

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE GRID

D7.7

ELG Conference 2021
and ELG Conference
2022

Authors:

Annika Grützner-Zahn (DFKI), Katrin Marheinecke (DFKI), Rémi Calizzano (DFKI), Georg Rehm (DFKI)

Dissemination Level:

Public

Date:

30-06-2022

About this document

Project	ELG – European Language Grid
Grant agreement no.	825627 – Horizon 2020, ICT 2018-2020 – Innovation Action
Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Georg Rehm (DFKI)
Start date, duration	01-01-2019, 42 months (GA amendment version: AMD-825627-7)
Deliverable number	D7.7
Deliverable title	ELG Conference 2021 and ELG Conference 2022
Type	Report
Number of pages	30
Status and version	Final – Version 1.0
Dissemination level	Public
Date of delivery	Contractual: 30-06-2022 – Actual: 30-06-2022
WP number and title	WP7: Grid Community – Communication and Competence Centres
Task number and title	Task 7.4: Organise dissemination and promotion events
Authors	Annika Grützner-Zahn (DFKI), Katrin Marheinecke (DFKI), Rémi Calizzano (DFKI) , Georg Rehm (DFKI)
Reviewers	Elaine Farrow (UEDIN), Katja Prinz (HENS)
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>Hensoldt GmbH (HENS), Austria</p> <p>Expert System Iberia SL (EXPSYS), Spain</p> <p>University of Edinburgh (UEDIN), United Kingdom</p>
EC project officers	Philippe Gelin, Miklos Druskoczi
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>Prof. 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 © 2022 ELG Consortium</p>

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	3
List of Figures	4
List of Tables	4
List of Abbreviations	4
Abstract	6
1 Introduction	6
2 The META-FORUM Conference Series	6
3 META-FORUM 2021: Using the European Language Grid	9
3.1 Programme	9
3.2 Main Content	9
3.2.1 Contributions	10
3.2.2 Keynote Speaker	11
3.2.3 Project Expo	11
3.3 Participants and Stakeholder Groups	13
3.4 Main Take-aways	14
4 META-FORUM 2022: Joining the European Language Grid	15
4.1 Programme	15
4.2 Main Content	17
4.2.1 Contributions	18
4.2.2 Keynote Speakers	18
4.2.3 Project Expo	19
4.3 Participants and Stakeholder Groups	20
4.4 Photo Gallery	22
4.5 Main Take-aways	22
5 Conclusions	23
A. META-FORUM 2021 Screenshots	24
B. META-FORUM 2021 Programme	26
C. META-FORUM 2022 Photos	29

List of Figures

Figure 1: Landing page of the META-FORUM 2021 website	8
Figure 2: Landing page of the META-FORUM 2022 website	8
Figure 3: Programme META-FORUM 2022	16
Figure 4: Evolution of the Number of Attendants over Time (Day 1, META-FORUM 2022)	21
Figure 5: Evolution of the Number of Attendants over Time (Day 2, META-FORUM 2022)	21
Figure 6: Screenshots of the Introductory Session	24
Figure 7: Screenshot of the Opening Session (Keynote speaker)	25
Figure 8: Screenshot of the LT Industry Session	25
Figure 9: Programme Day 1, Session 1	26
Figure 10: Programme Day 1, Session 2	26
Figure 11: Programme Day 2, Session 3	27
Figure 12: Programme Day 2, Session 4	27
Figure 13: Programme Day 3	28

List of Tables

Table 1: Overview of the META-FORUM conference series (2010-2021)	7
Table 2: Expo virtual room 1	12
Table 3: Expo virtual room 2	13
Table 4: META-FORUM 2021 – participants and country distribution	14
Table 5: Projects participating in the video expo	20
Table 6: META-FORUM 2022 – participants and country distribution	22

List of Abbreviations

AI	Artificial Intelligence
Bergamot	Browser-based Multilingual Translation
CLAIRE	Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europa
CLARIN	Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure
COMPRISE	Cost-effective, Multilingual, Privacy-driven voice-enabled Services
CRACKER	Cracking the Language Barrier
CURLICAT	Curated Multilingual Language Resources for CEF AT
DG CNECT	Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology
EBU	European Broadcasting Union
EC	European Commission
EFNIL	European Federation of National Institutions for Language
ELE	European Language Equality

ELG	European Language Grid
ELITR	European Live Translator
ELRC	European Language Resource Coordination
EMBEDDIA	Cross-lingual Embeddings for Less-Represented Languages in European News Media
EP	European Parliament
FedTerm	Federated eTranslation TermBank Network
GoURMET	Global Under-Resourced MEdia Translation
HumanE-AI-Net	HumanE AI Network
LinguatEC	Development of cross-border cooperation and the transfer of knowledge in language technologies
LT	Language Technology
LTC	Language Technology Council
MAPA	Multilingual Anonymisation for Public Administrations
Marian	User-Focused Marian (Neural Machine Translation Toolkit)
META-NET	Network of Excellence forging the Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance
Microservices	Microservices at your Service – Bridging the gap between NLP Research and Industry
NexusLinguarium	European network for Web-centred linguistic data science
NFDI4DataScience	Nationale Dateninfrastruktur for Data Science
NLP	Natural Language Processing
NLTP	National Language Technology Platform
NTEU	Neural Translation for the European Union
ParlaMint	Towards Comparable Parliamentary Corpora
Prêt-à-LLOD	Ready-to-use Multilingual Linked Language Data for Knowledge Services across Sectors
SignON	Sign Language Translation Mobile Application and Open Communications Framework
T4ME	Technologies for the Multilingual European Information Society
VISION	Value and Impact through Synergy, Interaction and Cooperation of Networks of AI Excellence Centres
WeVerify	Wider and Enhanced Verification For You

Abstract

This deliverable reports on META-FORUM 2021 and META-FORUM 2022, first providing a brief description of the event series and an overview of the two ELG conferences (Section 2). In Section 3, we describe the 2021 event with regard to the participants and stakeholder groups and the programme. Finally, we summarise the main outcomes of the event. In the following Section 4, the same information is included about the META-FORUM 2022 in Brussels. The report concludes with a summary and an annex with additional information (photos etc.). In the DoA and in the original List of Deliverables, this deliverable was entitled “ELG Conference 2021 and LTC Meeting 2021”. The Language Technology Council (LTC) for which we laid the foundations in the first half of the European Language Grid project, was continued by its sibling project European Language Equality (ELE) from January 2021 onwards. The LTC meetings have therefore been transformed to ELE consortium meetings and have been accommodated in META-FORUM 2022 with a dedicated conference part on Day 2. The documentation for this can be found in the corresponding ELE deliverables.¹

1 Introduction

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, META-FORUM 2021, held on 15, 16 and 17 November, 2021, had to be organised as a virtual event. This 10th edition of the META-FORUM conference series consisted of three half days of presentations, panel discussions as well as a virtual project expo. META-FORUM 2022 was instead planned as a hybrid conference, enabling face-to-face contact between colleagues. The conference took place on the 08 and 09 June, 2022, covering the whole two days. Both conferences received a lot of interest and can surely be considered a great success with stimulating presentations and many fruitful conversations. The organisers received a lot of positive feedback from various stakeholders after the events.

