



EUROPEAN ² LANGUAGE EQUALITY

D1.1

Specification of approach for consultations and for documentation of stakeholder commit- ment

Authors	Stefanie Hegele, Annika Grützner-Zahn, Katrin Marheinecke, Georg Rehm (DFKI); Maria Giagkou, Stelios Piperidis (ILSP)
Dissemination level	Public
Date	07-10-2022

About this document

Project	European Language Equality 2 (ELE2)
Grant agreement no.	LC-01884166 – 101075356 ELE2
Coordinator	Prof. Dr. Andy Way (DCU)
Co-coordinator	Prof. Dr. Georg Rehm (DFKI)
Start date, duration	01-07-2022, 12 months
Deliverable number	D1.1
Deliverable title	Specification of approach for consultations and for documentation of stakeholder commitment
Type	Report
Number of pages	20
Status and version	Final
Dissemination level	Public
Date of delivery	07-10-2022 (deadline extension agreed with project officer; original contractual deadline: 30-09-2022)
Work package	WP1: SRIA: Further Consultations and Documentation of Stakeholder Commitment
Task	Task 1.1 Specification of approach for consultations and for documentation of stakeholder commitment
Authors	Stefanie Hegele, Annika Grützner-Zahn, Katrin Marheinecke, Georg Rehm (DFKI); Maria Giagkou, Stelios Piperidis (ILSP)
Reviewers	Federico Gaspari (DCU), Davyth Hicks (ELEN)
EC project officer	Susan Fraser
Contact	European Language Equality 2 (ELE2) ADAPT Centre, Dublin City University Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland Prof. Dr. Andy Way – andy.way@adaptcentre.ie European Language Equality (ELE) DFKI GmbH Alt-Moabit 91c, 10559 Berlin, Germany Prof. Dr. Georg Rehm – georg.rehm@dfki.de http://www.european-language-equality.eu © 2022 ELE2 Consortium

Consortium

1	Dublin City University (Coordinator)	DCU	IE
2	Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz GmbH (Co-coordinator)	DFKI	DE
3	Univerzita Karlova (Charles University)	CUNI	CZ
4	Universidad Del Pais Vasco/ Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea (University of the Basque Country)	UPV/EHU	ES
5	Athina-Erevnitiko Kentro Kainotomias Stis Technologies Tis Pliroforias, Ton Epikoinonion Kai Tis Gnosis	ILSP	GR
6	European Federation of National Institutes for Language	EFNIL	LU
7	Réseau européen pour l'égalité des langues (European Language Equality Network)	ELEN	FR

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	Summary of Stakeholder Engagement in ELE 1	2
2.1	LT Developers Survey	2
2.2	LT Users and Consumers Survey	3
2.3	EU Citizen Survey	3
2.4	Deep Dives	3
2.5	Domains	4
3	Stakeholders relevant for ELE 2	4
3.1	Policy-Making Bodies and Funding Agencies (European, national, regional level)	5
3.2	Industry (European, national, regional level)	5
3.3	Language Communities (European, national, regional level)	6
3.4	Research (European, national, regional level)	6
3.5	User Stakeholders (European, national, regional level)	6
3.6	New User or Consumer Domains (European, national, regional level)	7
3.7	List of Stakeholders	7
4	Processes and Instruments for Consultation	11
4.1	Endorsement of the SRIA Recommendations	11
4.2	Interviews and focused Consultation Meetings	12
4.3	Dissemination Events	12
4.4	Surveys	12
5	Documentation of Stakeholders Commitment	13
6	Timeline	14
7	Summary and Next Steps	15

List of Figures

List of Tables

1	Sectors in which technologies, products or services are used (based on the responses collected as part of the ELE 1 LT Researchers and Developers' survey, Way et al., 2022)	4
2	Stakeholders relevant for ELE 2	7

List of Acronyms

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AI4EU	AI4EU (EU project, 2019-2021)
CLAIRE	Confederation of Laboratories for AI Research in Europe
CLARIN	Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure
CRACKER	Cracking the Language Barrier (EU project, 2015–2017)
DARIAH	Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities
DLE	Digital Language Equality
EC	European Commission
ECSPM	European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism
EFNIL	European Federation of National Institutes for Language
ELE	European Language Equality
ELE2	European Language Equality (<i>this project</i>)
ELE Programme	European Language Equality Programme (<i>the long-term, large-scale funding programme specified by the ELE project</i>)
ELEN	European Language Equality Network
ELEXIS	European Lexicographic Infrastructure
ELG	European Language Grid (EU project, 2019-2022)
ELRA	European Language Resource Association
ELRC	European Language Resource Coordination
ELT	European Language Technology
EP	European Parliament
ERIC	European Research Infrastructure Consortium
ESCO	European Skills, Competences, Qualifications and Occupations classification
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LT	Language Technology/Technologies
META	Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance
META-NET	EU Network of Excellence to foster META
ML	Machine Learning
MT	Machine Translation
NCC	National Competence Centre
NCP	National Contact Point
NLP	Natural Language Processing
STOA	Science and Technology Options Assessment

Abstract

The primary goal of the ELE 2 project is the maintenance, refinement, extension and further development of the Strategic Research, Innovation and Implementation Agenda and Roadmap for achieving full Digital Language Equality in Europe by 2030, continuing the work conducted in the initial European Language Equality (ELE 1) project.

WP1 continues and intensifies consultations with ELE SRIA stakeholders. Important stakeholders for ELE 2 contain a wide variety of policy-making bodies, funding agencies, industry representatives, language communities, research institutes and other user stakeholders. New user and consumer domains will also be investigated.

