EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY

META-NET

META-FORUM 2023

ELE: General Overview and Book Presentation

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27-06-2023 META-FORUM 2023 – Digital Language Equality for a Multilingual Europe
http://european-language-equality.eu

“Language Equality” EP Resolution (2018)

EP Resolution “Language equality in the digital age”
P8_TA(2018)0332 – partially based on the STOA study

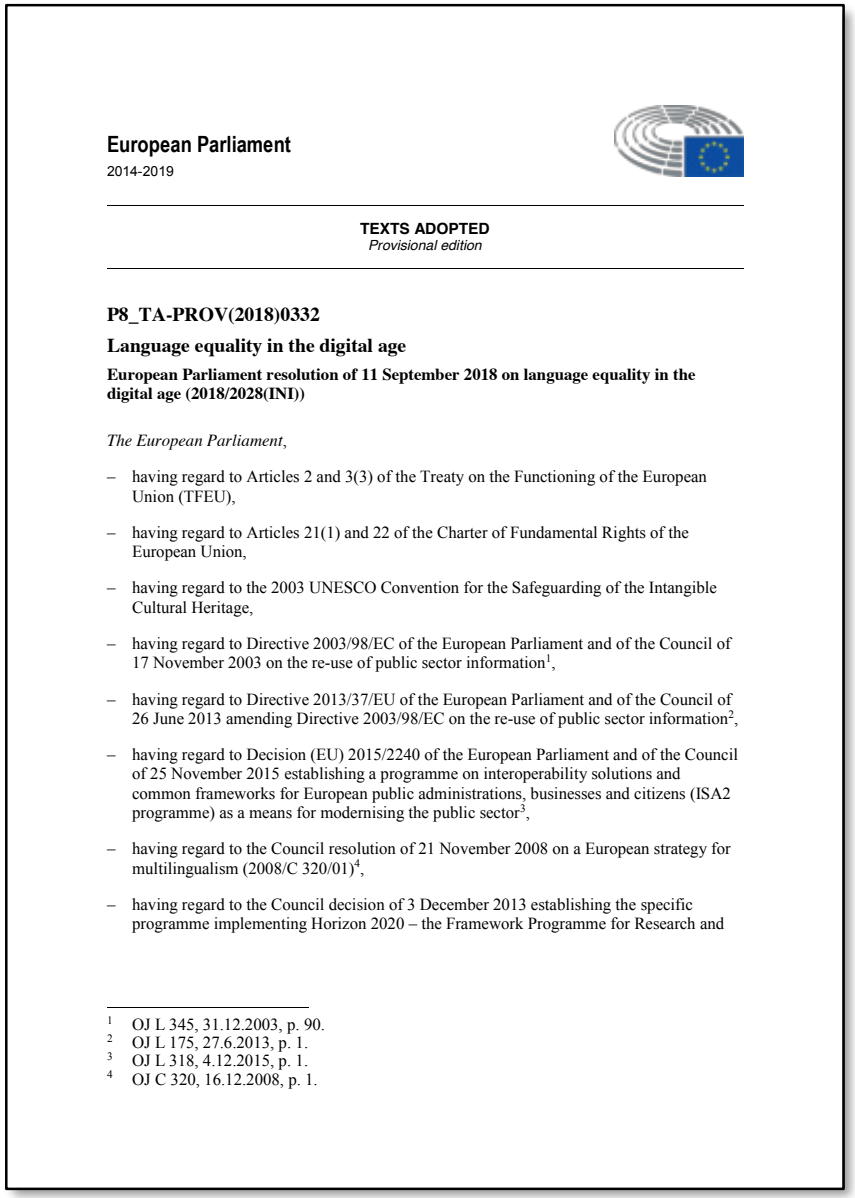
Voting (11 Sept. 2018): **592 yes** – 45 no

Selected Recommendations addressed by ELE:

25. Establish a large-scale, long-term coordinated funding programme for research, development and innovation in the field of language technologies, at European, national and regional levels, tailored specifically to Europe’s needs and demands

29. Create a European LT platform for sharing of services

27. Europe has to secure its leadership in language-centric AI



European Parliament
2014-2019

TEXTS ADOPTED
Provisional edition

P8_TA-PROV(2018)0332

Language equality in the digital age

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

The European Parliament,

– having regard to Articles 2 and 3(3) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU),

– having regard to Articles 21(1) and 22 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union,

– having regard to the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage,

– having regard to Directive 2003/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 November 2003 on the re-use of public sector information[1],

– having regard to Directive 2013/37/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 June 2013 amending Directive 2003/98/EC on the re-use of public sector information[2],

– having regard to Decision (EU) 2015/2240 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 establishing a programme on interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses and citizens (ISA2 programme) as a means for modernising the public sector[3],

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

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

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

European Language Equality (ELE) 1 and 2

http://www.european-language-equality.eu

Coordinator: DCU (ADAPT Centre)

Co-Coordinator: DFKI

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Consortium: 52 partners (core partners: DCU – ADAPT Centre, DFKI, Charles University, ILSP, University of the Basque Country)

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

Runtime: 18 months • January 2021 – June 2022

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Consortium: 7 partners (core partners + EFNIL and ELEN)

Objective: *Revision and extension of the strategic agenda and roadmap*

Runtime: 12 months • July 2022 – June 2023

ELE: Consortium with 52 partners from research and industry and a very large network that covers all of Europe

META-FORUM 2022 – June 8/9, Brussels, Belgium

ELE (Jan. 2021 – June 2022)

- Main result: **Strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda to achieve digital language equality in Europe by 2030** – all deliverables contributed input to the SRIA.
- Research partners produced updates of the 32 META-NET White Papers (one report each).
- Networks and initiatives produced one report each in which they consolidate their own positions, needs, wishes, demands, visions etc.
- SME partners produced four technical deep dives.
- Number of languages taken into account: 92
- 66 deliverables in total with more than 2400+ pages written

ELE 2 (July 2022 – June 2023)

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- One additional feedback loop to **revise the SRIA**.
- Open call for SRIA Contribution Projects (FSTP): motivate and facilitate the buy in/take-up from funding agencies and other parties.
- Prepared list of missing LRTs for each language.
- Reached out to additional stakeholders and liaised with policy makers.
- Continued and strengthened the engagement and dissemination effort (public consultations, social media activities, etc.).
- Extended and continued the ELE dashboard.

