



# EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY



## European Language Equality: An Overview

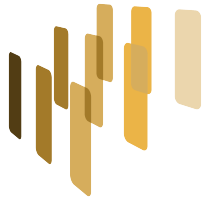
Andy Way (Coordinator ELE, ADAPT Centre), Georg Rehm (Co-Coordinator ELE, DFKI), Jan Hajic (Charles University), Stelios Piperidis (R.C. “Athena”, ILSP), German Rigau (University of the Basque Country)

01/02/03-12-2020 META-FORUM 2020 – Piloting the European Language Grid (virtual conference)  
<http://www.european-language-grid.eu>

# European Language Equality (ELE) – Summary



**EUROPEAN  
LANGUAGE  
EQUALITY**



**EUROPEAN  
LANGUAGE  
GRID**

**Consortium:** 53 partners from all over Europe  
**Coordinator:** ADAPT Centre (Dublin City University)

**Objective:** *development of a strategic research, innovation and deployment agenda to achieve digital language equality in Europe by 2030*

**Runtime:** 18 months – ELE and ELG will both end in June 2022

**Start on 1 January 2021**

# Context: “Language Equality” EP Resolution

EP Resolution “Language equality in the digital age”  
P8\_TA(2018)0332 – partially based on the STOA study

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

## Selected Recommendations 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
29. Create a European LT platform for sharing of services
27. Europe has to secure its leadership in language-centric AI

European Parliament  
2014-2019



TEXTS ADOPTED  
Provisional edition

P8\_TA-PROV(2018)0332

Language equality in the digital age

European Parliament resolution of 11 September 2018 on language equality in the digital age (2018/2028(INI))

*The European Parliament,*

- having regard to Articles 2 and 3(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),
- having regard to Articles 21(1) and 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,
- having regard to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,
- having regard to Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information<sup>1</sup>,
- having regard to Directive 2013/37/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information<sup>2</sup>,
- having regard to Decision (EU) 2015/2240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 establishing a programme on interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2 programme) as a means for modernising the public sector<sup>3</sup>,
- having regard to the Council resolution of 21 November 2008 on a European strategy for multilingualism (2008/C 320/01)<sup>4</sup>,
- having regard to the Council decision of 3 December 2013 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and

<sup>1</sup> OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 90.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 175, 27.6.2013, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> OJ L 318, 4.12.2015, p. 1.

<sup>4</sup> OJ C 320, 16.12.2008, p. 1.

# Call LANGEQ-2020

- Developing a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030
- Funding line: PP/PA (not Horizon 2020) – Pilot Project/Preparatory Action
- Project type: Coordination and Support Action
- Budget: 1,8M€
- Maximum runtime: 18 months
- Submission deadline: 29 July 2020

Programme	Work programme part	
<a href="#">Pilot Projects and Preparatory Actions</a>	<a href="#">PPPA-2020</a>	
Call	Work programme year	<a href="#">See budget overview</a>
<a href="#">Developing a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030 (PPPA-LANGEQ-2020)</a>	PPPA-2020	
Type of action	Closed	
PPPA-AG Pilot Project & Preparation Action Grant		
Deadline model	Opening date	Deadline date
single-stage	11 June 2020	29 July 2020 17:00:00 Brussels time

# Call LANGEQ-2020: Three main Components

Draw up **sustainable evidence-based strategic research agenda** and **roadmap** setting out **actions, processes, tools** and **actors** to *achieve full digital language equality of all languages* (official or otherwise) used within the EU through the effective use of LT.

1. The **agenda** should lay out the current state of LT and language equality within the EU and give a detailed picture of the desired situation needed to achieve digital language equality.
  - Map stakeholders and initiatives; liaise with them through consultations; map (AI) technologies, assess their impact on linguistic landscape; identify research areas and gaps; needs for LT.
2. The **roadmap** will then provide the path and the means needed to implement the agenda and ensure that digital language equality becomes a reality by 2030.
  - Tools, processes, actions, actors required to achieve full digital language equality by 2030; prioritisation of actions, clear milestones and accountabilities; analysis of funding requirements
3. **Dissemination** and awareness raising: events, consultations, social media etc.; ensure buy-in

# European Language Equality: Positioning

- ELE is a mix of META-NET and HLP Prep plus strong collaboration with ELG
  - Focus on strategy agenda and roadmap (runtime: 18 months)
- ELE has the potential to influence the European LT landscape for the next 10-15 years:
  - Address and solve the crucial topic of digital language equality
    - Digital language equality is achieved when under-resourced languages don't exist anymore
  - Create more public visibility – for the topic, for the consortium, for the LT community
  - Strengthen and reinforce the European Language Grid
  - Strengthen the relationship of our field with the European AI community
  - Help establish LT and language-centric AI in Horizon Europe and Digital Europe Programme
- ELE and ELG are aligned so that they both end in June 2022 ...
  - ... with a large joint event: META-FORUM 2022.

