EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY

META=NET
META=FORUM 2022

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE GRID

META-FORUM 2022

Joining the European Language Grid:

Together towards Digital Language Equality

11th META-FORUM – 4th Annual ELG Conference – 1st Annual ELE Conference

Georg Rehm (DFKI)
georg.rehm@dfki.de

08/09-06-2022 META-FORUM 2022 – Joining the European Language Grid (hybrid conference)
http://www.european-language-grid.eu – http://european-language-equality.eu

"Language Equality" EP Resolution (2018)

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[1],

– 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[2],

– 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[3],

– having regard to the Council resolution of 21 November 2008 on a European strategy for multilingualism (2008/C 320/01)[4],

– having regard to the Council decision of 3 December 2013 establishing the specific programme implementing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and

[1] OJ L 345, 31.12.2003, p. 90.
[2] OJ L 175, 27.6.2013, p. 1.
[3] OJ L 318, 4.12.2015, p. 1.
[4] OJ C 320, 16.12.2008, p. 1.

European Language Equality (ELE)

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Consortium: 52 partners from all over Europe

Coordinator: ADAPT Centre (Dublin City University)

Co-Coordinator: DFKI

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

Runtime: 18 months – ELE and ELG are both finishing up in June 2022

Started on **1 January 2021**

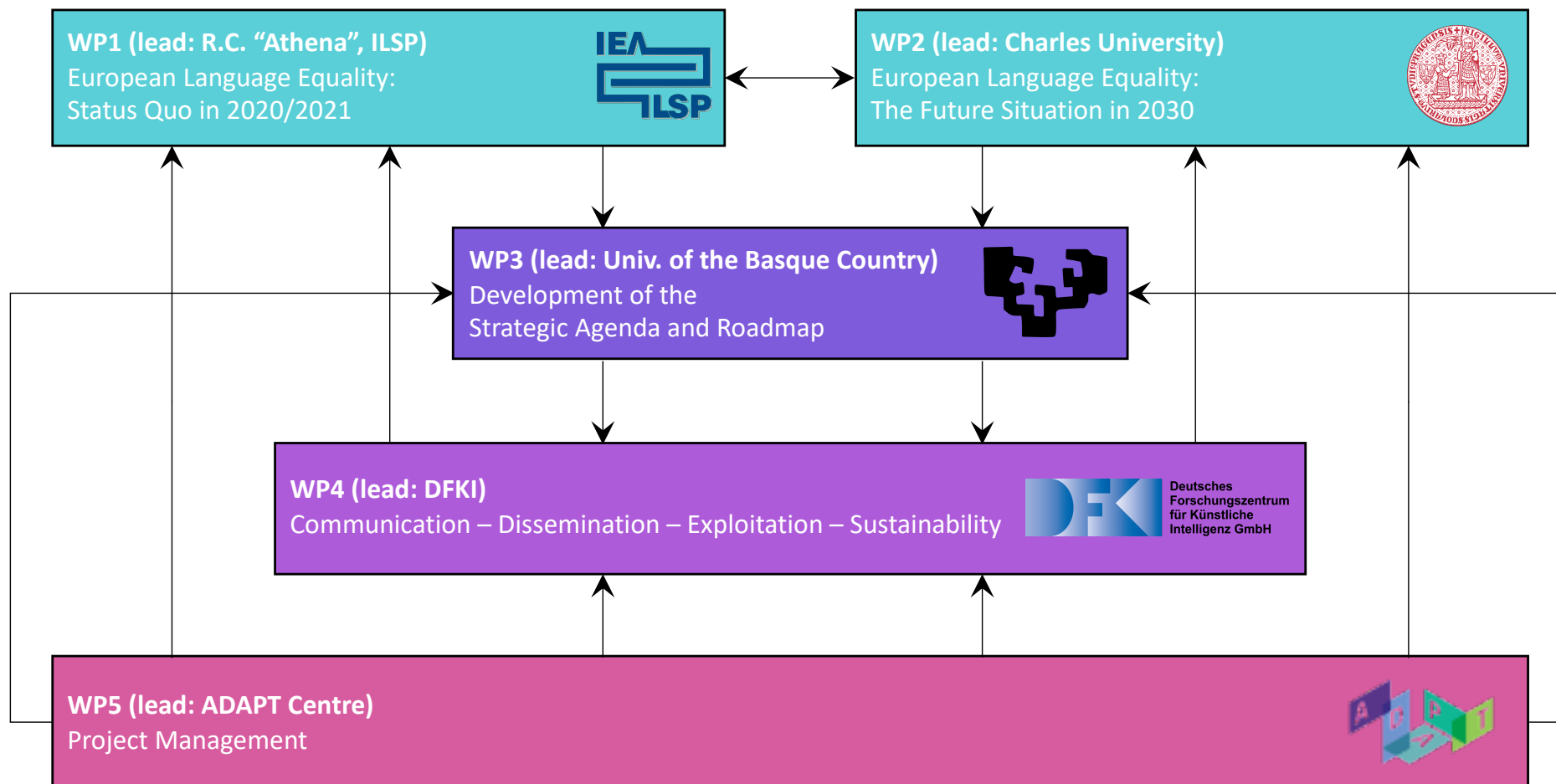http://www.european-language-equality.eu
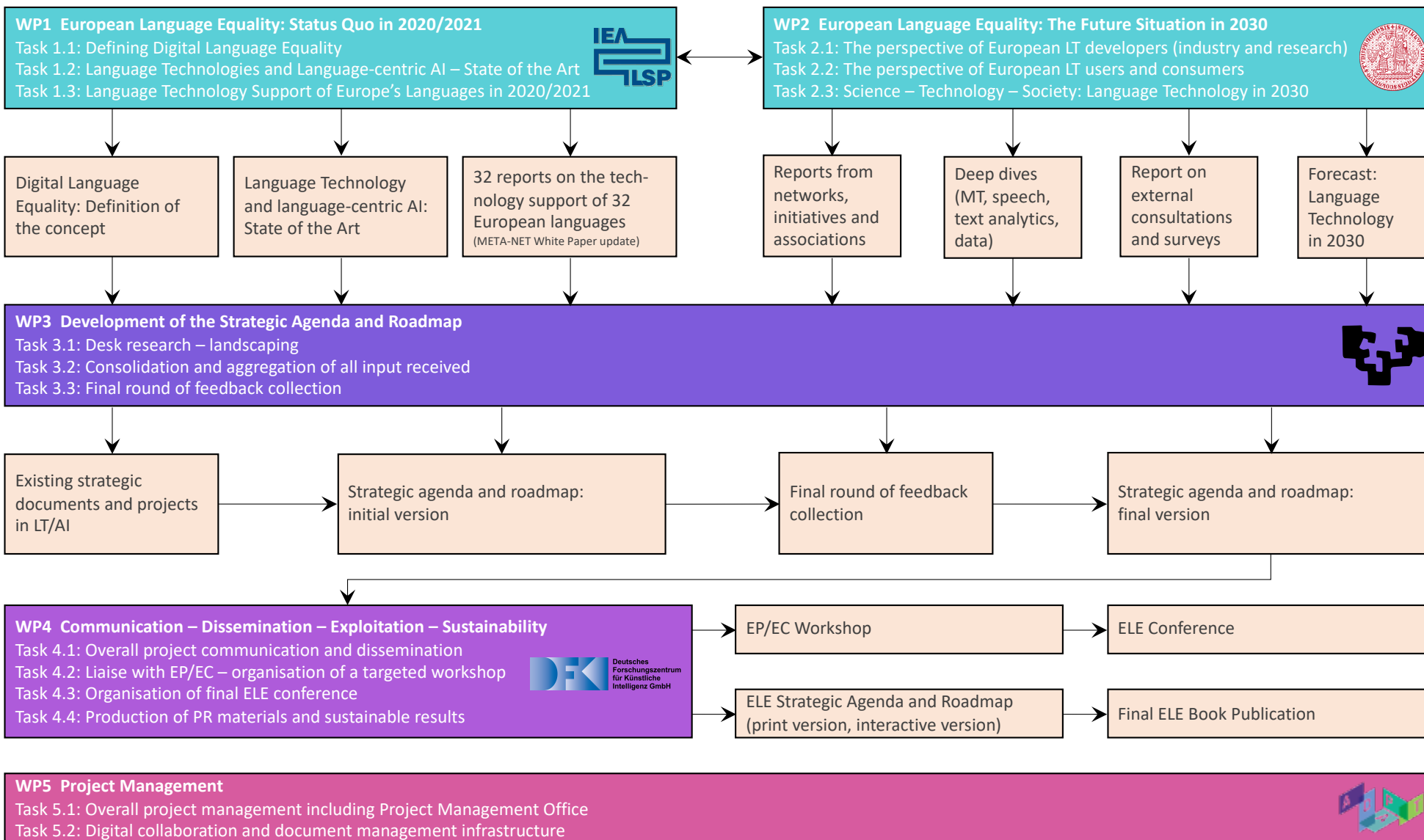
Project Consortium with 52 Partners

- **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

- **29 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

Approach

- Main result: **Strategic agenda and roadmap** – all deliverables contribute input

- Research partners produce updates of the 32 META-NET White Papers (one report each).

- Networks and initiatives produce one report each in which they collect, consolidate and present their own position, needs, wishes, demands, visions etc.

- SME partners produce four technical deep dives for the main technology areas.