2 The META-FORUM Conference Series

META-FORUM is the annual international conference on Language Technologies in Europe, organised by ELG, its sister project ELE, together with the META-NET Network of Excellence, and is dedicated to fostering the multilingual European information society. META-FORUM 2021 took place, for the second time, as an online conference on 15-17 November 2021. As online events can be tiring for audience and presenters alike if they are stretched out too long, we decided to organise the conference over three days (instead of the usual two) but only with a half-day programme. META-FORUM 2022 instead was planned as an hybrid conference held on 8 and 9 June 2022 in Brussels. This time, the event went back to the usual schedule of taking place on two days, but with shortened duration of the sessions taking the attention span of the online attendees into account.

Previous META-FORUM editions were organised and financially supported through the EU projects T4ME (2010, 2011, 2012, 2013) and CRACKER (2015, 2016, 2017). For 2019-2022, ELG is taking over the organisation of the four META-FORUM conferences. They serve as the annual ELG conferences and will be used to demon-

¹ See <https://european-language-equality.eu/deliverables/>

strate the current state of the ELG initiative. Like in 2019 and 2020, we decided to continue using “META-FORUM” as the primary brand of the event, while “European Language Grid” was again included in the title of the conferences (META-FORUM 2021: Using the European Language Grid and META-FORUM 2022: Joining the European Language Grid). As the objectives of the ELG conferences largely correspond to those of META-FORUM, we intend a seamless transition and interaction between both. For the time being, we decided to keep the name META-FORUM as it has become a well-known brand in the European Language Technology (LT) landscape and we wanted to make use of this synergy for the ELG conferences.²

As in previous years, the two main goals of the events were community building and outreach to the wider European LT research and industry community. The 2021 edition of the event aimed to present the new developments of the ELG since the previous META-FORUM in 2020. Moreover, a subset of 5 ELG pilot projects selected for funding in the two open calls were showcased in a prominent manner. In addition to the presentations in the main track, the event again featured a project expo with a special collaboration focus in order to attract potential users of the ELG and also new providers of content for the ELG. The 2022 edition was intended to demonstrate the final release and the best use practices and cases of the ELG in the main track of the first day. Additionally, the project ELE was presented in the main track of the second day. As in the years before, a project expo gave the possibility to showcase and connect LT users and providers.

Year	URL	Motto	City, Date
2022	https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2022	Using the European Language Grid – Together towards Digital Language Equality	Brussels, Jun 08/09
2021	https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021	Using the European Language Grid	Online, Nov 15-17
2020	https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2020	Piloting the European Language Grid	Online, Dec 1-3
2019	https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2019	Introducing the European Language Grid	Brussels, Oct 8/9
2017	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2017	Towards a Human Language Project	Brussels, Nov 13/14
2016	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2016	Beyond Multilingual Europe	Lisbon, Jul 4/5
2015	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2015	Technologies for the Multilingual DSM	Riga, Apr 27
2013	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2013	Connecting Europe for New Horizons	Berlin, Sep 19/20
2012	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2012	A Strategy for Multilingual Europe	Brussels, Jun 20/21
2011	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2011	Solutions for Multilingual Europe	Budapest, Jun 27/28
2010	http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2010	Challenges for Multilingual Europe	Brussels, Nov 17/18

Table 1: Overview of the META-FORUM conference series (2010-2021)

The conferences has always been foreseen also as a dissemination and promotion platform, and the ambition is to attract a large and varied number of participants so that all relevant stakeholder groups are adequately and representatively covered. While it is somewhat easier to gather a large number of people for a virtual or part-virtual event than for an onsite conference, maintaining attention and keeping a constant number of visitors throughout the whole event is much more difficult. Also, the community building aspect is a challenge in

² In this document, the phrases “ELG Conference 2021/2022” and “META-FORUM 2021/2022” are used interchangeably.

the virtual format. To mitigate this problem, we put a lot of effort into organising the online project expo including the use of the Gather Town platform to host a virtual room with possibilities to interact in META-FORUM 2021. During the preparations for META-FORUM 2022, special attention was paid to include enough breaks and a reception for informal communication between the onsite participants to support the community building after two years of online events. All editions of the conference series are thoroughly documented with their own websites. The URL <http://www.meta-forum.eu> always redirects to the most recent edition (Table 1).



Figure 1: Landing page of the META-FORUM 2021 website



Figure 2: Landing page of the META-FORUM 2022 website

Figure 1 and Figure 2 show the landing pages of the META-FORUM 2021 and 2022 websites. In the subpages, the detailed programme, the project expo pages, the registration and the contact page can be found. The META-FORUM 2022 website also contains subpages about the venue and a gallery.

3 META-FORUM 2021: Using the European Language Grid

META-FORUM 2021 was the 10th edition of the international series of conferences on powerful and innovative language technologies for the multilingual information society. The motto of the conference was “Using the European Language Grid”.

3.1 Programme

In the preparation phase, the conference setup and programme was discussed in various video conferences among the partners involved in the organisation of the event. One of the most important milestones of the ELG project in 2021 was the completion of the pilot projects from the first call as well as the selection and launch of the pilot projects from the second call. Additionally, in the past 11 months since META-FORUM 2020, work on the ELG cloud platform made a lot of progress, in particular, the integration of new services and tools helped to correct unforeseen issues and in the final eight month of the project, there was time to address the remaining issues. The ELG pilot projects played an integral role in this process. Therefore, it was soon quite clear that they should also play a prominent role during the annual ELG event. This idea was also reflected in the motto of the 2021 year’s META-FORUM: Using the European Language Grid.

Another focus should of course be on the ELG platform itself: the development since the last demonstration at META-FORUM 2020 should be shown and explained. It was decided to only have short presentations on the current state of play and to leave the actual demonstration to a subsequent training session and the ELG project expo room, where interactions with participants were possible. This approach worked out very well.

The programme on days 2 and 3 was more dedicated to new advancements within the language-centric AI community and to special stakeholder groups within the community. All presented slides as well as the recordings of the sessions are available in the “programme” section of the META-FORUM website.³ Again, the European LT community was another important focus of the conference. Even if it was impossible to bring people together physically who work in the same field, we managed to gather many people with the same vision for a common event. Thanks to the organisation of the expo, there were opportunities for numerous discussions and conversations in the virtual exhibition stands, which will also result in further collaborations. The central idea of collaboration and community building is mirrored in the programme of the event (see Annex).

3.2 Main Content

On the first day, after a welcome and introduction by Georg Rehm (General Secretary of META-NET as well as Coordinator of ELG) and Jan Hajič (Chair of the META-NET Executive Board), the event was opened by a keynote speaker from the European Commission, Philippe Gelin, Head of Sector Multilingualism at the Directorate-General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CNECT).

³ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021/programme/>

After the opening, the ELG consortium presented the latest developments regarding the ELG platform and showed what had changed since META-FORUM 2020. The presentation mainly covered the project areas Grid Content, with the language technologies, services and resources that are already available in ELG and the Grid Platform, focusing on the latest functionalities and features in the ELG platform and the catalogue.

Session 2 featured a description of the ELG open calls for pilot projects, the selection of the funded projects in open calls #1 and #2 and, above all, the presentations of the selected projects themselves. Five selected pilot projects had a ten-minute slot to briefly present themselves and their work within the ELG platform.⁴

After the main track of the first day, the virtual project expo took place in Gather Town. It featured more than 30 running projects in the field of Language Technology and beyond (see Section 3.2.3).

The second day kicked off with a session about the European LT Industry. Representatives from four European LT companies presented themselves and discussed their ideas and specific demands towards the ELG in order for it to become the primary marketplace for European LT and to serve the industry's needs.

