



Update on European Commission activities relevant to language technologies

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION

**The Communication Networks, Content & Technology
Directorate General (DG CONNECT)**

Directorate G - Media and Data

G1: Converging Media and Content
G2: Creativity

G3: Data Value Chain

G4: Inclusion, Skills and Youth
G5: Administration and Finance



Unit CNECT.G3 – Data Value Chain

Resulted from merging three units in July 2012:

- Language technologies (*language data*)
- Information management (*big data, linked data*)
- Access to information (*open data, open access*)

Manages a portfolio of 120 research & innovation projects with € 300m+ EU funding, 1500 FTE

Responsible for: European Data Value Chain strategy & Open Data policy (includes PSI Directive)



European Data value chain strategy

Objective: to put in place the "systemic" prerequisites for effective use & re-use of data through:

- infrastructures: Open Data Portal, service infrastructure (CEF), evaluation platforms, incubators
- legal framework: PSI directive (open government data), data protection, copyright
- Enhancing capacities and skills: build and multiply the "new" competences, curricula, prize/recognition schemes
- Funding research & innovation: pilots, demonstrators – demonstrating the above in real-world problem settings, market validation

What we did so far?



Relaunch of funding of LT in 2008

Total funding since then: € 160m

Funding areas:

- Practical pilot projects
- Close-to-market solutions for and by SMEs for pooling, sharing and use of language resources
- New architectures for MT
- Language resources
- Automatic mining and processing of LR
- Multi-lingual/ cross-lingual analytics/ multi-modal analytics
- Natural spoken interaction
- Open source provision
- Standardisation and exchange of best practice



Making it happen

Research and innovation:

Horizon 2020 funding programme – brings together the former FP7 (research) and CIP (innovation) programmes

- Big Data analytics, prediction, MT: cross-language and cross-sectoral (industrial) validation, capacity-building

Deployment through digital service infrastructures:

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)

- **Automated translation, language resources & tools repository**, open data

Policy and regulation: PSI directive, privacy, copyright

Making it happen: Deployment through digital service infrastructures – building block for automated translation

Requirements of the digital service infrastructure

- language resources
- processing tools and APIs
- storage space for TMs, LRs, translation models, MT engines
- processing capacity for MT training, MT operations
- connection capacity (bandwidth)
- maintenance, curation, validation, quality control
- technical helpdesk
- legal clearance

Making it happen: Deployment through digital service infrastructures – building block for automated translation

- CEF to focus on building blocks enabling other digital service infrastructures: automated translation, e-identification, electronic delivery of documents etc.;
- Automated translation building block must be ready for practical results and sufficient quality in "not too distant future";
- Should aim at providing translations into the 23 official languages;
- Shall focus on automated translation paired with language resources, tools, APIs



Making it happen: Deployment through digital service infrastructures – building block for automated translation

Next steps:

- Adoption of the legal framework for CEF
- Put in place institutional set-up for a (provisional) administration of CEF funds
- Prepare work programme defining the funding priorities
- Preparation and launch of first calls for tender/ grants
- Complementary work on securing additional funding in order to complement CEF (national funding, EU structural funds)



Making it happen: Deployment through digital service infrastructures – building block for automated translation

How: Public procurement/ calls for tenders

Key features (as different from with research funding):

- Commission specifies exactly what it wants to procure and sets selection and evaluation criteria;
- Commission details contractual deliverables;
- Evaluation of tenders by Commission staff;
- Evaluation on the basis of value for money based on the selection and evaluation criteria;
- Payment conditional upon acceptance of deliverables by Commission.

Making it happen: Deployment through digital service infrastructures – building block for automated translation

- Have demonstrator and showcase examples ready
- Keep on innovating

Thank you!

<http://cordis.europa.eu/info-management>
<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ict/language-technologies/>
<https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/public-sector-information-raw-data-new-services-and-products>