# European Language Equality: Concept



- Key goal: development of the strategic agenda and roadmap
- Input to be prepared by the project and collected from all relevant stakeholders
- Close collaboration between ELE and ELG
  - Integration of (almost) all ELG National Competence Centres (NCCs) and the ELG Language Technology Council (LTC)
  - Make use of ELG platform for various tasks in ELE
- Update META-NET White Papers
- Organisation of events, consultations, surveys
- Large, all-encompassing consortium: partners from industry, research and many different pan-European networks, initiatives and associations – 53 partners in total



# European Language Equality: Consortium

- **5 core partners:** Adapt Centre, DFKI, Charles University, ILSP, University of the Basque Country
- **9 networks, associations, initiatives:** LT Innovate (via Crosslang), EFNIL, ELEN, ECSPM, CLARIN, CLAIRE (via University of Leiden), NEM (via Eurescom), LIBER, Wikimedia
- **9 companies:** Tilde, ELDA, Expert System, Sail Labs, Kantan MT (via Xcelerator MT), Pangeanic, Semantic Web Company, Ontotext (via Sirma AI), SAP
- **30 research organisations:** University of Vienna, University of Antwerp, Institute for Bulgarian Language, University of Zagreb, University of Copenhagen, University of Tartu, University of Helsinki, CNRS, Research Institute for Linguistics, Institute for Icelandic Studies, FBK, University of Latvia, Institute of the Lithuanian Language, Luxembourg Institute of Technology, University of Malta, University of Utrecht, Language Council of Norway, Polish Academy of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Romanian Academy, University of Cyprus, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Jozef Stefan Institute, Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Royal Institute of Technology, University of Zurich, University of Sheffield, University of Vigo, Bangor University, University of Belgrade