Session 4 was, as in the years before, organised as a discussion panel on the topic of European AI and Language-centric AI Initiatives. Six speakers representing relevant initiatives and projects – the Live Speech-to-text and MT tool for 24 languages, SPEAKER⁵, NFDI4DataScience⁶, EBU: A European Perspective⁷, WeVerify⁸ and CLAIRE⁹ – had been invited to discuss their views and the challenges of AI as well as the necessity of understanding Language-centric AI as an important constituent of the field. As with ELG, all the invited projects are dedicated to advance the field of LT within the area of AI.

The first session of day 3 started with a presentation of the ELE project in Session 5. ELE is an EU project that brings together the most important stakeholders of the European LT community in its consortium of 53 partners, to formulate a roadmap and a strategic agenda to achieve digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

The event closed with a summary of the conference and a preview of the remainder of the ELG project.

A separate Session 7, the Training Session, was organised by the ELG technical team for interested LT and NLP developers who want to integrate services or language resources in ELG.

In conjunction with META-FORUM 2021, the ELE General Assembly meeting took place. The Language Technology Council (LTC) which was originally planned in the ELG Grant Agreement of ELG functioned as a preparatory committee for the ELE consortium and community. Thus, the work of the LTC was incorporated and continues in ELE and will be further conducted in ELE 2, the follow-up project of ELE.

3.2.1 Contributions

As in the years before, speakers and panelists of META-FORUM 2021 were contacted directly by the organisers and asked to contribute to the event actively. The advantage of this approach is that the programme can be compiled in a coordinated and structured manner, which helps to create a balanced, informative and relevant

⁴ For more details on the open calls, the pilot projects and the selection process, see ELG Deliverables D6.1 and D6.2.

⁵ <https://www.speaker.fraunhofer.de>

⁶ <https://www.nfdi4datascience.de>

⁷ <https://www.ebu.ch>

⁸ <https://weverify.eu>

⁹ <https://claire-ai.org>

agenda. Again, a strong focus was on presenting the wider landscape of currently funded projects in the area of LT and language-centric AI but also the industry perspective has been taken into account. In that way, the conference is an attractive meeting point for industry stakeholders and researchers alike.

3.2.2 Keynote

In the opening session, the keynote was given to underline the vision of the META-FORUM and of ELG as an initiative. It was presented by Philippe Gelin, Head of Sector Multilingualism in Unit G.3, DG CNECT. He introduced the EC's new Digital Europe Programme as a deployment programme. In Digital Europe, the topic of data spaces was stressed as highly relevant for the community. The planned Language Data Space shall in particular promote the collection, creation, sharing and reuse of multimodal language data to enable the deployment of large multimodal language models and a wide range of AI LT services.

3.2.3 Project Expo

Holding a conference that is supposed to foster community building and networking as an online event is a compromise and technical challenge. At the same time, due to the ongoing pandemic situation, the lack of personal contact made it even more necessary to provide room for open exchange among colleagues and potential collaborators. So, it was decided to organise a large project expo again to enable in-depth discussions on different approaches in the various projects. Like in an on-site project expo, not only the general project idea was presented but the virtual project booths allowed also for project demos, detailed explanations and meaningful exchanges between visitors and project organisers.

The expo featured 37 projects, all of which were asked to prepare a short profile and had the possibility to show additional material. The project overview with the project profiles was published on the META-FORUM website.¹⁰ In order to facilitate more personal interactions, we decided to hold the project expo in the context of Gather Town. Gather Town is a “video chat platform designed to make virtual interactions more human”.¹¹ In the virtual rooms of Gather Town, every participant can choose their own avatar that allows them to interact with their virtual environment and with each other. They can also interact with embedded objects, like a white board or poster. When another participant's avatar enters the area around the participant, they are able to talk with each other via video call. This design allows interaction between the participants which strongly approximates the possibilities in a face-to-face event.

For the project expo, three virtual rooms were prepared, two rooms for the projects and one room with interactional areas to enable talks between the participants. We prepared a booth for each project in one of the two virtual rooms. One booth consisted of one to six objects. Every object gave the possibility to embed one document like a poster, a video or slides. The participant could then click on the individual objects at the project expo and view the documents or in some cases even interact with the documents, for example with websites. Each booth had its own private area which enabled the person responsible for the booth to talk to everyone within the area and give further explanations if needed. The project expo had up to 90 participants at the beginning. The number decreased in the course of time. Many visitors stayed 5-10 minutes at one booth before

¹⁰ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021/project-expo/>

¹¹ <https://www.gather.town/about>

they dropped out and went to the next project. Others preferred to stay mainly in the same booth for the whole time of the project expo and engaged in detailed discussions.

Apart from the fifteen pilot projects, the following projects participated in META-FORUM 2021 with project booths: Bergamot, CLAIRE, COMPRISE, ELG, ELITR, ELRC, EMBEDDIA, FedTerm, Gourmet, Linguattec, LT-Bridge, MAPA, Marian, Microservices, NexusLinguarum, NLTP, NTEU, Panqura, ParlaMint, Prêt-à-LLOD, SignOn, VISION. Table 2 and Table 3 show the different meeting rooms, the project names, respective colleagues in charge and the number of embedded material in the booth.

One booth was dedicated to the ELG project. Members of the consortium provided guided tours through the platform, demos of the catalogue and discussed questions and ideas from users, providers and other interested parties.

Room 1

Booth no.	Project	Project title
1	E3C	European Clinical Case Corpus
2	LSDISCO	Lingsoft Solutions as Distributable Containers
3	MKS-LLOD	MKS as Linguistic Lined Open Data
4	Smart euSpeaker	Basque-speaking smart speaker based on Mycroft AI
5	EVALITA4ELG	Italian EVALITA Benchmark Linguistic Resources for the ELG platform
6	OPUS-MT	Open Translation Models, Tools and Services
7	Text2TCS	Extracting Terminological Concept Systems from Natural Language Text
8	PARA4DLM	Textual Paraphrase Dataset for Deep Language Modelling
9	YouTwinDi	Virtual Personal Assistant Prototype
10	SLAPMAN	Streaming Language Processing in Manufacturing
11	MIC21	Multilingual Image Corpus 2021
12	CEFRSERV	CEFR Labelling and Assessment Services
13	MC-TRISLAN	Motion Capture 3D Sign Language Resources
14	USeA	Universal Semantic Annotator: A Unified API for Multilingual WSD, SRL and AMR
15	SignLookUp	Sign language explanations for terms in a text
16	Microservices	Microservices at your Service – Bridging the gap between NLP Research and Industry

Table 2: Expo virtual room 1

Room 2

Booth no.	Project	Project title
1	ELG	European Language Grid
2	ELRC	European Language Resource Coordination
3	LT-Bridge	
4	Pret-à-Llod	Ready-to-use Multilingual Linked Language Data for Knowledge Services across Sectors
5	NexusLinguarum	European network for Web-centered linguistic data science

6	CLAIRE	Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europa
7	VISION	Value and Impact through Synergy, Interaction and coOperation of Networks of AI Excellence Centres
8	Panqura	Pandemic QURATOR
9	Bergamot	Browser-based Multilingual Translation
10	COMPRISE	Cost-effective, Multilingual, Privacy-driven voice-enabled Services
11	EMBEDDIA	Cross-lingual Embeddings for Less-Represented Languages in European News Media
12	ELTR	European Live Translator
13	GoURMET	Global Under-Resourced MEdia Translation
14	NTEU	Neural Translation for the European Union
15	MAPA	Multilingual Anonymisation for Public Administrations
16	NLTP	National Language Technology Platform project
17	FedTerm	Federated eTranslation TermBank Network
18	SignOn	Sign Language Translation Mobile Application and Open Communications Framework
19	ParlaMint	Towards Comparable Parliamentary Corpora
20	Linguatec	
21	Marian	User-Focused Marian

Table 3: Expo virtual room 2

3.3 Participants and Stakeholder Groups

Before the conference, we had a total of 468 registrations for META-FORUM 2021. The event itself, then, had a total of 378 unique participants in its main track, i.e., 80% of the persons who registered actually participated in the conference; the no show rate of 20% is surprisingly small compared to the typical no show rate of 50-60% for virtual conferences. The low no show rate demonstrates the high relevance and importance of the event and the ELG project and platform at large.