European Language Equality (ELE)

Work Packages and main Deliverables

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

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

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- Digital Language Equality: Definition of the concept
- Language Technology and language-centric AI: State of the Art
- 32 reports on the technology support of 32 European languages (META-NET White Paper update)
- Reports from networks, initiatives and associations
- Deep dives (MT, speech, text analytics, data)
- Report on external consultations and surveys
- Forecast: Language Technology in 2030

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

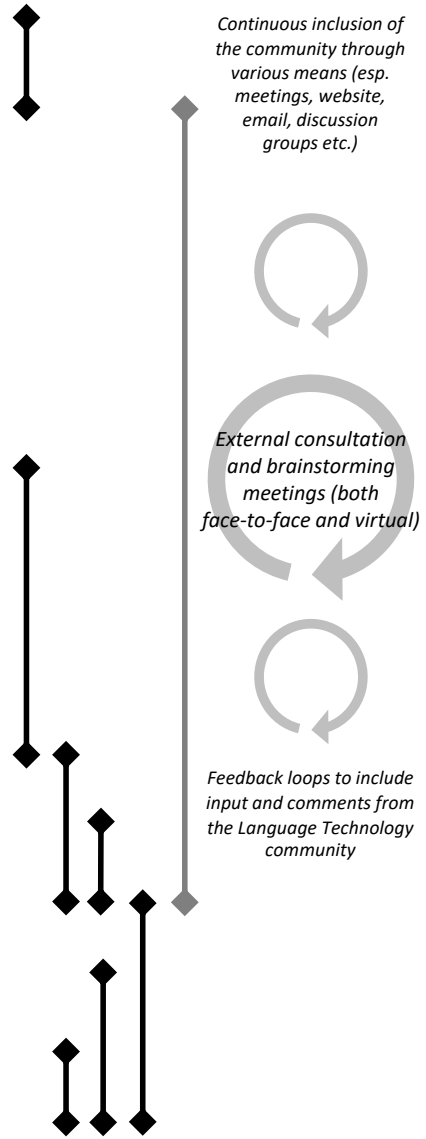
- Existing strategic documents and projects in LT/AI
- Strategic agenda and roadmap: initial version
- Final round of feedback collection
- Strategic agenda and roadmap: final version

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

- EP/EC Workshop → ELE Conference
- ELE Strategic Agenda and Roadmap (print version, interactive version) → Final ELE Book Publication

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

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



Timeline

Deliverables

- ELE includes an unusually high number of 66 deliverables plus various non-contractual reports provided by unfunded partners
- All public deliverables and non-contractual reports are available on https://european-language-equality.eu/deliverables/
- This is an extremely rich and useful body of work.
- Total number of pages of deliverables available online: 2400+

No.	Deliverable name	WP	Short name	Type	Diss. level	Date
D1.1	Digital Language Equality – preliminary definition	1	DCU	R	Public	3
D1.2	Report on the state of the art in Language Technology and Language-centric AI	1	EHU	R	Public	9
D1.3	Digital Language Equality – full specification of the concept	1	DCU	R	Public	13
D1.4	Report on Basque	1	EHU	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.5	Report on Bulgarian	1	IBL	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.6	Report on Catalan	1	BSC	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.7	Report on Croatian	1	FFZG	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.8	Report on Czech	1	CUNI	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.9	Report on Danish	1	UCPH	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.10	Report on Dutch	1	UU	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.11	Report on English	1	USFD	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.12	Report on Estonian	1	UTART	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.13	Report on Finnish	1	UHEL	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.14	Report on French	1	CNRS	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.15	Report on Galician	1	UVIGO	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.16	Report on German	1	DFKI	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.17	Report on Greek	1	ILSP	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.18	Report on Hungarian	1	NYTI	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.19	Report on Icelandic	1	SAM	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.20	Report on Irish	1	DCU	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.21	Report on Italian	1	FBK	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.22	Report on Latvian	1	IMCS	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.23	Report on Lithuanian	1	LKI	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.24	Report on Luxembourgish	1	LIST	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.25	Report on Maltese	1	UOM	R+OTH	Public	14

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY

Deliverables 1/3

D1.26	Report on Norwegian	1	LCNOR	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.27	Report on Polish	1	PAS	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.28	Report on Portuguese	1	ULIS	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.29	Report on Romanian	1	ICIA	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.30	Report on Serbian	1	FILFUB	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.31	Report on Slovak	1	JULS	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.32	Report on Slovenian	1	JSI	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.33	Report on Spanish	1	BSC	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.34	Report on Swedish	1	KTH	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.35	Report on Welsh	1	BNGR	R+OTH	Public	14
D1.36	Database and dashboard with the empirical data collected in D1.4-D1.35 (and others)	1	ILSP	R+OTH	Public	16
D2.1	Specification of the consultation process including templates, surveys, events etc.	2	CUNI	R	Public	4
D2.2	Report from CLAIRE	2	ULEID	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.3	Report from CLARIN	2	CLARIN	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.4	Report from LT Innovate	2	CRSLNG	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.5	Report from META-NET	2	CUNI	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.6	Report from ELG	2	DFKI	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.7	Report from ECSPM	2	ECSPM	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.8	Report from EFNIL	2	EFNIL	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.9	Report from ELEN	2	ELEN	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.10	Report from LIBER	2	LIBER	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.11	Report from NEM	2	ERSCM	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.12	Report from Wikipedia	2	WMD	R+OTH	Public	14
D2.13	Technology deep dive Machine Translation	2	TILDE	R	Public	14
D2.14	Technology deep dive Speech Technologies	2	SAIL	R	Public	14
D2.15	Technology deep dive Text Analytics and Natural Language Understanding	2	EXPSYS	R	Public	14

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY

Deliverables 2/3

D2.16	Technology deep dive Data	2	SWC	R	Public	14
D2.17	Report on all external consultations and surveys	2	CUNI	R	Public	15
D2.18	Report on the state of Language Technology in 2030	2	CUNI	R	Public	16
D3.1	Report on existing strategic documents and projects in LT/AI	3	EHU	R	Public	3
D3.2	Strategic agenda including roadmap – initial version	3	DFKI	R	Public	15
D3.3	Report on the final round of feedback collection	3	EHU	R	Public	17
D3.4	Strategic agenda including roadmap – final version	3	DFKI	R	Public	18
D4.1	Promotional materials and PR package	4	DFKI	R+OTH	Public	3
D4.2	Communication and dissemination plan	4	DFKI	R	Public	6
D4.3	Report on EP/EC workshop	4	DFKI	R	Public	18
D4.4	Report on ELE conference	4	DFKI	R	Public	18
D4.5	Strategic agenda and roadmap (print version, online version)	4	DFKI	R	Public	18
D4.6	ELE book publication	4	DFKI	R	Public	18
D5.1	Digital collaboration and document management infrastructure	5	DCU	R+OTH	Confidential	3
D5.2	Project management report (interim report)	5	DCU	R	Confidential	9
D5.3	Project management report (final report)	5	DCU	R	Confidential	18