As for the consultation processes and instruments, ELE 1 mainly relied on surveys and questionnaires. In ELE 2 we will as much as possible conduct focused consultation meetings and only use written-form input from surveys when necessary. In alignment with our dissemination strategy, it is planned to communicate with a large number of stakeholders in targeted online conferences and expert focus group interviews.

In addition, ELE 2 is to develop and maintain a running log of the stakeholders and document their endorsement of the SRIA including the recommendations most relevant for them.

1 Introduction

With a large and all-encompassing consortium consisting of 52 partners covering all European countries, research and industry and all major pan-European initiatives, the European Language Equality (ELE) project that came to an end in June 2022 developed a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda (SRIA) as well as a roadmap for achieving full digital language equality (DLE) in Europe by 2030. The surveys and expert interviews conducted in ELE 1 targeted LT developers, users and – equally importantly – EU citizens. The surveys investigated language coverage, evaluated the current situation of LT in Europe and encouraged participants to share their predictions and visions for the future.

The primary goal of the follow-up project ELE 2 is to revise, extend and further promote the SRIA. ELE 2 will identify and reach out to additional stakeholder groups to gather feedback, especially in relation to their needs and ideas towards the goal of achieving DLE in Europe by 2030, whilst also documenting their commitment with an interactive online tool.

WP1 seeks to continue, intensify and further extend consultations with the ELE SRIA stakeholders. The goal is to systematically expand the list of stakeholders identified in ELE, and specify the approach for consulting with them and for seeking and documenting their commitment. WP1 comprises the activities necessary to ensure a broad and effective reach to the relevant stakeholders, including the organisation of workshops, surveys, moderated discussions with special interest groups, interviews etc. Recognising the critical role funding agencies and policy makers (European, national and regional) will play in the realisation and implementation of the SRIA, a dedicated line of action will focus on reaching out to this specific target group in order to engage in a discussion about DLE and the recommendations provided in the SRIA with the goal of establishing a shared programme towards DLE by 2030, which is supported by European, national and regional stakeholders. Stakeholder engagement with and commitment to the SRIA will be documented in a stakeholder registry.

Based on and informed by the approach devised in ELE 1, as documented in ELE deliverables D2.1 (Hajič et al., 2021), D3.1 (Aldabe et al., 2021) and D1.1 (Gaspari et al., 2021), we will compile a set of domains and stakeholders that ELE 2 will reach out to to seek their feedback and commitment with regard to the relevance, substance and implementation of the SRIA. The groups of stakeholders will be structured as follows: policy-making bodies and funding agencies (European, national, regional level); industry (European, national, regional level);

language communities (European, national, regional level); research (European, national, regional level); user stakeholders (European, national, regional level); new user or consumer domains (European, national, regional level). In recognition of reviewer feedback received, ELE 2 also commits to involving more industry representatives beyond the industry network established by ELE 1. While some of these stakeholder groups are already engaged in a substantial way with regard to DLE, we will pay special attention to bringing on board user and consumer industries and domains.

This deliverable D1.1 specifies the approach for consultations and for documentation of stakeholder commitment. It also discusses the expanded list of ELE stakeholders and outlines processes and instruments as well as a timeline for consulting with them. In addition, it sets the broad technical and operational specifications for the design and implementation of the stakeholders registry.

2 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement in ELE 1

One of the main goals of ELE 1 was to collect input for the SRIA and to produce several reports by a broad spectrum of stakeholders – from research through industry to users – about their views, needs and perspectives related to Language Technologies (LTs) and DLE. This input and feedback was systematically collected throughout the project runtime.

ELE 1 distinguished between two main stakeholder groups: LT developers (industry and research) as well as LT users and consumers. Each group is very diverse, including sub-groups, representing a variety of domains. For the latter, ELE 1 looked at the interesting subdivisions of commercial and academic users as well as the EU citizen. Both groups were represented in the large consortium of ELE 1 with several networks, initiatives and associations who also delivered one report each, representing the collective views of their respective constituencies, highlighting their own specific wishes, demands and needs to achieve DLE. Targeted stakeholder-specific surveys were designed for both groups. They were distributed to the relevant stakeholders through the responsible ELE 1 partners. The surveys conceptualised and designed by the consortium have proven to be an effective means for collecting valuable input. Deliverable 2.17 (Way et al., 2022) presents the insights gained from a number of online surveys and expert interviews targeting LT developers and LT users and consumers. The surveys investigated language coverage, evaluated the current situation of LT in Europe and encouraged participants to share their predictions and visions for the future. More than 450 survey responses were collected and more than 65 expert interviews were conducted. In addition, the ELE 1 project also organised a short three-minute survey, targeted at the European citizens, to investigate how they feel about the digital support for their languages. Further, four ELE industry partners compiled deep dive reports for the fields of Machine Translation, Speech, Text Analytics and Data and Knowledge.

2.1 LT Developers Survey

The LT developers survey addressed the European LT community as a whole, reaching a wide and demographically distributed audience. It was answered by 321 different respondents who represent 223 different organisations located in 32 different countries. The respondents have been recruited by the established research networks in LT/AI, i. e., META-NET, CLARIN and CLAIRE, projects like ELG (ELE's sister project) and other related projects and networks focusing on LT or on neighbouring fields, such as AI4EU, ELISE, ELEXIS, and Nexus Linguarum. Additional networks, associations and projects indicated by the respondents include the ELRC initiative, ELRA, ACL, EAMT, DARIAH and many more. The areas in which

the respondents are active covered the full range of LT areas both in terms of research and applications (Way et al., 2022).