The attendee breakdown per session was as follows:

- Sessions 1 and 2: 288 attendees
- Sessions 3 and 4: 159 attendees
- Sessions 5, 6 and 7: 174 attendees

There were participants from a total of 40 countries, the majority from Germany, Spain, United Kingdom, Belgium, France and Italy (see Table 4).

Country	Percentage	Country	Percentage
Germany	14.81%	Denmark	1.32%
Spain	9.26%	Romania	1.32%
United Kingdom	5.82%	Lithuania	1.32%
Belgium	5.56%	Malta	1.06%
France	5.56%	Croatia	1.06%

Italy	5.29%	Serbia	1.06%
Greece	4.50%	Norway	1.06%
Estonia	3.97%	Morocco	0.79%
Austria	3.17%	Moldova	0.79%
Slovakia	3.17%	Turkey	0.79%
Czech Republic	3.17%	Luxembourg	0.53%
Finland	2.91%	Sweden	0.53%
Netherlands	2.65%	Switzerland	0.26%
Iceland	2.38%	Russia	0.26%
Slovenia	2.12%	Georgia	0.26%
Poland	2.12%	North Macedonia	0.26%
Ireland	1.85%	India	0.26%
Hungary	1.59%	Thailand	0.26%
Latvia	1.59%	Hong Kong SAR	0.26%
Portugal	1.59%	Belarus	0.26%
Bulgaria	1.32%	South Africa	0.26%

Table 4: META-FORUM 2021 – participants and country distribution

We collected the email addresses and affiliations during registration. According the registrations directly before the start of the event, the distribution with respect to the stakeholder areas was as follows: 64.53% of the registered participants belong to the area of research (including some researchers from commercial companies), 26.07% are from industry and 9.4% of the registrants belong to public administration.

In order to learn more about the participants and their interests that actually attended the conference, we conducted a short online survey at the end of each day. The first question referred to the wider area. According to that survey, 71.7% of the attendees belong to the area of research, 13.46% belong to SMEs that develop and provide Language Technology, 1.47% each came either from larger enterprises that develop and provide LT or from companies that use or buy LT, and 5.97% answered the question choosing “Administration representative”. These results mirror the tendency we received when analysing the registration data (see Section 3.4).

3.4 Main Take-aways

Interest in the ELG platform and initiative is considerably stronger than in 2020. ELG is gaining more and more traction. META-FORUM has proven to be an effective marketing and information channel for ELG.

Discussions that took place in the expo provided, again, a lot of valuable feedback and inspiration. This format worked also very well to advertise the work of the pilot projects. The idea of briefly introducing these pilot projects in the main track and then presenting them in detail in the project expo worked very well.

Despite the difficult conditions, the conference was a great success. Nevertheless, it is obvious that virtual events can only emulate certain parts of a face-to-face event while others – the often mentioned informal chats with colleagues you happen to meet over coffee – are very difficult to recreate in the virtual format. The advantage of a virtual event is, though, that it reaches many more interested people because there is no need

to travel and you can simply decide to attend specific sessions only. Participants may have attended who otherwise would not have because of, say, high travel costs or too much effort. A quick poll during the opening session showed that the half of the participants attended META-FORUM for the first time in 2021¹².

While not everybody attended each session, the online format makes it possible for visitors to select only those sessions they are particularly interested in and for which they had sufficient time capacities. The virtual format has a positive side effect: recordings can be produced very easily. They enable interested parties to follow-up and to watch some of the sessions afterwards. All META-FORUM 2021 sessions are available on YouTube.¹³

4 META-FORUM 2022: Joining the European Language Grid

META-FORUM 2022 was the 11th edition of the international series of conferences on powerful and innovative language technologies for the multilingual information society. The motto of the conference was “Joining the European Language Grid – Together towards Digital Language Equality”.

4.1 Programme

The organisation of a hybrid conference led to the decision to return to a two-day programme as in the years before the Covid pandemic. In consideration of the shorter attention span of online attendees, the programme of the single days was shortened a little. Given that the conference should cover both the ELG project and its sister project ELE, it was decided to dedicate the first day to the results and topics of ELG and the second day to ELE. In the preparation phase, the conference setup and programme was discussed in various meetings among the partners involved in the organisation of the event. The main achievements of ELG since the last META-FORUM were the final release of the ELG platform and the further population of the database with language tools, services, resources, organisations and projects. Therefore, the final presentation of the platform merited an important role in the programme. Moreover, with only one month left for the project, issues regarding future development after the ending of the project was another focus in the programme.

The main achievements of ELE covered in the second day of the event were the analysis of the current status of LT support of Europe’s languages and digital language equality, the elaboration of a vision of digital language equality in 2030 and recommendations about how to reach this vision. Moreover, with the project in its last month, issues regarding the future development were another focus of the programme.

We also organised sessions with representatives from the European AI community and industry. The inclusion of the community and the multi-party discussion is an important part of bringing the different stakeholders closer together and thus, an important part of the project and conference. Figure 3 shows the programme.

All slides as well as videos of the sessions are available on the event website.¹⁴

¹² The question was: “Is this your first META-FORUM?” and the replies were as follows: 49% answered: “Yes, I’ve never been to META-FORUM before”, 35% said: “No I’m a regular attendant of META-FORUM”, 15% said: “No, but I haven’t been at META-FORUM for a while”. It must be noted, though, that only attendees who logged-in via the Zoom client were able to answer the poll. For visitors, using the browser-based Zoom tool, this functionality is not available. In this poll 92 attendees participated out of 288 participants of the session. Therefore, it is not representative of the audience as a whole.

¹³ The videos are available through the ELG YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCarEHmsWT2JslcvvWkbhL4A>.

¹⁴ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2022/programme/>



META-FORUM 2022 Wednesday, 08 June 2022

08:30	Doors open – Registration
Session 1	Opening – European Language Grid
09:00	Welcome Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany; Coordinator ELG and General Secretary of META-NET)
09:10	Introduction Jan Hajič (Charles University, Czech Republic; Chair of the META-NET Executive Board)
09:15	Invited Keynote: “AI sovereignty: Alignment & fairness for a new generation of multimodal models” Jonas Andrulis (Aleph Alpha, Germany)
09:45	ELG: General Overview Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)
10:00	ELG: Technology Platform Stelios Piperidis (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece)
10:15	ELG: Tools, Services and Resources Kalina Bontcheva (University of Sheffield, UK)
10:30	Coffee Break
Session 2	ELG Platform
11:00	Final Release of the ELG Platform: Functional Overview, Demo and Tutorial Penny Labropoulou (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece) Ian Roberts (University of Sheffield, UK) Rémi Calizzano (DFKI, Germany)