Deliverables 3/3

D1.35 Report Serbian, FILFUB, February 2022, 25 pages

D1.36 Report Bosnian, ECSPM, February 2022, 18 pages

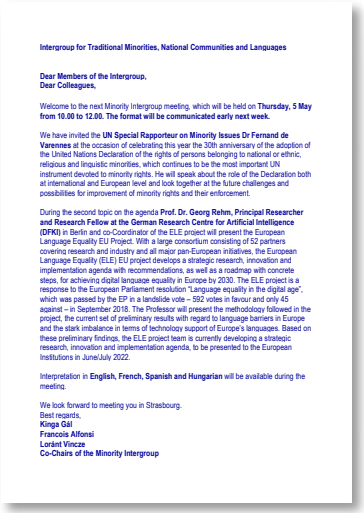
D1.38 Report on the Nordic Minority Languages, May 2022, 51 pages

D1.39 Report on the West Frisian Language, ELEN, June 2022, 28 pages

D1.40 Report on Sign Languages, May 2023, 31 pages

Non-contractual reports

European Parliament and European Commission (2022/23)



Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages

Dear Members of the Intergroup,
Dear Colleagues,

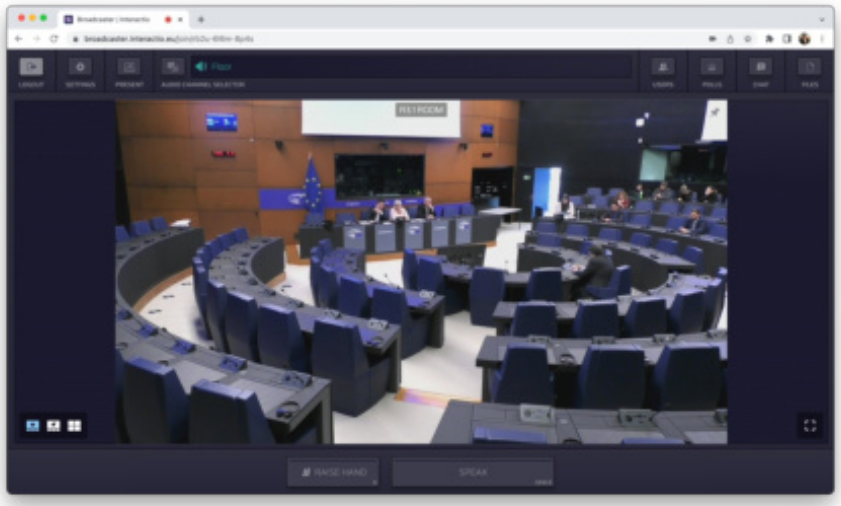
Welcome to the next Minority Intergroup meeting, which will be held on **Thursday, 5 May from 10.00 to 12.00. The format will be communicated early next week.**

We have invited the **UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues Dr Fernand de Varennes** at the occasion of celebrating this year the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Declaration of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, which continues to be the most important UN instrument devoted to minority rights. He will speak about the role of the Declaration both at international and European level and look together at the future challenges and possibilities for improvement of minority rights and their enforcement.

During the second topic on the agenda **Prof. Dr. Georg Rehm, Principal Researcher and Research Fellow at the German Research Centre for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI)** in Berlin and co-Coordinator of the ELE project will present the European Language Equality EU Project. With a large consortium consisting of 52 partners covering research and industry and all major pan-European initiatives, the European Language Equality (ELE) EU project develops a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda with recommendations, as well as a roadmap with concrete steps, for achieving digital language equality in Europe by 2030. The ELE project is a response to the European Parliament resolution "Language equality in the digital age", which was passed by the EP in a landslide vote – 592 votes in favour and only 45 against – in September 2018. The Professor will present the methodology followed in the project, the current set of preliminary results with regard to language barriers in Europe and the stark imbalance in terms of technology support of Europe's languages. Based on these preliminary findings, the ELE project team is currently developing a strategic research, innovation and implementation agenda, to be presented to the European Institutions in June/July 2022.

Interpretation in **English, French, Spanish and Hungarian** will be available during the meeting.

We look forward to meeting you in Strasbourg.
Best regards,
Kinga Gál
François Alfonsi
Loránt Vincze
Co-Chairs of the Minority Intergroup



Intergroup for Traditional Minorities, National Communities and Languages (March 2022)

Meeting with Commissioner Gabriel (March 2023)

STOA
Science and Technology Options Assessment

STOA Workshop "Towards full digital language equality in a multilingual European Union" (November 2022)

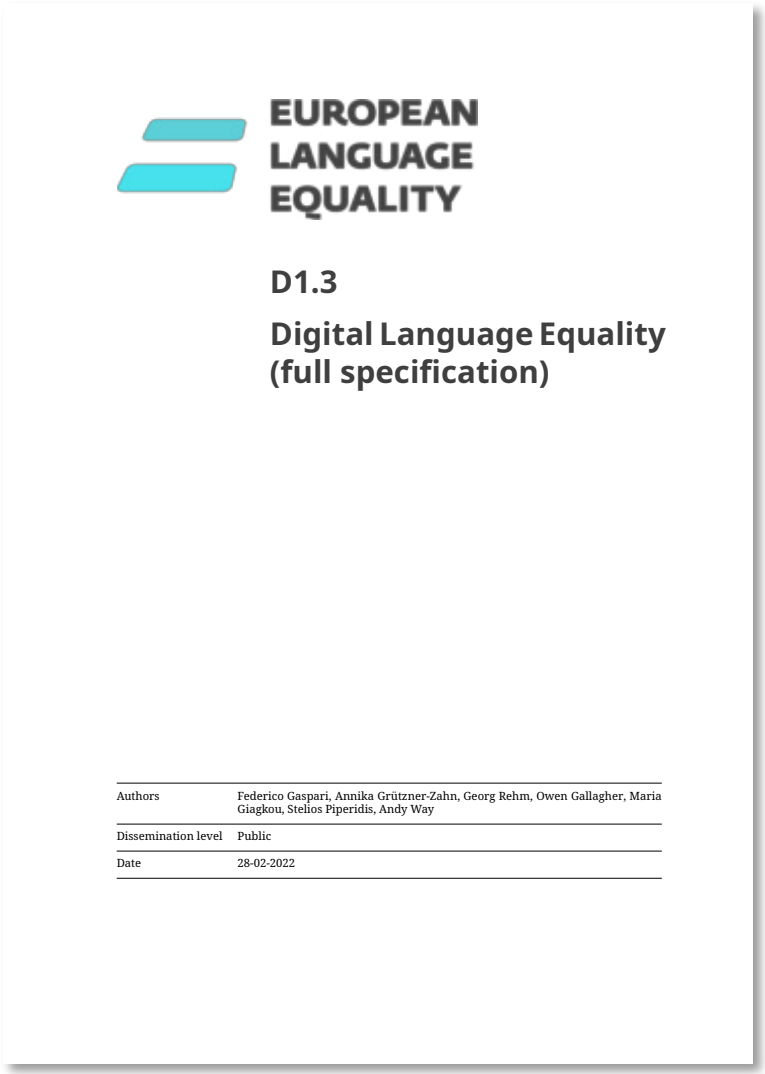
Digital Language Equality and DLE Metric