2.2 LT Users and Consumers Survey

The LT users and consumers survey brought together diverse groups of stakeholders including representatives of communities of LT users and consumers, academic and commercial stakeholders, language professionals (e. g., translators, lecturers and professors in the field of linguistics and computational linguistics) and stakeholders from different economic sectors (e. g., banking, health, public administration, language services). The survey was disseminated mainly via emails by all six relevant ELE partners, namely, ELEN, LIBER, ECSPM, NEM, EFNIL and Wikipedia, and additional dissemination through social networks was also carried out. The leaders from the six European initiatives promoted the survey in their networks targeting representatives of organisations and communities of users and consumers. DCU collected a total of 14 responses from researchers affiliated to the various offices that belong to the ADAPT Centre (in addition to DCU, Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin), while the 108 remaining responses were collected through social media and word of mouth (Way et al., 2022).

2.3 EU Citizen Survey

An additional survey was carried out targeting EU citizens with the aim of taking into account their opinions, individual needs, wishes, general demands and, importantly, to make sure that their voices play a decisive role in the pursuit of full DLE in Europe supported by LTs. The survey was translated into several languages for which there was expertise within the ELE 1 consortium, and disseminated in 28 countries through Lucid's services. Additional dissemination was also carried out with the help of ELE partners who promoted the survey on social media, within their networks and through the ELE project website. While structured very differently than the stakeholder group surveys (LT developers and LT users and consumers, as described above), there are several similarities not only in terms of scope of the analysis, but also of the key results that were obtained. In total, 21,108 complete responses were collected through this online survey (Way et al., 2022).

2.4 Deep Dives

The four deep dive reports, written by experts from industry and academia of the ELE 1 consortium, covering the areas of machine translation, text analytics, speech and data analysed the current situation horizontally in these very important areas of LT. They provided a detailed description of the state-of-the-art, analysing in particular current gaps and outlining the vision for future developments. Each Deep Dive presented an informed view on the future situation in these fields by 2030 from the perspective of DLE, and the key findings of these in-depth analyses are summarised in this deliverable, also to allow a comparison of priorities and the identification of common cross-cutting themes, concerns and opportunities for potential converging developments.

The community has long advocated for more diversity in languages, but also domains. Future systems should be trained on many different domains. Experts invited as part of the ELE 1 consultations have agreed that on a technological level, investing in the development of new (scientific/technological) methodologies for transfer/adaptation of resources/technologies to other domains and languages is considered an effective measure to boost digital readiness of less supported languages (Bērziņš et al., 2022; Backfried et al., 2022; Gomez-Perez et al., 2022; Kaltenboeck et al., 2022).

2.5 Domains

The consultation with LT researchers and developers conducted in ELE 1 provided valuable insights (Way et al., 2022). The technologies, products or services offered by the respondents' organisations are used in a number of diverse domains, a finding that demonstrates the applicability of LT in practically all economic sectors. The top 3 domains indicated by the respondents were 1) Information and communication technologies, 2) Digital humanities, arts, culture and other services and 3) Education.

In ELE 2 we will try to reach as many relevant sectors as possible, however, a priority will be the Information and Communication sector as well as Publishing, Broadcasting and Media – as shown in Table 1. These sectors featured prominently in the domains that were indicated by those involved in the consultation of LT researchers and developers undertaken in ELE 1. In Section 3, the relevant stakeholders in these sectors are described in more detail.

Sectors	Number of mentions
Information and Communication Technologies	180
Digital Humanities, arts, culture and other services	171
Education	154
Health	101
Media	98
Social Sciences	89
Public administration	75
Business services	71
Justice and legal	70
Finance/banking	57
Broadcasting	50
Publishing	49
eCommerce	42
Industry and manufacturing	42
Tourism, accommodation and food services	35
Insurance industry	28
Security (threat detection in general)	28
Transportation, logistics and storage	24
Other	21
Energy/green economy/environment	16
Agriculture and fisheries	13
Construction	13
Trade and repair	7

Table 1: Sectors in which technologies, products or services are used (based on the responses collected as part of the ELE 1 LT Researchers and Developers' survey, Way et al., 2022)

3 Stakeholders relevant for ELE 2

One crucial aspect of the process of revising and extending the SRIA and roadmap is the inclusion not only of the immediate computational linguistics, LT and language-centric AI community, but also of several neighbouring fields and communities. In previous projects such as META-NET, CRACKER and ELG, a lot of resources have been invested into community building, bridging fields and bringing together heterogeneous groups of stakeholders

(researchers from different fields with complementary skill sets and types of expertise, industry representatives from different sectors and verticals, language communities, administrations, political bodies, etc.). As part of ELE 2, we will continue consulting with all communities and we will lay special emphasis on breaking new ground by identifying and consulting with new stakeholders, i. e., representatives of new domains and new sectors to take on board their input for the development of the agenda and roadmap as potential users or consumers of European LTs in and for the languages of Europe.

In this sense, ELE 2 will continue and extend the work carried out in ELE 1 to strengthen the engagement and dissemination effort, as described in Deliverable 4.1 (Hegele et al., 2021), towards stakeholders who can contribute to, or benefit from, the developed agenda. The success of the project critically depends on the close collaboration and cooperation with many different stakeholders at various levels (European, national/Member State and regional/local). The ELE Programme is envisaged to be a large-scale multidisciplinary initiative including stakeholders from research institutions, industry, the public sector and civil society, collaborating on the European, national and regional levels, in a coordinated, joint effort. Moreover, ELE 2 will identify and reach out to additional stakeholder groups to gather their feedback, needs and ideas in the pursuit of DLE in Europe.