META-FORUM 2022 Thursday, 09 June 2022

Session 7	Opening – European Language Equality
09:00	Opening Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany; Co-coordinator ELE)
9:10	Invited Keynote June Lowery-Kingston (European Commission, Head of Unit “Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet”)
9:25	Invited Keynote François Alfonsi (Member of the European Parliament)
9:40	National LT/AI Strategies in Europe – Is Language Represented? German Rigau (University of the Basque Country, Spain)
9:55	Defining Digital Language Equality Federico Gaspari (Dublin City University, Ireland) Annika Grützer-Zahn (DFKI, Germany)
10:15	Digital Language Equality Dashboard Stelios Piperidis (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece)
10:30	Coffee Break
Session 8	Technology Support of Europe’s Languages in 2022
11:00	Language Technology for Europe’s Languages in 2022 – Cross-language Comparison Maria Giagkou (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece)
11:20	Language Report Irish Teresa Lynn (Dublin City University, Ireland)

Session 3	Selected ELG Tools, Services and Resources Ian Roberts (University of Sheffield, UK)
11:45	Best of ELG: Showcases, Use Cases and Best Practices Ian Roberts (University of Sheffield, UK)
11:55	NTEU Manuel Herranz (Pangeanic, Spain)
12:00	OPUS-MT Tommi Nieminen, Jörg Tiedemann (University of Helsinki, Finland)
12:05	Eihuyar Basque ASR/TTS Igor Leturia (Elhuyar, Spain)
12:10	Welsh ASR Service Gareth Watkins (Bangor University, UK)
12:15	Multilingual Image Corpus Svetla Koeva (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Bulgaria)
12:20	Microservices at your service Tiina Lindh-Knuutila (Lingsoft, Finland)
12:30	Lunch Break and Video Expo
Session 4	Language-centric AI Panel Jan Hajič (Charles University, Czech Republic)
13:30	Panel: Main Initiatives in the European Language-centric AI Community OpenGPT-X and Gala-X Joachim Köhler (Fraunhofer IAIS, Germany) HumanE-AI-Net James Crowley (Institut Polytechnique de Grenoble, France) CLAIRE Philipp Slusallek (CLAIRE, Netherlands) CLARIN Darja Fišer (CLARIN, Netherlands) EFNIL Sabine Kirchmeier (EFNIL, Luxembourg)
14:45	Coffee Break

11:25	Language Report Dutch Frieda Steurs (Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal, Netherlands)
11:30	Language Report Bulgarian Svetla Koeva (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria)
11:35	Language Report Welsh Gareth Watkins (Bangor University, UK)
11:40	Language Report Icelandic Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson (Institute for Icelandic Studies, Iceland)
11:45	Discussion
12:00	Lunch Break and Video Expo
Session 9	Demands, Needs and Gaps of the European LT Community
13:00	European LT Developers Maria Giagkou (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece) CLARIN Maria Eskevich (CLARIN, Netherlands) CLAIRE Marlies Thönnissen (CLAIRE, Netherlands)
13:15	European LT Users & European Citizens Natalia Resende (Dublin City University, Ireland)
13:30	Deep Dives Teresa Lynn (Dublin City University, Ireland) Machine Translation Andrejs Vasiljevs (Tilde, Latvia) Speech Technologies Gerhard Backfried (Hensoldt, Austria) Text Analytics Andrés García Silva (Expert System, Spain) Data and Knowledge Martin Kaltenböck (Semantic Web Company, Austria)
Session 10	LT Vision for 2030
14:00	Our Vision for 2030: Digital Language Equality Jan Hajič (Charles University, Czech Republic)
14:20	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)
14:45	Discussion
15:00	Coffee Break

Session 5	Industry Session Gerhard Backfried (HENSOLDT Analytics GmbH, Austria)
15:15	Panel: Representatives from European LT Industry Identics Yoliana Petrova (Identics, Bulgaria) Phonexia Petr Schwarz (Phonexia, Czechia) Gavagai Fredrik Olsson (Gavagai, Sweden) M47AI Enric Plana (M47AI, Spain)
Session 6	The Future of ELG Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)
16:15	Language Data Space Philippe Gelin (European Commission, DG CONNECT, Luxembourg) Legal Entity and Products Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany) Discussion
	Closing Session
16:45	ELG Book Preview and Closing Remarks Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)
17:00	Reception
18:00	End of META-FORUM 2022 Day 1

Session 11	Continuation of ELE
15:15	Next steps, New funding opportunities, Sneak Peak: ELE book Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany) Jane Dunne (Dublin City University, Ireland) Jan Hajič (Charles University, Czech Republic)
	Closing Session
15:45	Recap and Closing Remarks Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)
16:00	End of META-FORUM 2022

Figure 3: Programme META-FORUM 2022

4.2 Main Content

On the first day, after a brief welcome and introduction by Georg Rehm (General Secretary of META-NET as well as Coordinator of ELG) and Jan Hajič (Chair of the META-NET Executive Board), the conference was opened by a keynote speaker from Aleph Alpha, an AI research and application company. The keynote was presented by Jonas Andrulis, the founder and CEO of the company and had the title “AI sovereignty: Alignment & fairness for a new generation of multimodal models”.

After the opening, the ELG consortium presented the latest developments regarding the ELG platform and showed the changes since META-FORUM 2021. The presentation covered the project areas Grid Content, with the language technologies, services and resources that are already available in ELG and the Grid Platform, focusing on the latest functionalities and features in the ELG platform and the catalogue.

Session 2 was dedicated to the presentation of the final release of the ELG platform and included a functional overview, a demo and a tutorial to motivate attendees to join or use the platform as proposed in the motto of the conference “Joining the European Language Grid”. In the following session, the use of the ELG was presented from the perspective of the contributor showing different use cases and best practises.

During the lunch break, the attendees had the possibility to view the project expo, realised as a video expo and accessible through the event website. Overall, 26 European projects had the possibility to show their results.

Session 4 was organised as a discussion panel on the topic of European AI and Language-centric AI Initiatives. Five speakers of relevant initiatives and projects – Open GPT-X and Gaia-X, HumanE-AI Net, CLAIRE¹⁵, CLARIN and EFNIL – had been invited and discussed their views, visions for the state of language technology in 2030 and their opinion about actions which should be done regarding the goal of digital language equality.

The following panel discussion was dedicated to the European LT Industry. Representatives from four European LT companies presented themselves and their ideas and specific demands towards the ELG in order to become the primary marketplace for European LT and to serve the industry’s needs.

The last session covered the future plans after the ending of the project in June 2022. Topics included the prospective legal entity to ensure the maintenance of the platform, the ELG book publication and the coming project “Language Data Space”. The latter was introduced by Philippe Gelin, Head of Sector Multilingualism in Unit G.3, DG CNECT from the EC.

The first day closed with a summary of the conference and a reception for the attendees on site to enhance interaction and communication.

The second day started with a brief welcome and introduction by Georg Rehm (Co-Coordinator of ELE) and was opened by two keynote speakers. The first one was presented by June Lowery-Kingston, Head of Unit “Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet”, DG Connect, European Commission (EC), with the title “Language Equality Across Europe – A Multilingual World”. The second keynote was given by François Alfonsi, Member of the European Parliament (EP), who covered the topic of digital language equality from the point of view of the

¹⁵ <https://claire-ai.org>

EP. Following presentations were given by members of the ELE consortium regarding the analysis of all European national LT/AI strategies, the developed digital language equality metric and the implemented digital language equality dashboard.

In session 8, five selected language reports and the cross-language comparison were summarised. The language reports were presented by their main authors with regard to achievements, gaps and recommendations for the strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and roadmap.

After the lunch break, Session 9 was organised as a mix of presentations and a discussion panel on the topic “Demands, Needs and Gaps of the European LT Community”. The presentations introduced the three surveys conducted with the different target groups: European LT developers, LT users and European citizens. In the technology deep dive panel, industry representatives from the ELE consortium discussed their main findings and their views on shortcomings and gaps with regard to the impact on European society.