Digital Language Equality (DLE) is the state of affairs in which all languages have the technological support and situational context necessary for them to continue to exist and to prosper as living languages in the digital age.

The **DLE metric** is a measure that reflects the digital readiness of a language and its contribution to the state of technology-enabled multilingualism, tracking its progress towards the goal of DLE.

Digital Language Equality Metric

- Digital Language Equality Metric
  - Provide theoretical basis to achieve DLE in Europe by 2030
  - Key ingredient of the evidence-based SRIA and roadmap
    - Evidence: the European Language Grid catalogue
  - Enable comparisons among Europe's languages
  - Identify gaps to help prioritise future interventions
- Modular and flexible design
- Well-defined quantifiers, measures and indicators
- Compatibility and interoperability with ELG metadata schema, i.e., the DLE definition is fully aligned with ELG
- Intended to guide and prioritise future LT development and LR creation, collection, curation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D1.3

Digital Language Equality (full specification)

Authors	Federico Gaspari, Annika Grützner-Zahn, Georg Rehm, Owen Gallagher, Maria Giagkou, Stelios Piperidis, Andy Way
Dissemination level	Public
Date	28-02-2022

Technological Factors & Contextual Factors – Examples

Technological Factors

Example: Corpora/Datasets

- Language(s)
- Domain(s)
- License
- Type of access
- Corpus subclass
- Media type(s) of parts
- Multilinguality type
- Corpus size

Contextual Factors

Example: Economy

- Size of economy of respective country, countries, region
- Size of LT/NLP market in country, countries, region
- Size of language service and translation/interpreting market in the respective country, countries or region
- Percentage of the IT/ICT sector relative to the economy
- Investment instruments targeting AI/LT/NLP start-ups
- Regional or national LT/NLP/LSP etc. market
- Average socio-economic status of members of the language community

DLE Metric: Technological Scores

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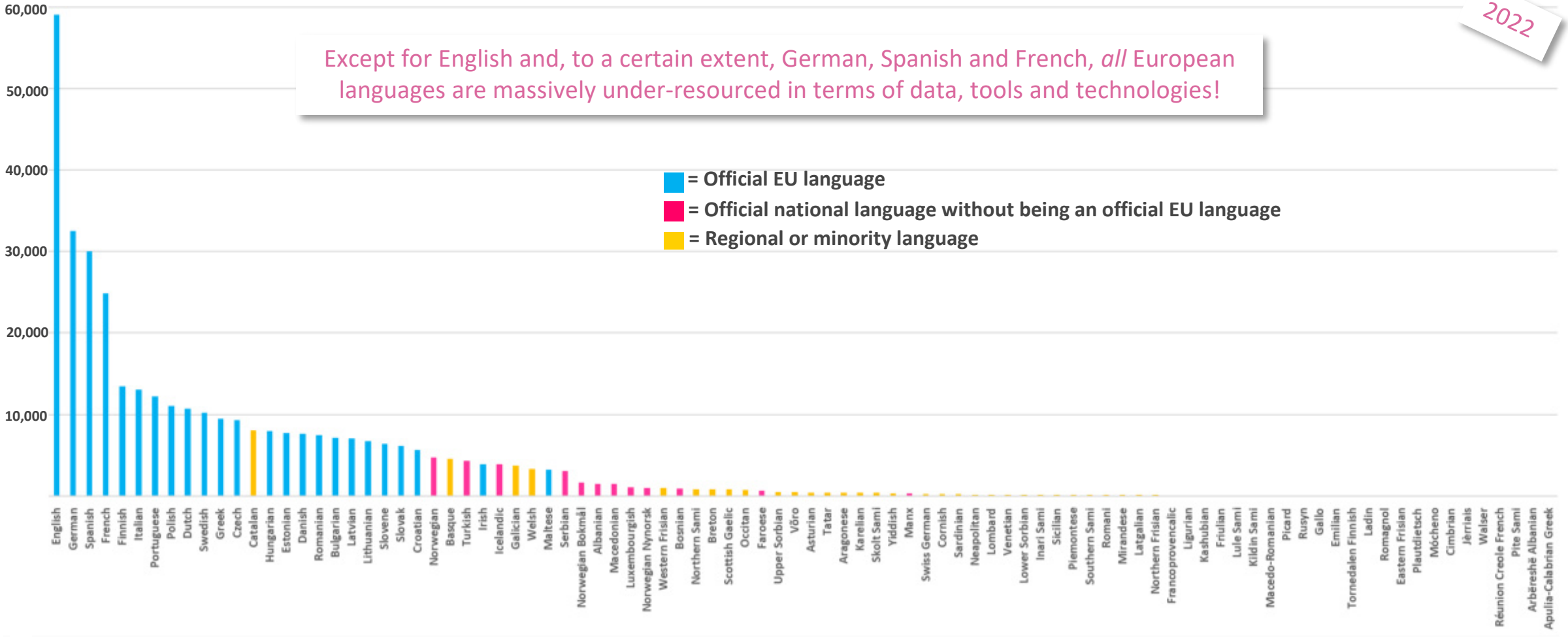
2022

Except for English and, to a certain extent, German, Spanish and French, *all* European languages are massively under-resourced in terms of data, tools and technologies!