The ELE 2 partners are globally acknowledged as leading experts in their respective areas; many of them have a long history of highly visible and successful cooperation in a large number of significant national and international projects and EU-funded consortia. The partners' interest in, and commitment to, the project, along with the mutual knowledge and tradition of cooperation, will ensure that each of them mobilises the appropriate level of communication and collaboration between groups. The aim is that through the support of visible and well-known stakeholders, other players will also become aware of the issue of DLE and will also support the mission. In this way, we trust that there will be a snowball effect that will help us gain widespread support in a short period of time.

3.1 Policy-Making Bodies and Funding Agencies (European, national, regional level)

With regard to the identification of and communication with new stakeholders, we will pay special attention to engaging in a more substantial way with the national as well as international funding agencies. In this respect, we intend to set up a large network of funding agencies and related organisations that support our ambitious but vitally important goal of achieving DLE. We plan to have at least two rounds of meetings during the runtime of the project with this evolving and growing group of funding agencies, to align our plans and goals and to establish effective synergies. We will also meet with appropriate subsets of the organisations involved and also identify and make use of synergies with other recently started or emerging projects. The more support the strategic agenda has, the more we can leverage these contacts and collaborations in our communication and dissemination activities, taking advantage of high-profile endorsements and commitments of support.

3.2 Industry (European, national, regional level)

The European LT industry has been estimated to comprise 435 companies, according to LT-Innovate (2016) or 473 LT vendors in EU26 plus Iceland and Norway in 2017 (Vasiljevs et al., 2019). As in the first phase, involvement of relevant industry stakeholders in ELE 2 is important and we commit to their engagement in the project's work. Building on the success of the first phase of ELE and the close alignment with the European Language Grid (ELG)¹

¹ <https://european-language-grid.eu>

initiative – which will be continued under the umbrella of a not-for-profit legal entity – ELE 2 can engage with more than 800 LT companies registered in ELG. These companies will form the basis for initial engagements and consultations. As the synergies between ELE and ELG grow, we see this as a platform for further growth in industry engagement. Further to that, specifically in ELE 2, we will directly approach companies for participation and feedback, to attend conferences and through targeted social media campaigns (for more details on that, see also Deliverable D4.1).

3.3 Language Communities (European, national, regional level)

Language communities include all speakers of Europe’s languages, essentially all European citizens. Relevant umbrella associations and initiatives include the ELE 2 consortium partners European Federation of National Institutions for Language (EFNIL) and European Language Equality Network (ELEN). Different language communities have different needs, but especially communities with smaller numbers of speakers who rely on the support of these initiatives. Here, the notion of trust plays a crucial role. These representative bodies give a voice to communities that otherwise would barely be heard. At the same time, these language communities in particular will benefit the most from our mutual goal of establishing DLE in Europe. For this reason, having their buy-in and confidence is of special importance. EFNIL and ELEN will be crucial in taking ELE’s mission to the language communities, gathering feedback and building trust, and conveying to the language communities why and how they will benefit from our initiative so as to mobilise their support.

3.4 Research (European, national, regional level)

Europe has a long-standing research, development and innovation tradition in LT with over 800 research groups or centres performing excellent, highly visible and internationally recognised research on all European and many non-European languages. Research centres, universities and other academic institutions that do research in LT, computational linguistics, language-centric AI, knowledge technologies, cognitive science, linguistics etc. form one important branch of the LT community.

Founded in 2010, META-NET² is a European Network of Excellence dedicated to the technological foundations of a multilingual and inclusive European society, bringing together 60 research centres in 34 European countries. One of its main goals is technology support for all European languages as well as fostering innovative research by providing strategic recommendations with regard to key research topics (Rehm and Uszkoreit, 2013).

As pointed out in Section 2, the research community has already been an important pillar and source of support in the first phase of ELE. Even if the focus of the dialogue in this follow-up phase of the project is more on the funding agencies and other sectors of industry, the exchange and continued multiplier function of the LT community remains an important factor. We will continue striving for a close exchange with research in ELE 2.

3.5 User Stakeholders (European, national, regional level)

User stakeholders represent a diverse target group that can include virtually everyone in Europe. LTs are nowadays used by very large segments of the European population, often taking them for granted for numerous everyday tasks. In the past ELE project, we tried to reach as many users as possible through our wide-ranging multilingual survey. We found

² <http://www.meta-net.eu>

out that the topic of LTs has a lot of potential but is still somewhat blurred for most people. The concepts and tools are only partially known among the public at large, especially for the speakers of under-resourced languages. In the next step, we want to address user groups in a more targeted manner so that we can convince them that LTs can be a useful and groundbreaking tool for achieving language equality.

3.6 New User or Consumer Domains (European, national, regional level)

Since the group of users and consumers is heterogeneous, we want to focus on major sub-groups that have been identified, e. g., sectors and industries like media and broadcasting networks, healthcare, banking and insurance, e-commerce, mobility, telecommunications or public administrations. Many of these industry and public stakeholder groups would enormously benefit from LT systems but they are not aware of it and do not have access to them. Relevant technologies to be explored include LT applications that are specific to a work environment: customer interaction technologies in business and trade, educational applications, e. g., for language training, documentation and support systems in hospitals and care facilities or chatbots for queries in administrations on local, regional and national levels, to name a few.