Session 10 was dedicated to ELE's LT vision for 2030. The work package leader presented the vision of achieving digital language equality by 2030 and explained natural language understanding in and for general AI applications as one main goal. This was followed by the presentation of the current state of play of the strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda and roadmap, as well as the recommendations for progress towards digital language equality in 2030 collected from all deliverables produced in the project.

The last session covered the future plans after the completion of the project tasks in June 2022. This included topics such as the follow-up project ELE 2, funding opportunities within ELE 2 and the crucial issue of data availability. The event closed with a summary of the conference, information about the ELE book and an announcement for the next META-FORUM and other events in which ELE will be presented.

4.2.1 Contributions

Speakers and panelists of META-FORUM 2022 were invited directly by the organisers and asked to contribute to the event actively. This approach enabled a coordinated planning of the programme and a balanced selection of representatives from different areas and perspectives on the topics. Presenting the wider landscape of currently funded projects in the area of LT and language-centric AI but also the industry perspective was considered to be the most important aspect of the conference to ensure an event attractive for industry stakeholders and researchers alike.

4.2.2 Keynote Speakers

Three keynotes were presented, one by Jonas Andrulis, CEO of the company Aleph Alpha, one by June Lowery-Kingston, Head of Unit G.3 (“Accessibility, Multilingualism & Safer Internet”) from the EC, and one by François Alfonsi, Member of the European Parliament (EP).

The keynote with the title “AI sovereignty: Alignment & fairness for a new generation of multimodal models” was recorded by Jonas Andrulis in advance and played during the first session on day 1. The presentation highlighted the current limits and occurring errors of AI models which are based on the training with supervised data. The use of supervised data reduces the function of the model to the defined task and limits the models in their understanding of the world. An advantage of supervised learning is the possibility to ensure the principle of fairness in the data, but the use of categories and missing world knowledge prevents the models from achieving robustness. In comparison with human perception and intelligence, Andrulis particularly emphasised

the ability of prediction and understanding of all levels of meaning. Newer developments combining different modalities and world knowledge into one model were showcased as a solution to these existing problems.

The second keynote on day 2, given by June Lowery-Kingston was about Language Equality in Europe. This topic was specified with regard to the headlines “Social”, “Culture”, “Competitiveness”, “Autonomy”, “Sovereignty”, “Inclusive”, “Diversity” and “Economy”. She emphasised the high priority of language as part of the culture and the challenge resulting from English as the dominant language in many areas. Actions to tackle language inequalities by the European Commission were summarised to the three areas “Policies”, “Coordination” and “Funding”. Within these areas, the goal is established to include multilingualism at the beginning of digital developments and programmes. June Lowery-Kingston further elaborated the area of “Funding” with regard to the two funding programmes Horizon Europe and Digital Europe Programme. Moreover, the data strategy together with the forthcoming language data space were further examined.

François Alfonsi, co-chair of the Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages in the European Parliament, highlighted the topic of language equality from the perspective of the EP with focus on digital language extinction and the lack of technical support for minority languages. The conference on the Future of Europe was mentioned in which European citizens declared that language technology could solve the problems produced by multilingualism, such as missing information access.

4.2.3 Project Expo

As mentioned before, the project expo was organised as a video expo to enable every attendant, online and on site, to have access to the content. Moreover, this approach allowed everybody to investigate the expo with flexibility regarding the time schedule. Each project, 26 in total (see Table 5), was showcased on its own webpage with a project profile and the video the project had created. The video duration was limited to a time span between 5 and 10 minutes thus the attendees could watch most of the videos in the 2 hours dedicated to the expo in the programme. The content of the videos was not restricted, since each project differed from the next and needed to be presented in its own form. The project profiles of the project expo from the META-FORUM 2021 were reused and updated. Projects which were not presented in 2021 had to create a new profile. Besides the pilot projects, the projects NexusLinguarum, CURLICAT, Bergamot, COMPRISE, ELITR, Prêt-à-Llod, NLTP, CLAIRE, ParlaMint, SignON and FedTerm were represented in the expo.

From an overview page¹⁶, with all projects, the attendees were able to browse through the pages and choose the contents they were interested in. Additionally, the pilot projects of ELG were highlighted through a slideshow at the beginning of the webpage. Overall, 156 page views of the web pages were counted by Google Analytics, showing a high level of interest in the individual projects.

¹⁶ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2022/project-expo/>

No.	Project Acronym	Project Name
1	E3C	European Clinical Case Corpus
2	LSDISCO	Lingsoft Solutions as Distributable Containers
3	MKS-LLOD	MKS as Linguistic Lined Open Data
4	Smart euSpeaker	Basque-speaking smart speaker based on Mycroft AI
5	EVALITA4ELG	Italian EVALITA Benchmark Linguistic Resources for the ELG platform
6	OPUS-MT	Open Translation Models, Tools and Services
7	Text2TCS	Extracting Terminological Concept Systems from Natural Language Text
8	PARA4DLM	Textual Paraphrase Dataset for Deep Language Modelling
9	YouTwinDi	Virtual Personal Assistant Prototype
10	SLAPMAN	Streaming Language Processing in Manufacturing
11	MIC21	Multilingual Image Corpus 2021
12	CEFRSERV	CEFR Labelling and Assessment Services
13	MC-TRISLAN	Motion Capture 3D Sign Language Resources
14	USeA	Universal Semantic Annotator: A Unified API for Multilingual WSD, SRL and AMR
15	SignLookUp	Sign language explanations for terms in a text
16	NexusLinguarum	European network for Web-centered linguistic data science
17	CURLICAT	Curated Multilingual Language Resources for CEF AT
18	Bergamot	Browser-based Multilingual Translation
19	COMPRISE	Cost-effective, Multilingual, Privacy-driven voice-enabled Services
20	ELITR	European Live Translator
21	Pret-à-Llod	Ready-to-use Multilingual Linked Language Data for Knowledge Services across Sectors
22	NLTP	National Language Technology Platform project
23	CLAIRE	Confederation of Laboratories for Artificial Intelligence Research in Europa
24	ParlaMint	Towards Comparable Parliamentary Corpora
25	SignON	Sign Language Translation Mobile Application and Open Communications Framework
26	FedTERM	Federated eTranslation TermBank Network)

Table 5: Projects participating in the video expo

4.3 Participants and Stakeholder Groups

Overall, 389 participants registered for META-FORUM 2022, of which 104 registered for in person and 285 for online. The conference attended in the end 86 people onsite and 193 people online. The no show rate of 30% was not unexpected due to the many other events and conferences which took place in June and is still unusually low compared to the usual no show rate of 50-60% for virtual conferences. Besides, the YouTube live stream of the main track was viewed by over 100 user by the end of the week in which the META-FORUM 2022 occurred. That indicates that many interested people seized the opportunity to watch the content in an asynchronous manner.

The number of unique online attendees at the first days was 162. Figure 4 shows the evolution of the number of attendees over time on the first day. The peak, 117 online attendees, was reached while the keynote of Jonas Andrulis in the first session.