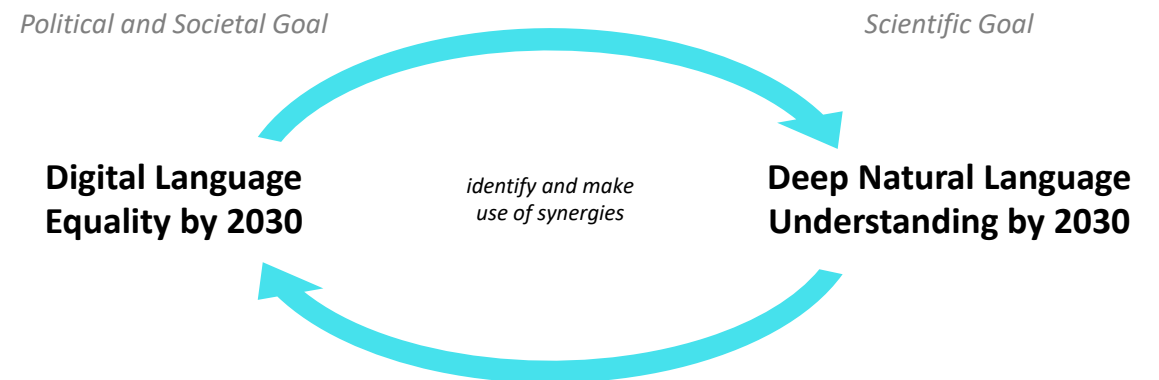


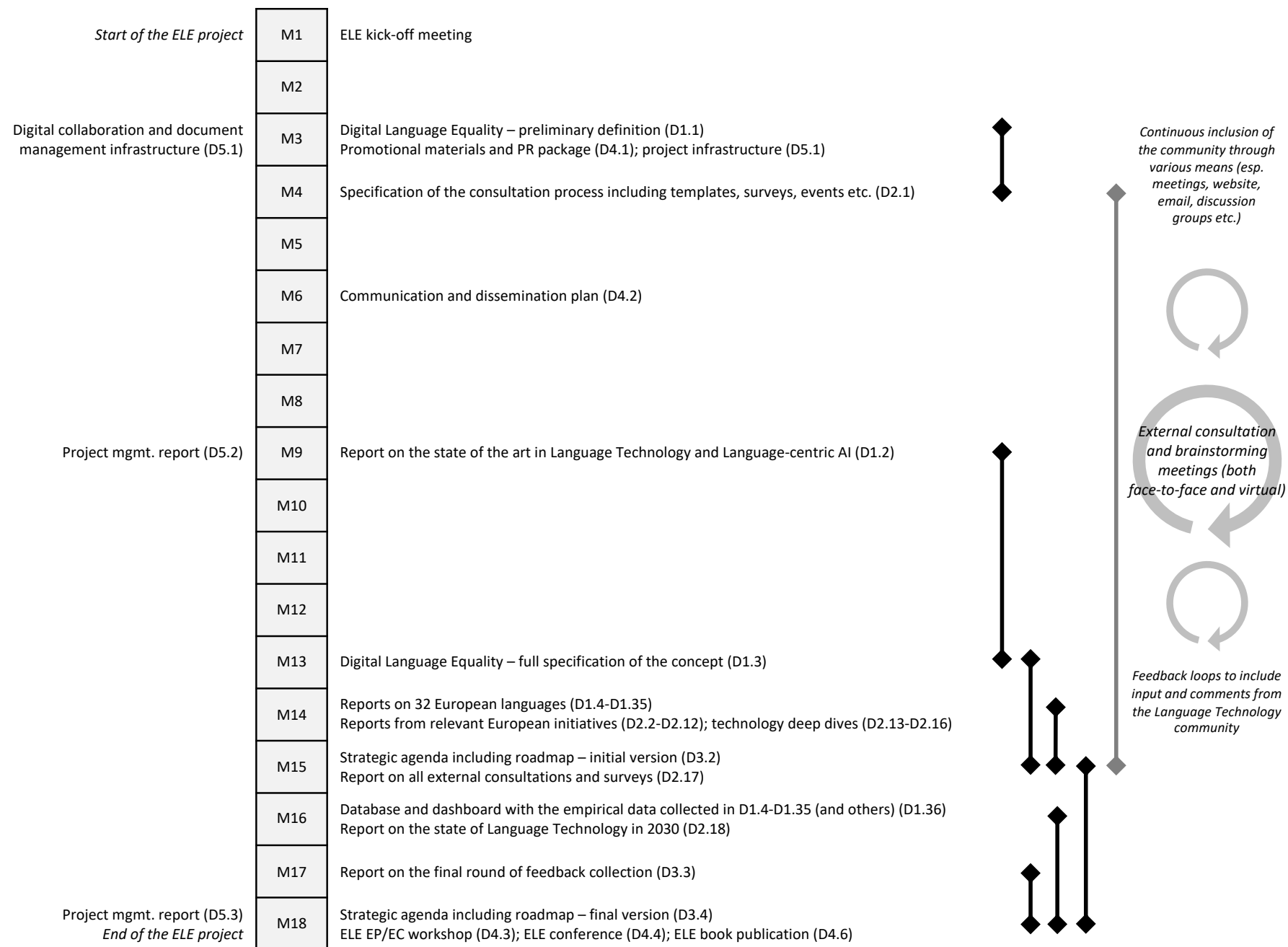
# European Language Equality: Approach

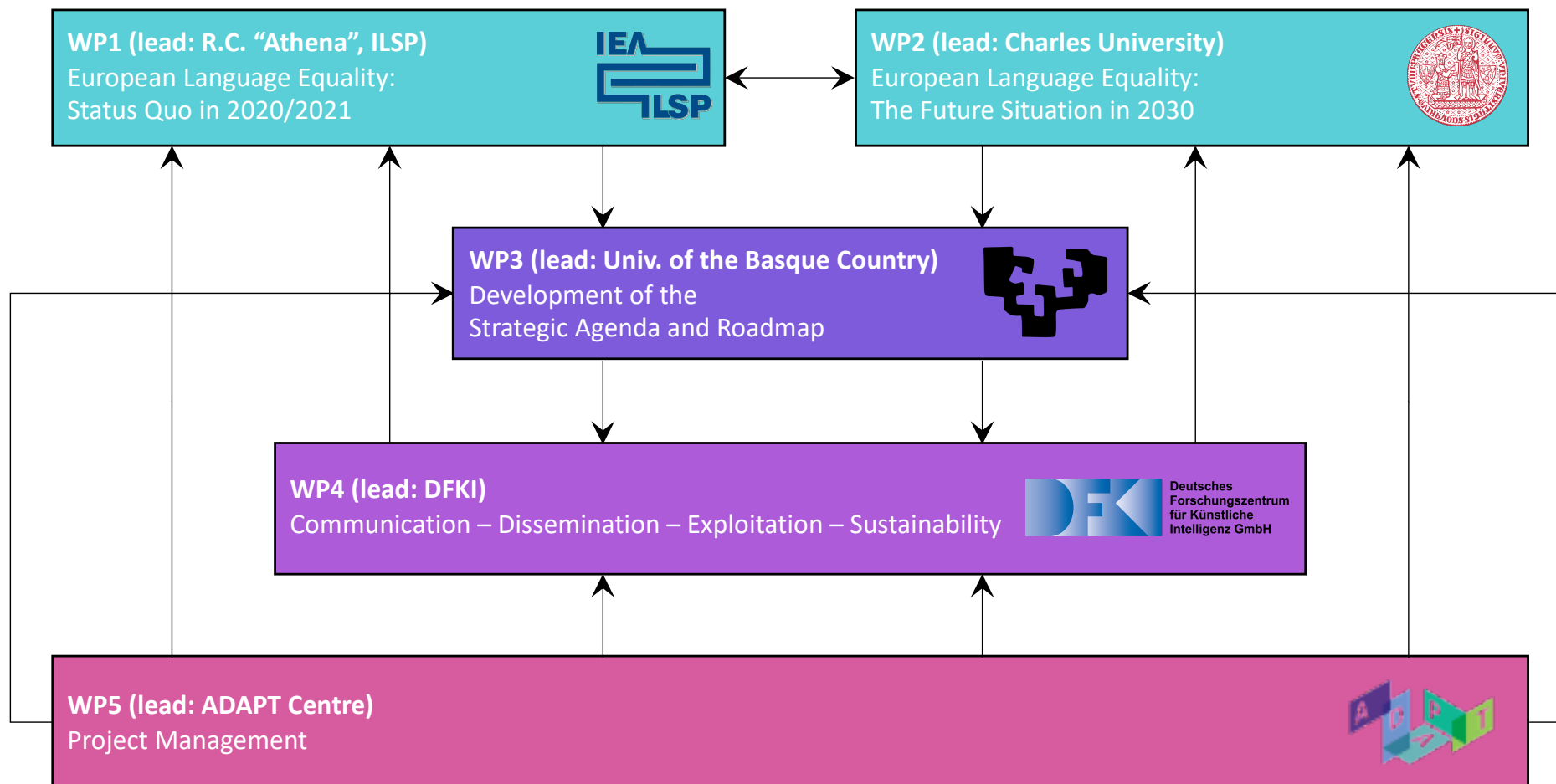
- Main result: Strategic Agenda and Roadmap – all deliverables provide input for this main report:
  - Detailed description of the *European Language Equality Programme*
- Research partners to produce updates of the 32 META-NET White Papers (one deliverable each).
- Networks and initiatives to produce a report (one deliverable each) in which they collect, consolidate and present their own position, needs, wishes, demands, visions etc.
- Companies to produce various technical deep dives for the different technology areas.
- Several additional reports to be produced, primarily by the core partners.
- Reports to be prepared in a more or less autonomous way based on templates – however, they will include many different public consultation meetings, roundtables, online surveys etc.
- Reports to be used as input for the strategic agenda and roadmap.
- Total number of languages taken into account in ELE: 77.