These application scenarios and use cases need to be explained, especially to stakeholders in sectors that are less familiar with technology solutions, so that they can understand why the issue is important and how it helps overcoming language inequalities.

3.7 List of Stakeholders

In the following, we list organisations and associations that are active and influential in various sectors and industries in Europe. We plan to reach out to as many of these as possible with focused interactions, in order to introduce to relevant decision-makers our condensed SRIA with the key recommendations to overcome language inequality in Europe by 2030. Some of the organisations act on an international level but are of special importance also for Europe. The list is not final and will be refined during the project. Because almost all of these organisations are umbrella organisations or associations with many members or sub-associations, we expect these stakeholder groups to have a wide reach and significant impact. In the course of the project, it will become evident which of these organisations can best be reached by which means in order to gain the broadest possible support for our cause.

Table 2: Stakeholders relevant for ELE 2

Stakeholder	Country, Region
Digital Heritage and Libraries	
Europeana	Europe
European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations	Europe
Nordic World Heritage Association	Iceland
Media	
South East Europe Media Organisation	Austria
European Digital Media Observatory (EDMO)	Europe
AMARC International Community Radio	Europe
Publisher	

Continued on next page

Table 2 – Continued from previous page

Stakeholder	Country, Region
European Publishers	UK
European Publishers Council (EPC)	Belgium
European Newspaper Publishers Association (ENPA)	Belgium
European Federation of Magazine Publishers (FAEP)	Belgium
European Magazine Media Association (EMMA)	Belgium
Federation of European Publishers (FEP)	Italy
Minority language newspaper association (MIDAS)	Europe
Springer	Germany
Elsevier, RELX Group	Netherlands
Flemish Publishers Association, Leuven University Press	Belgium
Brill	Netherlands
CEU Press	Hungary
Open Book Publishers	UK
European Association of Science Editors (EASE)	UK
News	
Polish Press Agency	Poland
Deutsche Presse Agentur (DPA)	Germany
Agence France Press (AFP)	France
European Alliance of News Agencies (EANA)	Europe
Baltic News Service (BNS)	Estonia
World Association of News Publishers (WAN IFRA)	international
Broadcasting	
European Broadcasting Union (EBU)	Europe / Switzerland
Association of Commercial Television and Video on Demand Services in Europe (ACT)	Belgium
Association of European Radios (AER)	Belgium
Radio Télévision Belge Francophone (RTBF)	Belgium
Deutsche Welle (DW)	Germany
German Media Association (VAUNET)	Germany
ARTE	France
Talpa Network	Netherlands
Health	
World Health Organization (WHO)	International
Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)	International
Education & Research	
European Research Council (ERC)	Europe
European University Association (EUA)	Belgium / Switzerland
European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)	Europe
Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)	Europe
European Acoustics Association (EAA)	Europe
Applied Research Funders Association (TAFTIE)	France
Research Infrastructure in Digital Humanities and Arts (DARIAH)	Europe
Research Infrastructure for Holocaust Research (EHRI)	International
UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	International
Central and East European International Studies Association (CEEISA)	Czech Republic
ICA Regional Network for Central and South Eastern Europe (CASEE)	Czech Republic
Nordic Sociological Association (NSA)	Sweden

Continued on next page

Table 2 – Continued from previous page

Stakeholder	Country, Region
NordMedia Network	Sweden
Baltic Association for Media Research (BAMR)	Estonia
Eureka	Belgium
South East Europe Education Cooperation Network (SEE-ECN)	Slovenia
Erasmus Student Network	Belgium
Finances	
European Banking Federation (EBF)	Belgium / Germany
Association for Financial Markets in Europe (AFME)	UK / Belgium / Germany
Transportation & Energy	
European Mobility Association	Europe
Airports Council International Europe (ACI Europe)	Belgium
Association of European Public Postal Operators (PostEurop)	Europe
European Road Transport Telematics Implementation Coordination Organisation (ERTICO)	Belgium
The International Association of Public Transport (UITP)	Belgium
European Energy Network (EnR)	Europe
Central & Eastern European Green Transport Initiative	Poland
Union of the Electricity Industry	Belgium
European Association for the Storage of Energy	Belgium
Nordic Logistics Association	Belgium
Public Administration	
European Public Administration Network (EUPAN-Network)	Czech Republic
Network of Directors of Institutes and Schools of Public Administration (DISPA)	Europe
European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU)	Belgium
Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe	North Macedonia
Regional School of Public Administration	Montenegro
Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)	Germany
Advertising	
Ecommerce Europe	Belgium
Association of European Chambers of Commerce and Industry (EU-ROCHAMBERS)	Belgium
European Digital Marketing Association	Spain
IAB Europe	Belgium
Federation of European Direct and Interactive Marketing (FEDMA)	Belgium
Talpa Network	Netherlands
Dutch Media Initiative VIA	Netherlands
BVDW (Bundesverband der Digitalwirtschaft)	Germany
FEDMA Federation of European Data and Marketing	Germany
UNA (Aziende della Comunicazione Unite), DLV BBDO	Italy
Telecommunication	
European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association	Belgium
gba (Global BPO Alliance)	Belgium
Orange Labs	France
Vodafone Business	Europe
Thales Group	France
Telefonica	Spain