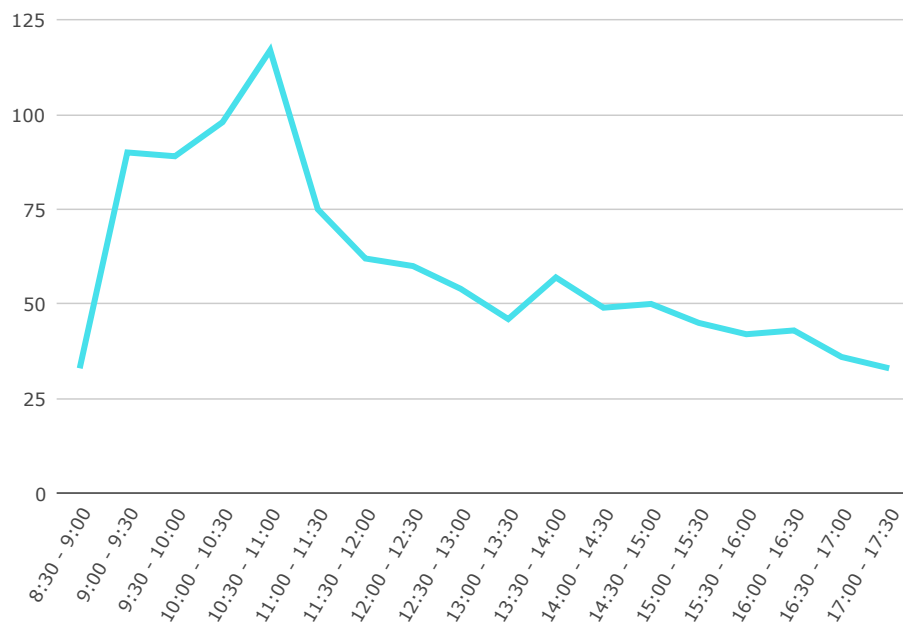


Figure 4: Evolution of the Number of Attendants over Time (Day 1, META-FORUM 2022)

The number of unique online participants on the second day was 86. Figure 5 shows the participation of online attendants over time. The highest numbers were reached at the beginning, in the middle of Session 1, and at the end, in Session 11. Generally, the number of participants was consistently high, except for the breaks.



Figure 5: Evolution of the Number of Attendants over Time (Day 2, META-FORUM 2022)

41 different countries were represented by the participants. As shown in Table 6, the majority attended from Belgium, Germany and Spain with more than 10% each.

The distribution with respect to the stakeholder areas was dominated by 65.04% of the registered participants belonging to the area of research (including some researchers from companies). 21.08% of the registrants allocated themselves to the area industry and 13.88% to administration.

Country	Percentage	Country	Percentage
Belgium	13.62%	Norway	1.08%
Germany	11.11%	Latvia	1.08%
Spain	10.04%	Denmark	1.08%
France	5.73%	Turkey	0.72%
Ireland	5.38%	Switzerland	0.72%
Greece	5.38%	Republic of Moldova	0.72%
Romania	5.02%	Malta	0.72%
United Kingdom	4.66%	Lithuania	0.72%
Czech Republic	3.94%	Iceland	0.72%
Italy	2.87%	Cyprus	0.72%
Finland	2.87%	Croatia	0.72%
Netherlands	2.51%	Brazil	0.72%
Estonia	2.15%	Algeria	0.72%
Bulgaria	2.15%	United States	0.36%
Austria	2.15%	Portugal	0.36%
Slovenia	1.43%	Montenegro	0.36%
Slovakia	1.43%	Japan	0.36%
Luxembourg	1.43%	Hungary	0.36%
Sweden	1.08%	Belarus	0.36%
Serbia	1.08%	Australia	0.36%
Poland	1.08%		

Table 6: META-FORUM 2022 – participants and country distribution

4.4 Photo Gallery

A professional photographer documented META-FORUM 2022. Approximately 100 photos are available on the ELG website¹⁷. In the appendix, we present a small selection.

4.5 Main Take-aways

The interest in ELG stayed strong during the whole run-time of the project. The participants gave much positive feedback about ELG Release 3 and the sustainability plan. Generally, the feedback regarding the whole event was consistently positive and reflected the appreciation of the first get-together after the Covid pandemic.

Although organising a hybrid event was challenging and had its own technical difficulties, the event was a great success. The hybrid mode enabled interaction and communication between the onsite participants what was highly missed in the last two online conferences, but at the same time excluded nobody who wanted to participate, but had not the possibility to come to Brussels. The high number of online participants underlines this positive feature of a hybrid event. Additionally, the coffee and lunch breaks invited the participants onsite to chat informally, connect and get to know each other again outside of virtual meetings.

¹⁷ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2022/gallery/>

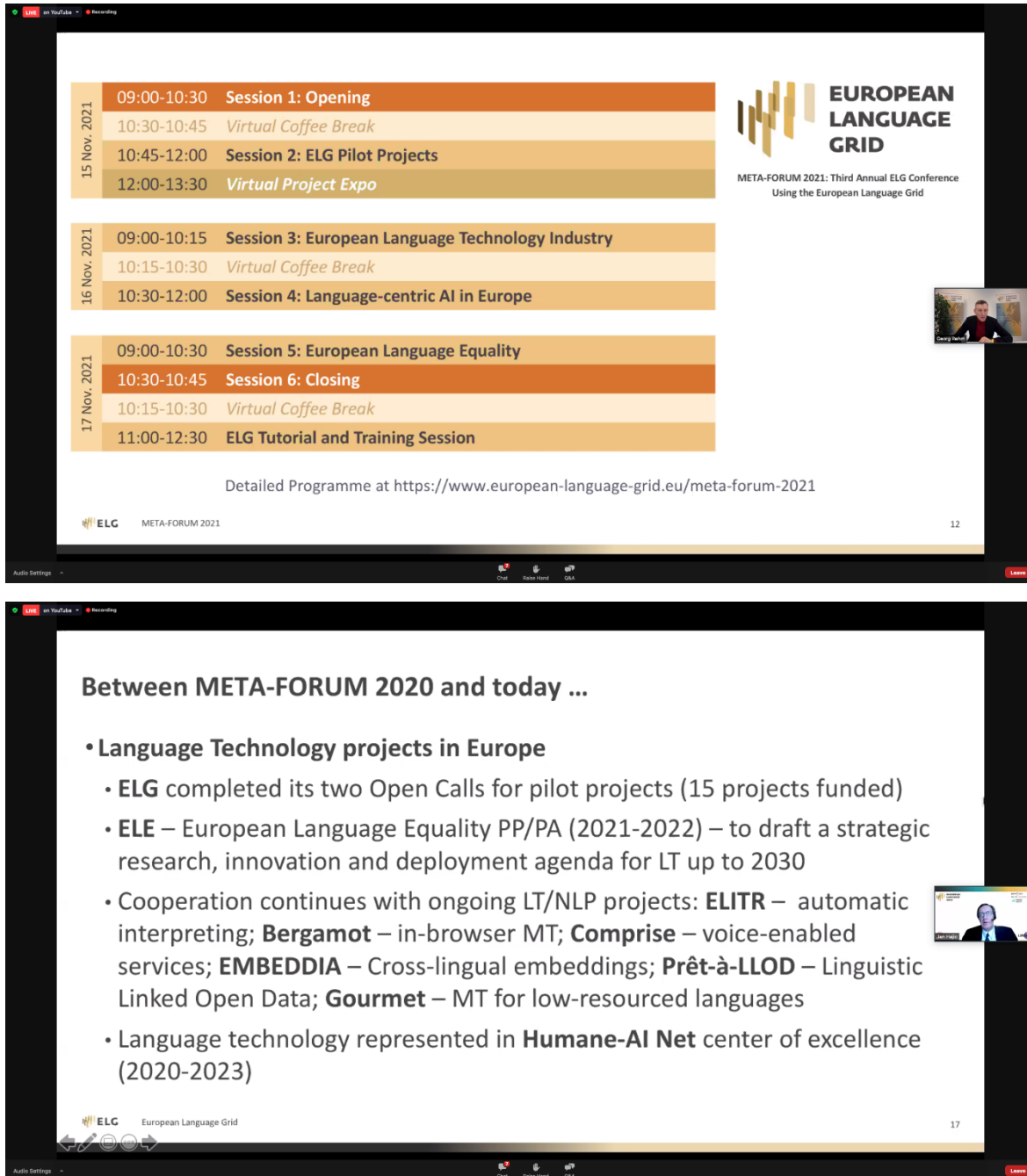
While not everybody attended each session, the hybrid format makes it possible for online attendees to select only those sessions they are particularly interested in and for which they had sufficient time capacities. The inclusion of a Zoom webinar and a live stream enabled easily produced recordings. All META-FORUM 2022 sessions are available on YouTube.

