4
Media	4	7.4
Mobility	4	7.4
Energy	3	5.6
Linguistics	3	5.6
News	3	5.6
Automotive	2	3.7
Broadcast	2	3.7
Digital Humanities	2	3.7
Education	2	3.7
Public Services	2	3.7

Survey – proposers

What types of Language Technology do you specialise in, for example, Machine Translation, Text Analytics, Speech Recognition etc.? Please provide a comma-separated list of technologies.	Answers	Answers (%)
Text Analysis	34.0	48.6
Machine Translation	17.0	24.3
Speech Recognition	13.0	18.6
Natural Language Processing	10.0	14.3
TTS	6.0	8.6
ASR	4.0	5.7
Conversational AI/Chatbots	4.0	5.7
Data Sets	3.0	4.3
Dialog Management/Modeling/Systems	3.0	4.3
NER	3.0	4.3
NLG	3.0	4.3

European Language Grid – META-FORUM 2020

ELG Open Call #1:
Selected Pilot Projects