Continued on next page

Table 2 – Continued from previous page

Stakeholder	Country, Region
Deutsche Telecom	Germany
ETSI	France
Security & Military	
European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA)	Europe
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	International
Chemical & pharmaceutical Industry	
European Chemical Industry Council (Cefic)	Belgium
European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Association (EFPIA)	Belgium
Digitisation	
European Smart City Association	Belgium
European Technical Documentation Community (Tekom)	Germany
The Open Group	International
European Association of Communication Agencies (EACA)	Belgium
Green Digital Charter (GDC)	Europe
Society for Technical Communication (STC)	International
South-Eastern European Digitization Initiative	Serbia
Sustainability	
Green Digital Charter (GDC)	Europe
European Green Deal Association	Europe
World Green Infrastructure Network (WGIN)	International
Energy Cities	Belgium / France
Agency of Sustainable Development and Eurointegration (ASDE)	Bulgaria
Council of the Baltic Sea States	Sweden
Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)	international
Climate Action Network-International (CAN)	international
Manufacturing	
European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA)	Belgium
EIT Manufacturing	Europe
Eurovent	Belgium
Economy & Enterprises	
European DIGITAL SME Alliance (DIGITAL SME)	Belgium
Enterprise Europe Network	Europe
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)	International
Insurance Europe	Belgium
BusinessEurope	Europe
Nordic Innovation	Norway
Southeast Europe Business Development Network (SEEBDN)	Austria
European Creative Business Network (ECBN)	Netherlands
Tourism & Gastronomy	
European Services Forum (ESF)	Belgium
World Tourism Organization (WTO)	International
Nordic Tourism Collective	UK / Estonia
European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)	Belgium
Other	

Continued on next page

Table 2 – Continued from previous page

Stakeholder	Country, Region
European Partnership for Democracy (EPD)	Belgium
Central European Initiative (CEI)	Italy
Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)	Bosnia and Herzegovina
EUROLINK - House of Europe	Romania
Nordic Co-operation	Denmark
Union of the Baltic Cities (UBC)	Poland

4 Processes and Instruments for Consultation

Just like the first ELE project, ELE 2 also sees its mission as a communication and joint document preparation project. Work package 2 in ELE 1 (European Language Equality – The Future Situation in 2030) collected a vast amount of input for the SRIA and produced several reports by a broad and diverse spectrum of stakeholders about their views, needs and perspectives related to LT, language-centric AI and DLE, while anticipating the expected developments over the next ten years.

At the most abstract level, our main approach is two-fold: we distinguish between additional input and revisions for the agenda and roadmap generated within the consortium and input generated by organisations not participating as partners in ELE 2 (through the Financial Support for Third Parties mechanism, external consultation meetings, workshops, etc.). The internal or external stakeholders’ input and feedback will be systematically collected, structured and included in the agenda and roadmap development process so that we can refine the current version over time and deliver, at the end of ELE 2, a systematically revised strategic roadmap that enjoys broad support and is sustainable.

Whereas in the first part of ELE we mainly relied on surveys and questionnaires, in ELE 2 we will as much as possible conduct focused consultation meetings. It is planned to communicate with a large number of stakeholders in targeted online meetings and expert focus group interviews. Since we are primarily looking for dialogue partners and supporters this time who are not yet closely acquainted with our research and our community, we believe that a personal exchange can strengthen trust and increase willingness to engage with our topics. Moreover, this way of contacting people is more immediate and it can be easier to directly get some form of support or a commitment to support.

However, we are aware that this particular form of outreach will not always be possible or welcome. In this case, we will also resort to written, asynchronous types of dialogue. These stakeholder groups will be addressed with targeted and stakeholder-specific surveys and questionnaires that will be distributed to the relevant contacts. Both instruments should serve the purpose of collecting actual public endorsement.

4.1 Endorsement of the SRIA Recommendations

The latest version of the SRIA will be introduced for the first time to a larger group of stakeholders at the STOA workshop (“Towards full digital language equality in a multilingual European Union”) in the European Parliament on November 8, 2022. It will contain a number of concrete recommendations on how to reach DLE in Europe by 2030. These recommendations will be prioritised in terms of importance and summarised in a condensed manner so that ELE 2 can address stakeholders with these main recommendations and ask for their

endorsement. We will record at what level stakeholders have endorsed our recommendations, or if they have already supported or implemented them. They will be asked if there are specific projects or programmes that stakeholders use to address a recommendation. The endorsement of the stakeholders will be published on the ELE website alongside statements of representatives of political, research and funding agencies. Moreover, mechanisms will be put into place to monitor programmes and other measures in support of DLE at the regional, national and European levels (for a description of how the documentation of stakeholder endorsement and commitment to the ELE SRIA recommendations will be technically implemented, see Section 5).

4.2 Interviews and focused Consultation Meetings

To collect detailed feedback we will conduct consultation meetings with targeted informants who have been selected mainly based on their roles and impact in their community and domain. In many cases, and in order to make more educated decisions with regard to our contact list, the interviewees might be pre-qualified through a very short survey in order to identify if the person in question is actually the right contact, or if they can re-direct to more suitable colleagues in their organisation. This way we can avoid wasting time with mismatched interlocutors and manage expectations on both sides. In a next step, the contact persons are approached and invited to video calls. For these calls of about 20 to 30 minutes, an interview guideline will be developed in advance, which is based on the existing surveys, but we will pay attention to a target group-oriented adaptation. The results will be recorded and evaluated in detail. In addition, every effort will be made to obtain the widest possible endorsement. Supporting statements will be used for further communication measures such as social media posts or placement on the website.³

4.3 Dissemination Events

The ELE 2 consortium plans to make use of scientific conferences and other events (e. g., industrial events, EU events, etc.) to conduct dissemination activities in the form of talks, presentations or posters. In addition to that, an important event for the project is the ELE conference, META-FORUM 2023, which is planned to take place in June 2023, close to the end of ELE 2. In this event, which we envision to be a hybrid conference with the possibility of personal or virtual attendance, we intend to raise awareness of the key outcomes and impact of the project, and to present to interested parties how they can contribute to the mission of ELE, even after the actual runtime of ELE 2 (for further information on dissemination and communication of ELE 2, see Deliverable D4.1).