5 Conclusions

Despite the difficult Corona situation and various uncertainties with regard to their planning, both ELG conferences were a great success and achieved a great deal of attention in the European LT community. The two main goals of the events, community building and outreach to the wider European LT research and industry community were realised which was not only proved by the the high number of attendees. The spirit of both conferences and the positive feedback we received also reflects the positive perception of the the ELG initiative as such and the great relevance and timeliness of the topics discussed. In particular, the possibilities for interacting and connecting personally in the hybrid conference mode at META-FORUM 2022 were highly appreciated and made use of and showed the involvement of a vivid LT community. This experience encourages us to organise a META-FORUM conference also in 2023 and we are confident that this will be possible thanks to the funding of the ELG sibling project ELE 2.

A. META-FORUM 2021 Screenshots

Below we include impressions of the Opening and the LT Industry Session. More material can be found on the ELG website.¹⁸



15 Nov. 2021

09:00-10:30	Session 1: Opening
10:30-10:45	<i>Virtual Coffee Break</i>
10:45-12:00	Session 2: ELG Pilot Projects
12:00-13:30	<i>Virtual Project Expo</i>

16 Nov. 2021

09:00-10:15	Session 3: European Language Technology Industry
10:15-10:30	<i>Virtual Coffee Break</i>
10:30-12:00	Session 4: Language-centric AI in Europe

17 Nov. 2021

09:00-10:30	Session 5: European Language Equality
10:30-10:45	Session 6: Closing
10:15-10:30	<i>Virtual Coffee Break</i>
11:00-12:30	ELG Tutorial and Training Session

Detailed Programme at <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021>

Between META-FORUM 2020 and today ...

- **Language Technology projects in Europe**
 - **ELG** completed its two Open Calls for pilot projects (15 projects funded)
 - **ELE** – European Language Equality PP/PA (2021-2022) – to draft a strategic research, innovation and deployment agenda for LT up to 2030
 - Cooperation continues with ongoing LT/NLP projects: **ELITR** – automatic interpreting; **Bergamot** – in-browser MT; **Comprise** – voice-enabled services; **EMBEDDIA** – Cross-lingual embeddings; **Prêt-à-LLOD** – Linguistic Linked Open Data; **Gourmet** – MT for low-resourced languages
 - Language technology represented in **Humane-AI Net** center of excellence (2020-2023)

Figure 6: Screenshots of the Introductory Session

¹⁸ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021/programme/>



Figure 7: Screenshot of the Opening Session (Keynote speaker)



Figure 8: Screenshot of the LT Industry Session

B. META-FORUM 2021 Programme

Session 1: Opening – Video	
9:00	Welcome – Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany; Coordinator ELG and General Secretary of META-NET) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
9:07	Introduction – Jan Hajič (Charles University, Czech Republic; Chair of the META-NET Executive Board) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
9:15	Opening Keynote – Philippe Gelin (European Commission, DG CONNECT, Luxembourg) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
	<i>European Language Grid – Current stay of play</i>
9:45	General Overview – Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
10:00	Technology Platform – Stelios Piperidis (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
10:15	Tools, Services and Resources – Kalina Bontcheva (University of Sheffield, UK) – <i>Slides – Video</i>

Figure 9: Programme Day 1, Session 1

Session 2: ELG Pilot Projects – Video	
10:45	Presentation of project results: Overview – Lukáš Kačena (Charles University, Czech Republic) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
10:55	Lingsoft Solutions as Distributable Containers – Michael Stormbom (Lingsoft, Inc., Finland) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
11:05	Extracting Terminological Concept Systems from Natural Language Text – Dagmar Gromann (University of Vienna, Austria) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
11:15	CEFR Labelling and Assessment Services – Mark Breuker (EDIA BV, Netherlands) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
11:25	Basque-speaking smart speaker – Igor Leturia (Elhuyar Fundazioa, Spain) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
11:35	Sign Language explanations for terms in a text – Helmut Ludwar (Sign Time GmbH, Austria) – <i>Slides – Video</i>
11:45	Discussion

Figure 10: Programme Day 1, Session 2

Session 3: European language technology industry – Video	
09:00	Presentations by industry representatives – Chair: Gerhard Backfried (HENSOLDT Analytics GmbH, Austria) – <i>Slides</i>
	Jochen Hummel (Coreon GmbH, Germany) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
	Arantza Del Pozo (Vicomtech, Spain) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
	Brigitte Lutz (City of Vienna, Austria) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
	Svetla Boytcheva (Ontotext, Bulgaria) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>

Figure 11: Programme Day 2, Session 3

Session 4: Language-centric AI in Europe – Video	
10:30	Introduction – Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)
	<i>European Language Technology projects</i>
10:35	Live speech-to-text and MT tool for 24 languages – Marcin Feder (DG TRAD at European Parliament, Belgium) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
10:45	SPEAKER – Johannes Fischer (Fraunhofer IIS, Germany) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
10:55	NFDI4DataScience – Sonja Schimmler (Fraunhofer Fokus, Germany) – <i>Video</i>
11:05	EBU: A European Perspective – Justyna Kurczabinska, Sébastien Noir (European Broadcasting Union, Switzerland) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
11:15	WeVerify – Kalina Bontcheva (University of Sheffield, UK) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
11:25	CLAIRE – Holger Hoos (University of Leiden, Netherlands) – <i>Slides</i> – <i>Video</i>
11:35	Panel discussion

Figure 12: Programme Day 2, Session 4

Session 5: European Language Equality – Video		
09:00	Overview of ELE project – Andy Way (Dublin City University, Ireland, Coordinator ELE) & Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany, Co-coordinator ELE) – <i>Slides – Video</i>	
	<i>First results of the ELE project:</i>	
09:15	An Overview of Strategic LT/AI Documents in Europe – German Rigau (University of the Basque Country, Spain) – <i>Slides – Video</i>	
09:30	Defining Digital Language Equality – Federico Gaspari (Dublin City University, Ireland) – <i>Slides – Video</i>	
09:45	Collection of LRTs in 30+ European countries and production of 30+ Language Reports – Maria Giagkou (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece) – <i>Slides – Video</i>	
10:00	European LT Developers Survey – Maria Giagkou (ILSP, R.C. “Athena”, Greece) – <i>Slides – Video</i>	
10:10	European LT Users Survey – Natalia Resende (Dublin City University, Ireland) – <i>Slides – Video</i>	
10:20	Discussion	
Session 6: Closing Session		
10:30	Recap and closing remarks	Georg Rehm (DFKI, Germany)) – <i>Slides</i>

Figure 13: Programme Day 3

C. META-FORUM 2022 Photos



