ELE – The Pilot Projects and their Results

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Motivation and Objectives

- **Motivation to organize open call for SRIA Contribution Projects (Pilot Projects):**
  - to allow members of the wider European LT and multilingual Europe community to join and contribute to the ELE2 project
  - namely to bring in external ideas and expertise to SRIA
  - but also to obtain other related materials for communication and dissemination purposes

- **Expected outcomes of the Pilot Projects:**
  - clearly defined and potentially also implemented use cases and best-practice examples in relevant industry sectors and areas of life, including feasibility studies and guidelines for concrete implementations
  - supported activities: elaboration of feasibility studies, best-practice/guidelines or deployment of LT, aligned with the SRIA or supporting the SRIA elaboration

Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects – Topics Areas

Before the open call was launched, ELE2 consortium detected (with help of broader ELE consortium) crucial parts of the SRIA which would need to be extended or revised. Finally, ELE2 consortium selected the ten most called-for topics to which applicants of the open call could submit their proposals:

1. Data sets for more robust speech technology

2. Study of language coverage for text mining and NLU in key European industrial sectors

3. Legal Assessment (Desk Research)

4. General NLP/LT/AI Landscaping (Desk Research)

5. General NLP/LT Domains (Desk Research)

6. Analysis of AI and LT in European news media

7. Computing facilities for LT (Desk Research)

8. Demonstrably Greener Models of MT

9. Survey of the use of LT in the hospital sector

10. Basic Language Resource Kit (BLARK) (Desk Research)

Open Call for SRIA Contribution Projects – Key Parameters

- **Eligible activities:**
  - desk research, consultations, surveys, studies, analyses, mapping projects;
  - research activities;
  - awareness and dissemination actions;
  - putting together best practice examples, preparation and publishing of ready-to-use guidelines;
- **Eligible applicants:**
  - Research organisations (including but not limited to higher education organisations and independent research organisations), NGOs, incorporated associations and companies legally established in EU Member States
- **The key selection criterion:** a rigorous assessment of whether the proposed SRIA Contribution Project will be able to contribute in a significant way to the overall success and uptake of the strategic agenda. Also, innovativeness, impact, feasibility, and reasonability and appropriateness of the budget were evaluated.
- **Total budget distributed in the open call:** € 185,000 distributed using FSTP mechanism
- **Maximum grant amount:** € 25,000 per project (10% co-funding), financial support provided in the form of lump sum
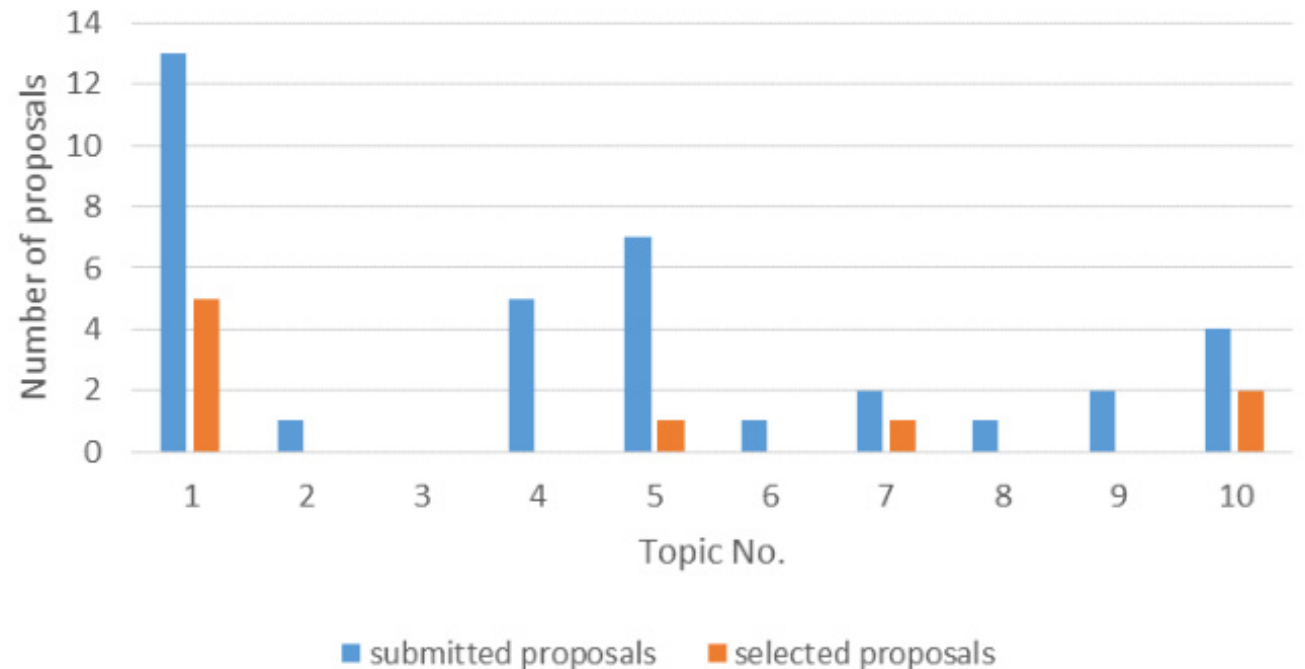- **Expected project duration:** 2-3 months