4.4 Surveys

The surveys disseminated in ELE 1 went into specific detail, demanding 20-40 minutes of response time. In ELE 2 we plan for very short focused surveys, tailored and targeted to specific stakeholder groups. The surveys will seek to elicit views in a structured way and will feed into the strategic agenda and roadmap. They will encompass closed and open-ended questions to inquire about the views of the current situation and their future predictions and visions. The surveys will be circulated through the consortium partners and other networks and associations that are part of the community. They will be set up as online forms for easy distribution as well as collection and analysis of responses.

³ For this, as well as for the recording of the results, the consent of the interviewees will be obtained in advance.

5 Documentation of Stakeholders Commitment

One of the objectives of ELE 2 is to develop and maintain a running log of the ELE stakeholders and to document their endorsement of the main – and most relevant for them – ELE SRIA recommendations. Technically the above entails the set up and maintenance of a catalogue of stakeholders. For each stakeholder we will document the country/-ies where they are based, the relevant language(s) (if applicable and appropriate) and one or more contact persons, usually the persons representing the stakeholder at the ELE consultations. Additionally, the stakeholders will be grouped into at least the following types, which may be further refined during the course of the consultation process:⁴

- Policy/funding agency
- Industry
- Research
- User
- Provider
- Other

As seed for the log of stakeholders we will initially use (i) the list of approximately 1.800 organisations listed in the ELG catalogue, (ii) the stakeholders already consulted during ELE 1, i. e. the respondents to the ELE 1 developers and users surveys, and (iii) the newly identified stakeholders listed in Section 3.7. These constitute the initial pool of candidate stakeholders to consult in Tasks 1.2 and 1.3.

To document the stakeholders' endorsement of and commitment to the ELE SRIA recommendations, we will follow a semi-automated approach and we will use a simple online form as the main instrument. This decision is based on the need to provide a user-friendly, short and concise way for stakeholders to register their support. Any complex operations requiring effort and time should be avoided, as they will discourage potential stakeholders' participation. For this reason the online form will provide a simple and intuitive user interface which will feature the main ELE SRIA recommendations and it will request input in the form of single choice or free short text answers. For each recommendation the stakeholder reached through Task 1.2 and Task 1.3 will be requested to indicate:

- type of endorsement, i. e., the stakeholder supports the recommendation, or has already actively addressed it or plans to address it;
- specific projects, programmes, initiatives etc. with which the stakeholder addresses or has addressed a recommendation.⁵

The advantage of such an online form is that it can be used as an instrument to elicit the stakeholders' support, both synchronously, i. e. during the consultations that will be taking place as part of Tasks 1.2 and 1.3, and asynchronously, i. e. as part of a follow-up contact or of a communication campaign (e. g., through social media posts).

The input provided by stakeholders will be available through the ELE website. It can be conceptualised as a multidimensional matrix whose dimensions represent the:

- main recommendations made and priorities set by the ELE SRIA,

⁴ A stakeholder can belong to more than one group.

⁵ Depending on the stakeholder type, "addressing a recommendation" may entail technology development, language resource release, funding, policy implementation, etc.

- groups or types of stakeholders,
- countries or regions,
- languages (if relevant)
- type of endorsement
- projects, programmes, initiatives etc.

This matrix will serve as an outlet of the level of support and endorsement of the key elements of the SRIA per individual stakeholder (and, by extension, stakeholder group), and per country or language (where applicable and if possible). It will also facilitate the sustainable monitoring of projects, programmes and other measures at the regional, national and European levels with the potential to contribute to the goal of achieving DLE in Europe by 2030, as a result of a large-scale multi-level and well coordinated effort.

6 Timeline

In the following, we present the envisaged timeline with the main milestones to be achieved in the respective phases for WP 1. All steps and tasks are aligned with the respective deliverables. This timeline is preliminary and will be adjusted as necessary to respond appropriately to any outputs of all work packages. Furthermore, we may perform additional adjustments depending on the level of engagement and willingness of the targeted stakeholders to contribute – this aspect is difficult to predict in advance with confidence.

- **November 2022:** STOA workshop (“Towards full digital language equality in a multilingual European Union”) in the European Parliament.
- **January 2023:** MS3 Stakeholder commitment dashboard to visualise stakeholder commitment in terms of pledged or already made contributions to the ELE SRIA.
- **January 2023:** First meetings with policy-making bodies and funding agencies.
- **March 2023:** D3.2 Missing resources and relevant stakeholders (prioritised list of missing LRTs including tools, products and services as well as relevant stakeholders).
- **March 2023:** Follow-up meetings with policy-making bodies and funding agencies.
- **April 2023:** D1.2 Report on consultations with funding agencies, policy makers and language institutes (results of the consultations).
- **May 2023:** D1.3 Report on all consultations with stakeholders.
- **May 2023:** D3.4 Consolidation and curation of all input and feedback received: Collected and consolidated material prepared in WP1 (results of further consultations with stakeholders, funding agencies, policy makers and language institutes), WP2 (the results of the open call for contribution projects) and WP3 (results from Task 3.1 and Task 3.2). The material will be curated and included in the SRIA document (D4.2).
- **June 2023:** D3.3 Extended database and ELE dashboard (brief summary report and populated database and visualisation dashboard of the DLE metric components, i. e., its technological and contextual indicators).
- **June 2023:** META-FORUM 2023 – the final ELE 2 conference.

