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Abstract

A number of activities revolving around communication and dissemination are addressed in WP4. One of its highlights is the final ELE book publication, planned for the second half of 2022. The book is divided into four parts: 1. Part I: European Language Equality – Status Quo in 2022 (Updates of the META-NET White Papers); 2. Part II: European Language Equality – Status Quo in 2022 II; 3. Part III: European Language Equality – The Future Situation in 2030; 4. Part IV: European Language Equality – Strategic Agenda and Roadmap. 450 hard copies have been pre-ordered and will be handed out at various events such as national and regional workshops, the META-FORUM 2023 conference (June 2023) and on the occasion of other related conferences and workshops (including the EP workshop targeted to take place in the second half of 2022).

1 Introduction

WP4 contains all activities related to communication, dissemination and awareness raising on the political level both in the European Institutions and in the Member States. Its main objective is to help the topic of digital language equality gain visibility and ensure sustainability for the project goals and the developed agenda in Europe. This is achieved by 1. following an effective strategy and plan to support all communication and dissemination activities in ELE, 2. helping to organise open consultations and dialogues (together with WP2 and WP5), 3. leveraging existing structures to reach related stakeholder groups, 4. organising one large conference (i. e., META-FORUM 2022), and smaller outreach events, and 5. producing a final book publication with the main results of the ELE project.

For the ELE book publication, the consortium has allocated a budget of 15,000 Euros to cover the Gold Open Access fee and a sufficient number of printed copies. 450 hard copies have been pre-ordered for dissemination purposes. The book will be handed out at various events such as national and regional workshops (organised under the umbrella of ELE 2), the META-FORUM 2023 conference and other related conferences (including the EP workshop targeted to take place in the second half of 2022).

The book will include the strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda (SRIA) and roadmap, summaries of the language reports and deep dives as well as various other chapters sourced from the vast number of ELE deliverables. The book will undergo review in the third quarter of 2022, with its publication foreseen for late 2022.

This deliverable D4.6 briefly explains the preparation and production process of the book (Section 2). It includes an outline (Section 3) as well as an overview of the dissemination activities planned to promote the book (Section 4).

2 ELE Book Preparation and Production

The ELE book has been designed together with the ELG book *European Language Grid – A Language Technology Platform for Multilingual Europe* (Rehm, 2022) to make sure that the two books, describing the results of the two sibling projects, follow identical structures and design principles. In alignment with the two project logos, brand designs, websites and promotional material of the two projects, the two books will continue to present this close connection (see Figure 1). At the time of writing (end of June 2022), the ELG book is almost complete and will be submitted to the publisher in July 2022. Its approx. 400 pages contain one introductory chapter and 28 chapters divided into four parts: 1. The ELG Cloud Platform

(5 chapters); 2. The ELG Inventory of Technologies and Resources (3 chapters); 3. The ELG Community and Initiative (4 chapters); 4. The ELG Open Calls and Pilot Projects (16 chapters).



Figure 1: Covers of the ELG and ELE books (mockups)

The ELE book (Rehm and Way, 2022) is to follow in the second half of 2022. For both books we decided on the scientific publisher Springer, a leading global science publisher, offering innovative products and services of high-quality content to researchers at universities, research institutions and companies.¹ The two volumes are foreseen to be published in the series Cognitive Technologies² and will be available Open Access to maximise their circulation and impact in the community.

3 ELE Book Outline

The ELE book is preceded by a foreword and preface and a brief overview of the European Language Equality project, explaining the history and context, objectives, structure etc. The four parts add up to approx. 400 pages.³

Part I: European Language Equality – Status Quo in 2022 I – Updates of the META-NET White Papers

This part includes a brief introductory chapter followed by more than 30 chapters, each containing the summary of one of the contractually foreseen language report deliverables,

¹ <https://www.springer.com>

² <https://www.springer.com/series/5216>

³ The titles of the four parts provided in this deliverable are working titles only.

shortened to four pages each to provide a consistent level of detail across the languages. These deliverable reports can be found on the ELE Website.⁴ For each language the particularities, available technologies and resources as well as recommendations and next steps are outlined.