# ELE Strategic Agenda and Roadmap: Key Components

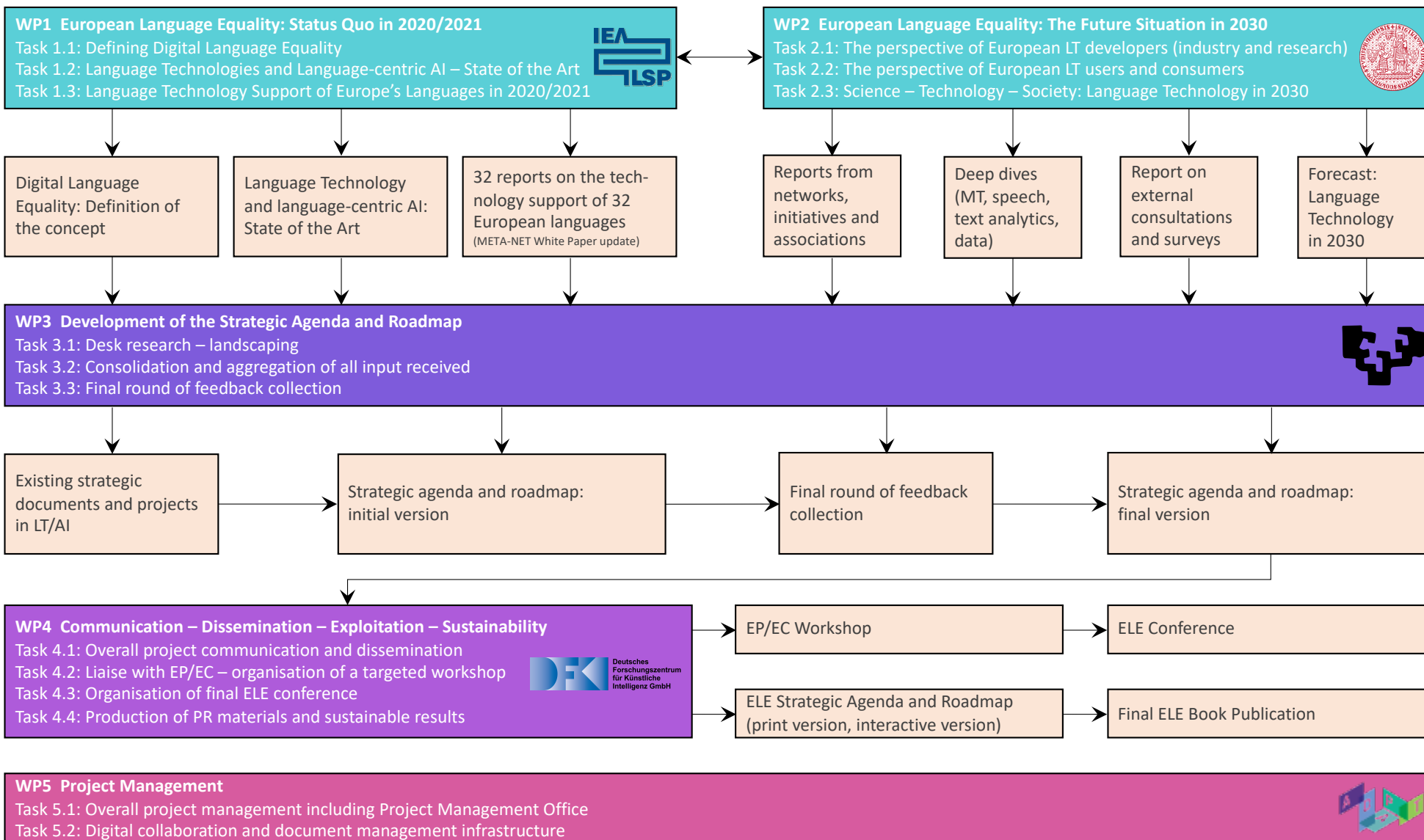
- KC1: Consolidated Vision and Definition of Digital Language Equality
  - Overall scientific vision: “Deep Natural Language Understanding by 2030”
- KC2: Stakeholders and Initiatives
- KC3: Relevant Technologies – Needs for Language Technologies across all Sectors
- KC4: Roadmap
- KC5: Innovation and Involvement of Industry (Exploitation)
- KC6: Implementation of the European Language Equality Programme
- KC7: Governance Structure
- KC8: Responsible Research and Innovation





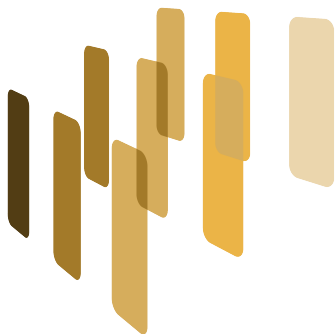


**Work  
Packages**



# Summary

- ELE is a new EU project that starts in January 2021 and ends in June 2022
- Its goal is the development of the *Strategic Research, Innovation and Implementation Agenda and a Roadmap for achieving full Digital Language Equality in Europe by 2030*
- Consortium with 53 partners covering all European countries and all major initiatives
- Many consultation events, roundtables, stakeholder meetings planned
- Close collaboration with its sister project European Language Grid (ELG)
- Intended overlap between ELE and ELG consortium, ELG NCCs and META-NET members
- Firmly establish LT and language-centric AI in Horizon Europe and Digital Europe Programme
- Please participate in our stakeholder events, surveys and questionnaires!
- ELE and ELG will finish up with a joint META-FORUM 2022 in June 2022.



European Language Grid

**Thank you!**



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