7 Summary and Next Steps

This deliverable sets out the ways in which we want to secure the support of stakeholders at this stage of ELE, which stakeholder groups we believe are important now, and which stakeholder groups we want to engage with. It specifies how the endorsement of potential supporters is going to be documented and how the results will be used.

The next steps will be to further refine the list of organisations and associations to be contacted, to identify the appropriate contacts there and to define the best means of outreach. Furthermore, the contacts may be qualified through a very short and crisp pre-survey to see if they really match. The results will be documented in further reports and in later iterations of the SRIA.

References

- Itziar Aldabe, Georg Rehm, German Rigau, , and Andy Way. Deliverable D3.1 Report on existing strategic documents and projects in LT/AI, 2021. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/ELE__Deliverable_D3_1_revised_.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.
- Gerhard Backfried, Marcin Skowron, Eva Navas, Aivars Bērziņš, Joachim Van den Bogaert, Franciska de Jong, Andrea DeMarco, Inma Hernaez, Marek Kováč, Peter Polák, Johan Rohdin, Michael Rosner, Jon Sanchez, Ibon Saratxaga, and Petr Schwarz. Deliverable D2.14 Technology Deep Dive – Speech Technologies, 2022. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ELE__Deliverable_D2_14_Speech_Technologies.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.
- Aivars Bērziņš, Mārcis Pinnis, Inguna Skadiņa, Andrejs Vasiļjevs, Nora Aranberri, Joachim Van den Bogaert, Sally O’Connor, Mercedes García–Martínez, Iakes Goenaga, Jan Hajič, Manuel Herranz, Christian Lieske, Martin Popel, Maja Popović, Sheila Castilho, Federico Gaspari, Rudolf Rosa, Ricardo Superbo, and Andy Way. Deliverable D2.13 Technology Deep Dive – Machine Translation, 2022. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ELE__Deliverable_D2_13_Machine_Translation_.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.
- Federico Gaspari, Andy Way, Jane Dunne, Georg Rehm, Stelios Piperidis, and Maria Giagkou. Deliverable D1.1 Digital Language Equality (preliminary definition), 2021. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ELE_Deliverable_D1_1.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.
- Jose Manuel Gomez-Perez, Andres Garcia-Silva, Cristian Berrio, German Rigau, Aitor Soroa, Christian Lieske, Johannes Hoffart, Felix Sasaki, Daniel Dahlmeier, Inguna Skadiņa, Aivars Bērziņš, Andrejs Vasiļjevs, and Teresa Lynn. Deliverable D2.15 Technology Deep Dive – Text Analytics, Text and Data Mining, NLU, 2022. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ELE__Deliverable_D2_15_Text_Analytics_.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.
- Jan Hajič, Maria Giagkou, Stelios Piperidis, Georg Rehm, and Natalia Resende. Deliverable D2.1 Specification of the consultation process, 2021. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ELE__Deliverable_D2_1.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.
- Stefanie Hegele, Rémi Calizzano, Annika Grütznert-Zahn, Katrin Marheinecke, and Georg Rehm. Deliverable D4.1 Promotional materials and PR package, 2021. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/ELE__Deliverable_D4_1.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.

Martin Kaltenboeck, Artem Revenko, Khalid Choukri, Svetla Boytcheva, Christian Lieske, Teresa Lynn, German Rigau, Maria Heuschkel, Aritz Farwell, Gareth Jones, Itziar Aldabe, Ainara Estarrona, Katrin Marheinecke, Stelios Piperidis, Victoria Arranz, Vincent Vandeghinste, and Claudia Borg. Deliverable D2.16 Technology Deep Dive – Data, Language Resources, Knowledge Graphs, 2022. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/ELE__Deliverable_D2_16_Data_and_Knowledge_.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.

LT-Innovate. The lt-innovate innovation agenda, 2016. URL http://www.lt-innovate.org/sites/default/files/2904-LTi_Innovation_Agenda.pdf.

Georg Rehm and Hans Uszkoreit, editors. *The META-NET Strategic Research Agenda for Multilingual Europe 2020*. Springer, Heidelberg, New York, Dordrecht, London, 2013. URL <http://www.meta-net.eu/sra>. More than 200 contributors from research and industry.

Andrejs Vasiljevs, Khalid Choukri, Luc Meertens, and Stefania Aguzzi. Final study report on CEF Automated Translation value proposition in the context of the European LT market/ecosystem, 2019. DOI 10.2759/142151. A study prepared for the European Commission, DG Communications Networks, Content & Technology by Crosslang, Tilde, ELDA, IDC.

Andy Way, Georg Rehm, Jane Dunne, Jan Hajič, Teresa Lynn, Maria Giagkou, Natalia Resende, Tereza Vojtěchová, Stelios Piperidis, Andrejs Vasiljevs, Aivars Berzins, Gerhard Backfried, Marcin Skowron, Jose Manuel Gomez-Perez, Andres Garcia-Silva, Martin Kaltenböck, and Artem Revenko. Deliverable D2.17 Report on all external consultations and surveys, 2022. URL https://european-language-equality.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/ELE__Deliverable_D2_17_Report_on_External_Consultations_-2.pdf. Project deliverable; EU project European Language Equality (ELE); Grant Agreement no. LC-01641480 – 101018166 ELE.