The languages covered are Basque, Bosnian, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Estonian, Finnish, French, Galician, German, Greek, Hungarian, Icelandic, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Luxembourgish, Maltese, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish and Welsh. At the time of writing (June 2022), all of these chapters are already completed.

Part II: European Language Equality – Status Quo in 2022 II

This part gives an overview of the state of the art in Language Technology and language-centric AI on approx. 70 pages.

Further, the concept of Digital Language Equality is explained in detail. The DLE metric, the technological factors and contextual factors are broken down and analysed.

Based on the ELG catalogue and database and results from the different ELE work packages, the main observations and conclusions are summarised. In particular, the summary contains all main results from WP1 (especially the cross-language comparison) as well as the main results from the WP2 surveys (LT developers survey, LT users survey and EU citizen survey) as they relate to the present situation in terms of technology support.

Part III: European Language Equality – The Future Situation in 2030

This part covers the consultation process that led to the main observations and conclusions for the future situation in 2030. The technology deep dives on Machine Translation, Speech Technologies, Text Analytics and Natural Language Understanding as well as the technology deep dive Data and Knowledge are presented in summarised form in this context. The deep dive reports were shortened to 24 pages each and the overall part is intended to have around 125 pages. At the time of writing, just like the language report chapters (see above), the four deep dive chapters are also already completed.

Part IV: European Language Equality – Strategic Agenda and Roadmap

This part presents the strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda (including roadmap) for digital language equality in Europe by 2030. All high-level conclusions from all parts (including the language reports) are analysed and discussed in approximately 45 pages in this final part. In contrast to the stand-alone version of the SRIA, the book version will concentrate on the main recommendations and the roadmap, i. e., the timeline.

4 ELE Book Dissemination

After the run-time of the ELE project, several additional communication and dissemination activities have already been planned. The ELE book publication will be disseminated widely, especially to the relevant decision makers in the European Parliament and the European Commission and also to the relevant national institutions, especially funding agencies and decision makers, along with a longer, self-contained stand-alone version of the strategic agenda and roadmap.

⁴ <https://european-language-equality.eu/deliverables/>

The book will also be promoted through social media. Over the last 18 months, the consortium has succeeded in building a large social media following. The ELE project mainly focuses its social media activities upon LinkedIn and Twitter. Another tool is the bi-weekly European Language Technology newsletter that promotes the work of both ELG and ELE with approx. 4000 subscribers at the time of writing.

Equally important for communication and dissemination activities are conferences and other events. An important event that attracts many ELE stakeholders is META-FORUM, the international conference series on innovative Language Technology for the multilingual information society. The next META-FORUM is planned for June 2023. The high-level outline of the ELE book was presented at META-FORUM 2022, a well-attended hybrid event that took place on 8-9 June 2022 in Brussels, Belgium.

5 Conclusions

The ELE book is a condensed and highly focused version of the consortium's collective work of the last 18 months, thoroughly documented in more than 60 deliverable reports, comprising a total of more than 2000 pages. The whole project was designed in such a way that all individual work streams of the project generate input for the strategic agenda that will be an integral part of the book. The unique consortium set up consisting of 52 partners covering all European countries, research and industry and all major pan-European initiatives, has been a clear advantage in making this endeavour a success. A number of networks and initiatives presented their own positions, needs, wishes, demands and visions with regard to Language Technology and the idea of establishing digital language equality in Europe. The research partners also prepared evidence-based updates of the 32 META-NET White Papers and the industry partners concentrated on the four deep dives. Our hope is that the ELE book will create an impact on the same level as the META-NET White Paper Series (Rehm and Uszkoreit, 2012), which was published ten years ago, resulting in the main finding that "at least 21 European languages are in danger of digital extinction" and the META-NET Strategic Research Agenda (Rehm and Uszkoreit, 2013). The ELE book will finally provide a much-needed comprehensive update of these results and also a pathway towards achieving full digital language equality in Europe by 2030.

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