Language-centric AI in Europe 2023

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27-06-2023 META-FORUM 2023 – Digital Language Equality for a Multilingual Europe
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Session 5: National LT and AI Programmes in Europe

- Language-centric AI in Europe 2023 – German Rigau (University of the Basque Country, Spain)

- Spain – Cristina Gallach (Alliance for the New Economy of Language, Spain)

- France – Lucie Gianola (Ministry of Culture, France)

- Sweden – Magnus Sahlgren (AI Sweden, Sweden)

- Denmark – Carl Frederik Bach Kirchmeier (Agency for Digital Government, Denmark)
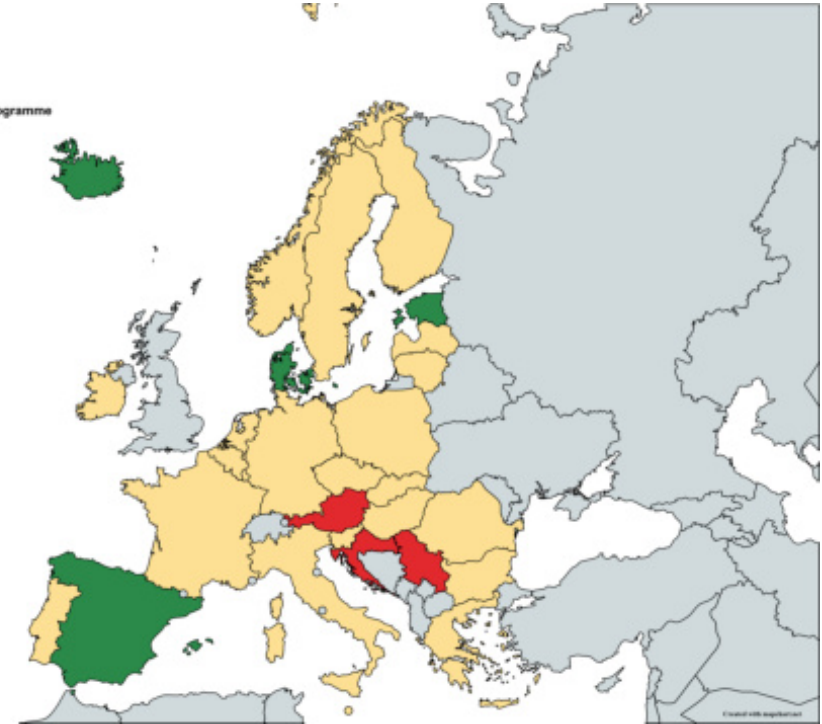
Language Technology in 2023

- Together with Vision and Robotics, **LT** is one of the three core application areas within **AI**.

- Current LT allows many advanced applications, **unthinkable** only a few years ago.

- Even more **exciting results** in the near future.

- LT is outlined as one of the **most relevant** technologies for society.

- LT is one of the most important AI application areas with a fast growing **economic impact**.

- However, LT is **not equally** developed for all European languages.

- **Very few** dedicated nationally financed programmes addressing LT.

Language Technology and National AI Strategies

We surveyed 30 European countries, all of which have a national AI strategy.

Country has dedicated LT programme	Four countries only – Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Spain
Funding for LT available through AI	Six countries only – Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Malta
Very limited LT-related funding available	Scattered and unsystematic funding – Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden
No LT-related funding at all	Austria, Croatia, Serbia

Legend:
- None at all
- Some funding
- Dedicated LT programme

While developing the national AI strategies, language was simply ignored or missed or left out. There is an immense need for (a) pan-European coordination and (b) for putting LT into the national AI strategies and into the policies for language, cultural and technological development.

Q&A and Discussion

- Scope and Funding:
    - Is this sufficient for developing modern LT?
        - For instance, Large Language Models require experts, supercomputing, data.
    - How to establish an effective pan-European coordination on LT?

Eskerrik asko!

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