DLE Metric: Contextual Scores

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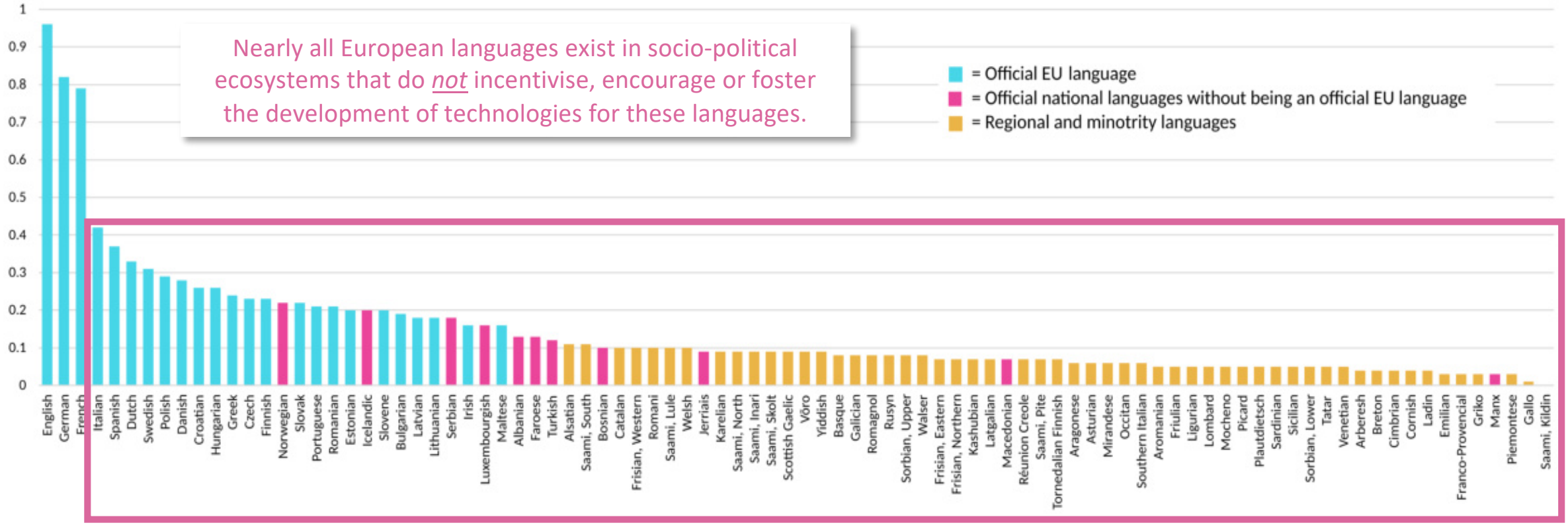
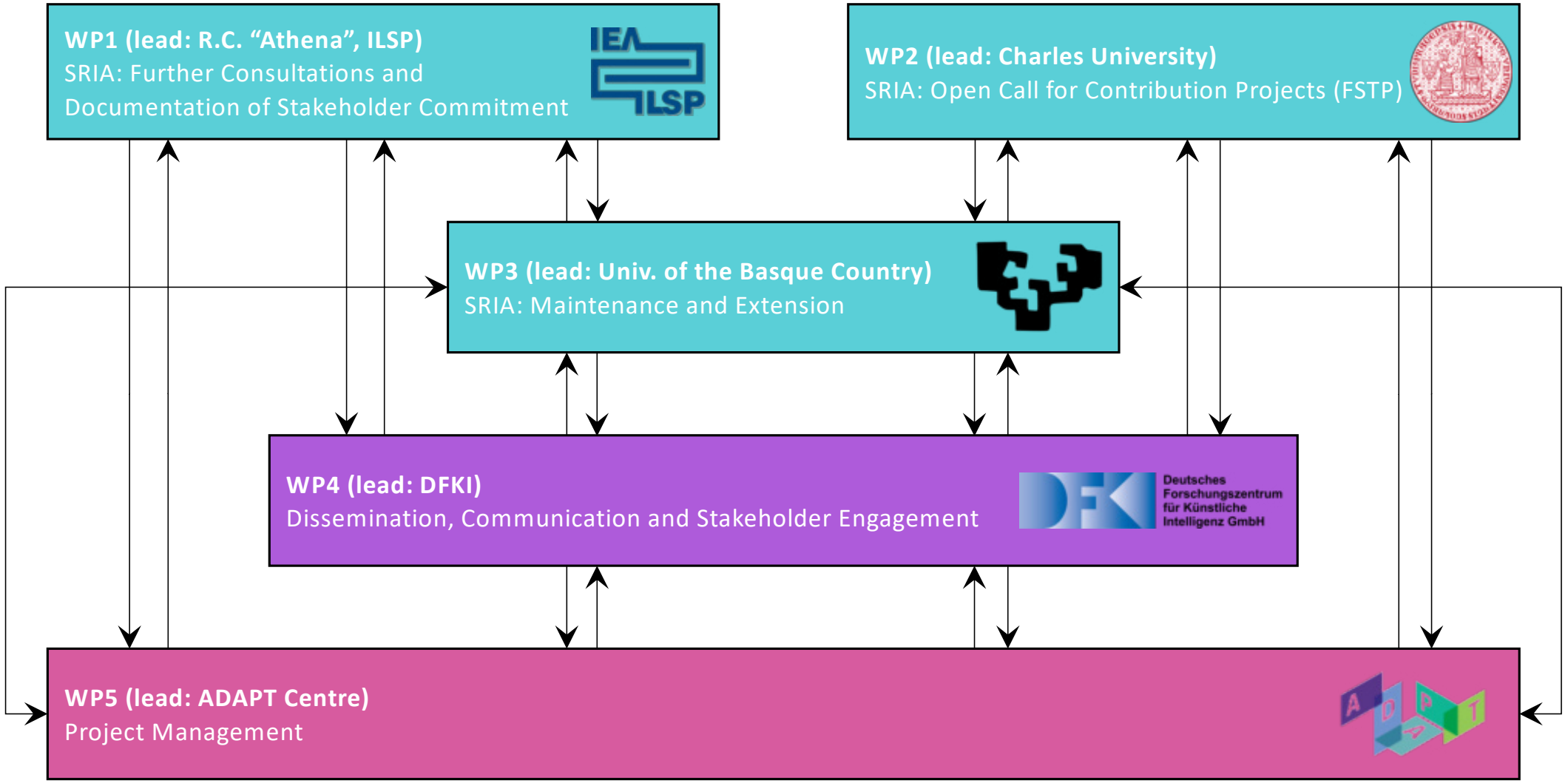
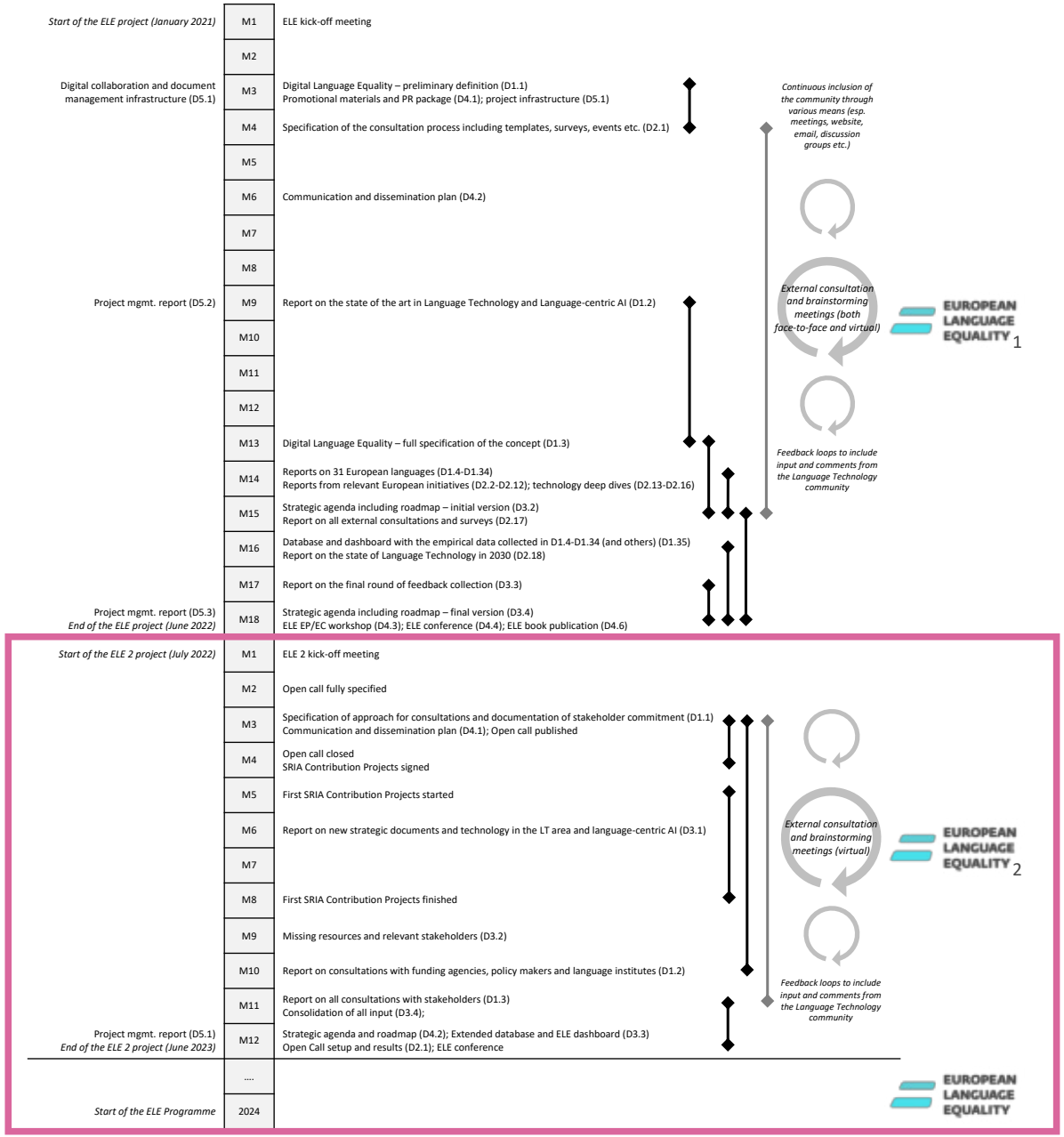
Nearly all European languages exist in socio-political ecosystems that do *not* incentivise, encourage or foster the development of technologies for these languages.