- Several additional reports to be produced, primarily by the five core partners.

- Number of languages taken into account: 77

- 66 deliverables – 61 done, 5 still pending (plus 4 non-contractual deliverables)

WP1 (lead: R.C. "Athena", ILSP)
European Language Equality:
Status Quo in 2020/2021

WP2 (lead: Charles University)
European Language Equality:
The Future Situation in 2030

WP3 (lead: Univ. of the Basque Country)
Development of the
Strategic Agenda and Roadmap

WP4 (lead: DFKI)
Communication – Dissemination – Exploitation – Sustainability

WP5 (lead: ADAPT Centre)
Project Management

Work Packages

WP1 European Language Equality: Status Quo in 2020/2021
Task 1.1: Defining Digital Language Equality
Task 1.2: Language Technologies and Language-centric AI – State of the Art
Task 1.3: Language Technology Support of Europe's Languages in 2020/2021

WP2 European Language Equality: The Future Situation in 2030
Task 2.1: The perspective of European LT developers (industry and research)
Task 2.2: The perspective of European LT users and consumers
Task 2.3: Science – Technology – Society: Language Technology in 2030

Digital Language Equality: Definition of the concept

Language Technology and language-centric AI: State of the Art

32 reports on the technology support of 32 European languages (META-NET White Paper update)

Reports from networks, initiatives and associations

Deep dives (MT, speech, text analytics, data)

Report on external consultations and surveys

Forecast: Language Technology in 2030

WP3 Development of the Strategic Agenda and Roadmap
Task 3.1: Desk research – landscaping
Task 3.2: Consolidation and aggregation of all input received
Task 3.3: Final round of feedback collection

Existing strategic documents and projects in LT/AI

Strategic agenda and roadmap: initial version

Final round of feedback collection

Strategic agenda and roadmap: final version

WP4 Communication – Dissemination – Exploitation – Sustainability
Task 4.1: Overall project communication and dissemination
Task 4.2: Liaise with EP/EC – organisation of a targeted workshop
Task 4.3: Organisation of final ELE conference
Task 4.4: Production of PR materials and sustainable results

EP/EC Workshop

ELE Conference

ELE Strategic Agenda and Roadmap (print version, interactive version)

Final ELE Book Publication

WP5 Project Management
Task 5.1: Overall project management including Project Management Office
Task 5.2: Digital collaboration and document management infrastructure

Work Packages and main Deliverables

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Start of the ELE project	M1	ELE kick-off meeting
	M2	
Digital collaboration and document management infrastructure (D5.1)	M3	Digital Language Equality – preliminary definition (D1.1) Promotional materials and PR package (D4.1); project infrastructure (D5.1)
	M4	Specification of the consultation process including templates, surveys, events etc. (D2.1)
	M5	
	M6	Communication and dissemination plan (D4.2)
	M7	
	M8	
Project mgmt. report (D5.2)	M9	Report on the state of the art in Language Technology and Language-centric AI (D1.2)
	M10	
	M11	
	M12	
	M13	Digital Language Equality – full specification of the concept (D1.3)
	M14	Reports on 32 European languages (D1.4-D1.35) Reports from relevant European initiatives (D2.2-D2.12); technology deep dives (D2.13-D2.16)
	M15	Strategic agenda including roadmap – initial version (D3.2) Report on all external consultations and surveys (D2.17)
	M16	Database and dashboard with the empirical data collected in D1.4-D1.35 (and others) (D1.36) Report on the state of Language Technology in 2030 (D2.18)
	M17	Report on the final round of feedback collection (D3.3)
Project mgmt. report (D5.3) *End of the ELE project*	M18	Strategic agenda including roadmap – final version (D3.4) ELE EP/EC workshop (D4.3); ELE conference (D4.4); ELE book publication (D4.6)

Continuous inclusion of the community through various means (esp. meetings, website, email, discussion groups etc.)

External consultation and brainstorming meetings (both face-to-face and virtual)

Feedback loops to include input and comments from the Language Technology community