Open Call Timeline and Execution

- **Open Call preparation (July - September 2022)**
  - selection of 10 topic areas in which proposals would be accepted
  - setup of evaluation procedure
  - preparation of Call documentation and related documents
  - setup of submission platform
- **Open Call opened for submissions: September 29, 2022 – November 29, 2022**
- **Evaluation of submitted proposals (December 2022)**
  - each proposal was evaluated independently by two FSTP Project Board members
  - FSTP Project board aimed to select at least one proposal for each topic (the highest ranked proposal for given topic was selected if it received sufficient number of points), then other proposals were selected for funding up to the remaining budget
- **Pilot Projects execution: (January 2023 - May 2023)**
  - after finishing their execution phase, projects delivered reports and a short video presentation of achieved results (available online)
- **Review of Pilot Projects results: (by mid June 2023)**
  - lump sum payment to project was processed after project's results were evaluated by the FSTP Project Board
- **Integration of Pilot Projects results to the new version of SRIA (until June 2023)**

Open Call Results

- 36 proposals were accepted for evaluation:
  - 24 different applying organizations (11 research organizations and 13 companies) from 15 different EU Member-States
  - project proposals were submitted on nine different topics
- the FSTP Project Board selected nine projects from four different topics for financial support:
  - Topic 1. Data sets for more robust speech technology (5 projects)
  - Topic 5. General NLP/LT Domains (1 project)
  - Topic 7. Computing facilities for LT (1 project)
  - Topic 10. Basic LAnguage Resource Kit (BLARK) (2 projects)

Submitted and selected proposals to SRIA Open Call for Contribution Projects sorted by idividual topics

- submitted proposals
- selected proposals

Project	Organisation	Country	Topic
NGT-Dutch Hotel Review Corpus	Tilburg University	Nether-lands	1
European LT Domains 2023	University of Zagreb	Croatia	5
Computing Facilities for LT	University of Zagreb	Croatia	7
A BLARK for Minority Languages in the Era of Deep Learning: Expertise from Academia and Industry	imaxin|software	Spain	10
Building E2E Spoken-language Understanding Systems for Virtual Assistants in Low-resources Scenarios	Balidea	Spain	1
Multilingual and Mixed Language Data for Inclusive Speech Technology	Universiteit Gent	Belgium	1
Generation of a Large Speech Corpus for Spain Languages using Data Augmentation	Pangeanic	Spain	1
Artificial Intelligence Data Kit 2030	Institut for Bulgarian Language	Bulgaria	10
Underrepresented speech dataset from open data: case study on the Romanian language	Research Institute for AI, Romanian Academy	Romania	1

European Language Equality

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Thank you!

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http://european-language-equality.eu