European Language Equality 2 (ELE2)


WP1 (lead: R.C. “Athena”, ILSP)
SRIA: Further Consultations and
Documentation of Stakeholder Commitment
WP2 (lead: Charles University)
SRIA: Open Call for Contribution Projects (FSTP)
WP3 (lead: Univ. of the Basque Country)
SRIA: Maintenance and Extension
WP4 (lead: DFKI)
Dissemination, Communication and Stakeholder Engagement
Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz GmbH
WP5 (lead: ADAPT Centre)
Project Management


Start of the ELE project (January 2021)
M1
ELE kick-off meeting
M2
Digital collaboration and document management infrastructure (D5.1)
M3
Digital Language Equality – preliminary definition (D1.1)
Promotional materials and PR package (D4.1); project infrastructure (D5.1)
M4
Specification of the consultation process including templates, surveys, events etc. (D2.1)
Continuous inclusion of the community through various means (esp. meetings, website, email, discussion groups etc.)
M5
M6
Communication and dissemination plan (D4.2)
M7
M8
Project mgmt. report (D5.2)
M9
Report on the state of the art in Language Technology and Language-centric AI (D1.2)
External consultation and brainstorming meetings (both face-to-face and virtual)
EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY 1
M10
M11
M12
M13
Digital Language Equality – full specification of the concept (D1.3)
Feedback loops to include input and comments from the Language Technology community
M14
Reports on 31 European languages (D1.4-D1.34)
Reports from relevant European initiatives (D2.2-D2.12); technology deep dives (D2.13-D2.16)
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M17
Report on the final round of feedback collection (D3.3)
Project mgmt. report (D5.3)
End of the ELE project (June 2022)
M18
Strategic agenda including roadmap – final version (D3.4)
ELE EP/EC workshop (D4.3); ELE conference (D4.4); ELE book publication (D4.6)
Start of the ELE 2 project (July 2022)
M1
ELE 2 kick-off meeting
M2
Open call fully specified
M3
Specification of approach for consultations and documentation of stakeholder commitment (D1.1)
Communication and dissemination plan (D4.1); Open call published
M4
Open call closed
SRIA Contribution Projects signed
M5
First SRIA Contribution Projects started
M6
Report on new strategic documents and technology in the LT area and language-centric AI (D3.1)
External consultation and brainstorming meetings (virtual)
EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY 2
M7
M8
First SRIA Contribution Projects finished
M9
Missing resources and relevant stakeholders (D3.2)
M10
Report on consultations with funding agencies, policy makers and language institutes (D1.2)
Feedback loops to include input and comments from the Language Technology community
M11
Report on all consultations with stakeholders (D1.3)
Consolidation of all input (D3.4);
Project mgmt. report (D5.1)
End of the ELE 2 project (June 2023)
M12
Strategic agenda and roadmap (D4.2); Extended database and ELE dashboard (D3.3)
Open Call setup and results (D2.1); ELE conference
....
EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY
Start of the ELE Programme
2024