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ELE
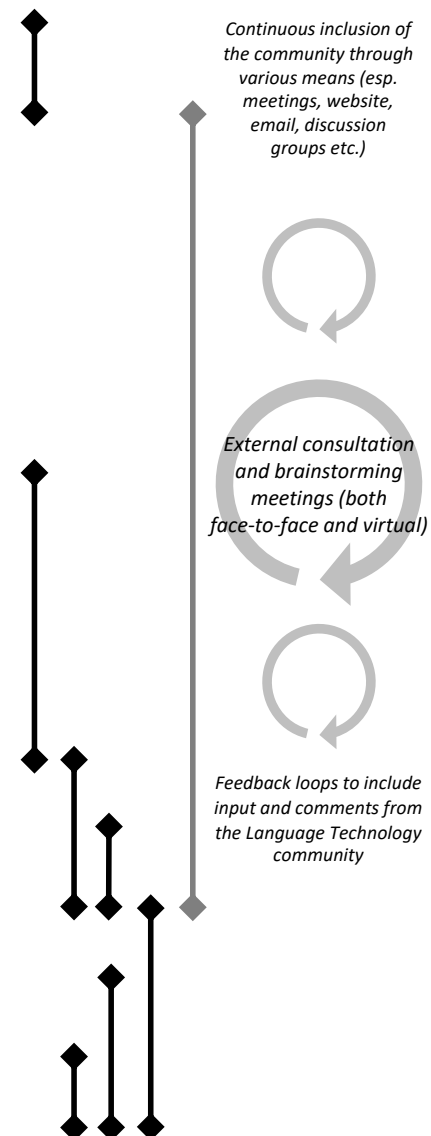
Timeline

Current State of Play in the Project – Selected Aspects

- **Digital Language Equality:** concept fully defined including *technological* and *contextual factors*

- **Language Reports:** Update of META-NET White Papers, especially regarding the overview of technology support for Europe's languages

- **Collection of LRs/LTs:** with the whole ELE consortium we collected 6000+ additional resources

- **ELG:** these 6000+ resources have been included in ELG, arriving at *12,000+ resources* in total

- **Dynamic DLE computation:** based on these 12,000 metadata records we can compute the DLE metric for all European languages and visualise the results through a dedicated **dashboard**

- **Continuously:** this approach enables us to monitor the development of DLE in Europe over time

- **ELG:** Making a new resource available through ELG will increase the DLE metric for that language

- **EP:** Workshop on DLE in the European Parliament in the second half of 2022 (tbc/tbd)

- **June 2022:** All analyses are ready, we're currently producing the SRIA and the ELE book

Today's Conference Day in a Nutshell

- Invited Keynotes

- Is Language (Technology) represented in national LT/AI strategies?

- Digital Language Equality Metric: Definition and current results

- Digital Language Equality Dashboard

- LT for Europe's Languages in 2022 – Cross-language comparison

- Results from five language reports

- Demands, needs and gaps of the European LT community: results from various surveys

- Four technology deep dives: results in terms of gaps, visions, demands and needs

- Our Language Technology vision for 2030: Digital Language Equality

- Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda: main recommendations

- Next steps and continuation of ELE

Housekeeping

- **Zoom Webinar**
  - Participants cannot use their cameras or microphones
  - Only "panelists" are visible and audible
- **Questions and Answers**
  - For questions, please use the "Q&A" section (*please don't use the chat window*)
  - In "Q&A", you can ask questions, look at questions already responded to and upvote questions from others that you're interested in with the 👍 icon
- **Chat**
  - Please use the chat for comments or information you'd like to share.
  - Here you will also find organisational tips and hints.
- **Twitter:**
  - When tweeting about META-FORUM 2022, please use **#metaforum2022**

09 June 2022		
	09:00-10:30	**Session 7: Opening – European Language Equality**
	10:30-11:00	*Coffee Break*
	11:00-12:00	**Session 8: Technology Support of Europe's Languages in 2022**
	12:00-13:00	*Lunch Break + Video Expo*
	13:00-14:00	**Session 9: Demands, Needs, Gaps of the Europ. LT Community**
	14:00-15:00	**Session 10: LT Vision for 2030**
	15:00-15:15	*Coffee Break*
	15:15-15:45	**Session 11: Continuation of ELE**
	15:45-16:00	**Closing Session**

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Together towards Digital Language Equality

Detailed Programme at https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2022

Session 7: Opening – European Language Equality

09:10   **Invited Keynote Speech**

June Lowery-Kingston (European Commission, Head of Unit "Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet", Luxembourg)

09:25   **Invited Keynote Speech**

François Alfonsi (Member of the European Parliament)

09:40   **National LT/AI Strategies in Europe – Is Language Represented?**
German Rigau (University of the Basque Country, Spain)

09:55   **Defining Digital Language Equality**
Federico Gaspari (Dublin City University, Ireland), Annika Grützner-Zahn (DFKI, Germany)

10:15   **Digital Language Equality Dashboard**
Stelios Piperidis (ILSP, R.C. "Athena", Greece)

10:30   *Coffee Break*

11:00   **Session 8: Technology Support of Europe's Languages in 2022**

Session 7: Opening – European Language Equality

Invited Keynote Speech

June Lowery-Kingston

(European Commission, Head of Unit "Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet", Luxembourg)

Session 7: Opening – European Language Equality

Invited Keynote Speech

François Alfonsi

(Member of the European Parliament)

European Language Grid
European Language Equality

Thank you and enjoy the second day of the conference!

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