Start of the ELE 2 project (July 2022)	M1	ELE 2 kick-off meeting
	M2	Open call fully specified
	M3	Specification of approach for consultations and documentation of stakeholder commitment (D1.1) Communication and dissemination plan (D4.1); Open call published
	M4	Open call closed SRIA Contribution Projects signed
	M5	First SRIA Contribution Projects started
	M6	Report on new strategic documents and technology in the LT area and language-centric AI (D3.1)
	M7	
	M8	First SRIA Contribution Projects finished
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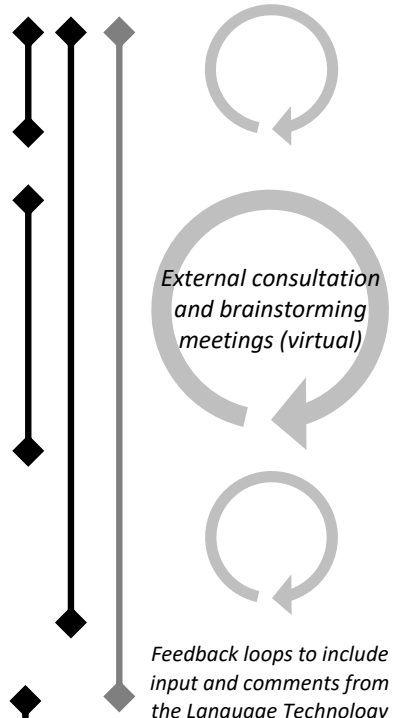
Project mgmt. report (D5.1) *End of the ELE 2 project (June 2023)*	M12	Strategic agenda and roadmap (D4.2); Extended database and ELE dashboard (D3.3) Open Call setup and results (D2.1); ELE conference
	….	
Start of the ELE Programme	2024	



EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY 2

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY

ELE 2 (July 2022 – June 2023)

EUROPEAN LANGUAGE EQUALITY

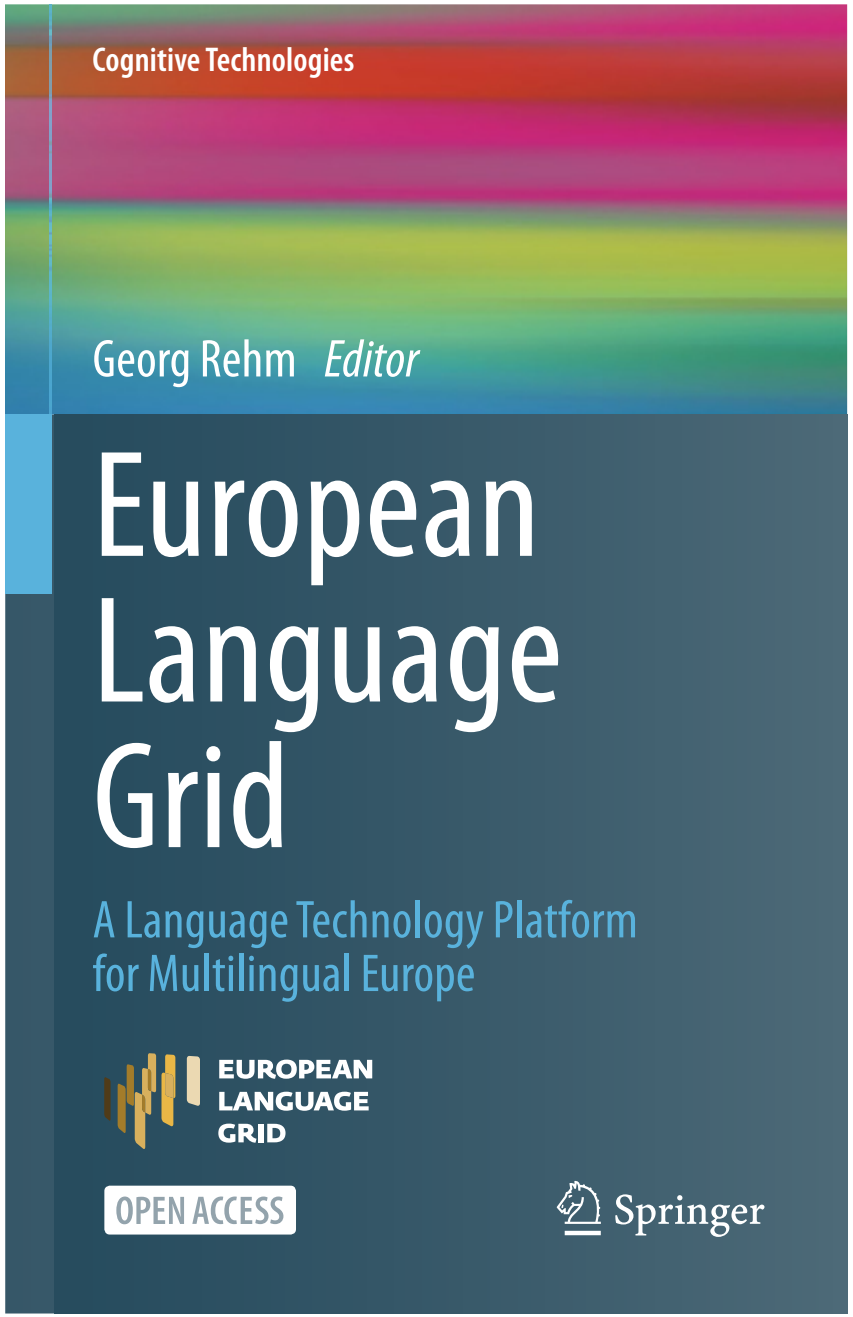
10:00 **ELE Strategic Research, Innovation and Implementation Agenda – Revisited**

11:45 **Session 3: ELE – The Pilot Projects and their results**

10:45 **Session 2: The Role of National and Regional Language Institutes for Digital Language Equality**

09:45 **New Features in the DLE Dashboard and Update of the Cross-language Comparison**

- One additional feedback loop to revise the **SRIA**.
- Open call for SRIA Contribution Projects (FSTP): motivate and facilitate the buy in/take-up from funding agencies and other parties.
- Prepared list of missing LRTs for each language.
- Reached out to additional stakeholders and liaised with policy makers.
- Continued and strengthened the engagement and dissemination effort (public consultations, social media activities, etc.).
- Extended and continued the ELE dashboard.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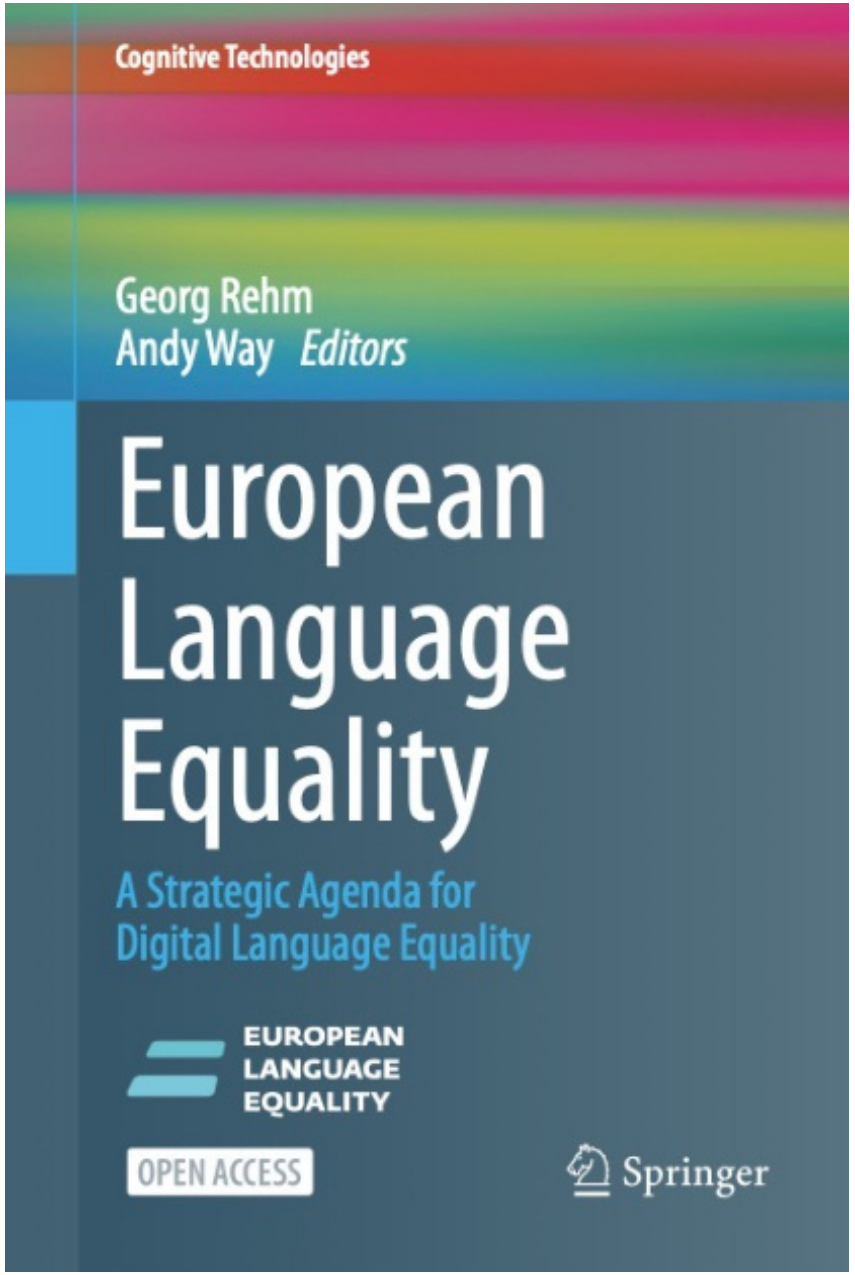
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European Language Equality
A Strategic Agenda for Digital Language Equality
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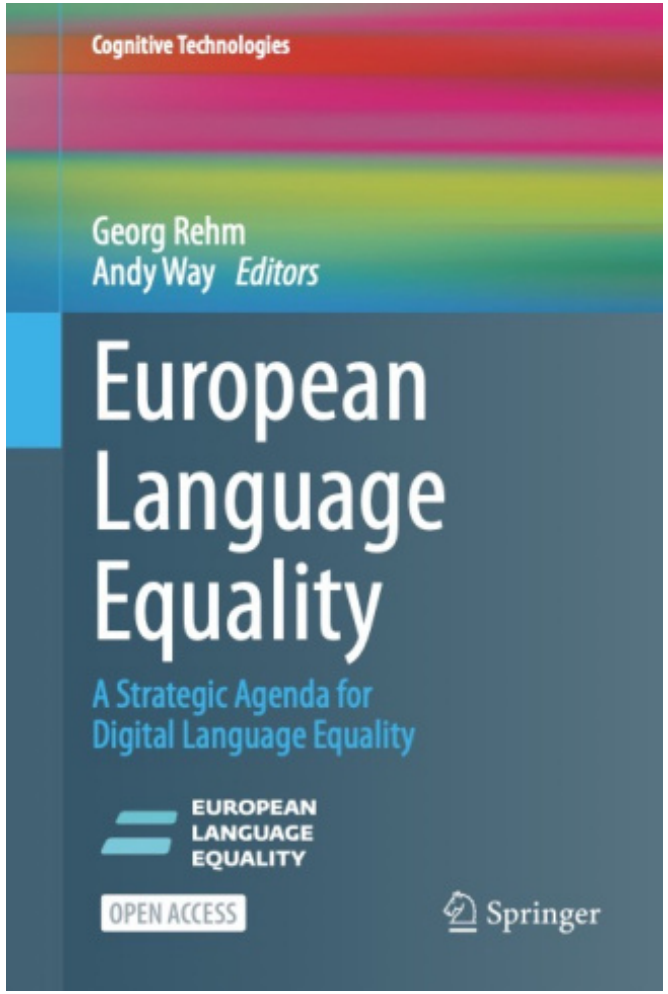
European Language Equality Book

- Published digitally in late May 2023, hardcopies available since June 2023
- Open Access
- 45 chapters, divided into two parts (441 pages in total)

European Language Equality – A Strategic Agenda for Digital Language Equality

Part I European Language Equality – Status Quo in 2022 (37 chapters)

Part II European Language Equality – The Future Situation in 2030 and beyond (8 chapters)



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European Language Equality

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