



Chapter 11

ELG National Competence Centres and Events

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Abstract The National Competence Centres (NCCs) in ELG are an international network of 32 regional and national networks, lead by one regional/national representative. The 32 NCCs play a crucial role in ELG, they support the project by bringing in their corresponding regional and national perspective and stakeholders, organising ELG workshops and functioning as regional/national representatives. The chapter explains why, despite a considerable coordination effort, it was worth putting this network together. One important task carried out by the NCCs was to conduct regional/national dissemination events and to participate in relevant regional/national events and also in the annual META-FORUM conferences, organised by ELG.

1 Introduction

The diverse *Multilingual Europe* community, consisting of multiple stakeholder groups, is an important component of our concept for the ELG (Rehm et al. 2020). This heterogeneous set of stakeholder groups includes LT provider companies, LT user/buyer companies, research centres and universities involved in LT research, development and innovation activities, language communities, politics and public administrations, national funding agencies, language service providers and translators as well as the European citizen at large (Rehm et al. 2021).

In this chapter we focus upon one specific part of the wider group of stakeholders involved in the ELG initiative, i. e., the National Competence Centres (NCCs). The ELG NCCs are an international network of 32 regional and national networks. Section 2 describes the NCCs as well as the activities carried out together with the NCCs. We also touch upon the setup procedure and the involvement of the NCCs. Conferences, workshops and other events play a crucial role in disseminating the mission and idea of the ELG initiative, as well as the platform itself. We involved the NCCs to help spread the word about ELG on the regional and national levels. A major part

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of their involvement was, thus, devoted to the organisation of and participation in conferences and events.

Section 3 provides a brief overview of the events and conferences ELG organised or participated in. We focus upon the four editions of the annual META-FORUM conference series, which were organised by the ELG project (2019 until 2022). Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than two thirds of all events planned under the umbrella of the project had to be organised as virtual events.

2 National Competence Centres

The ELG National Competence Centres comprises 32 colleagues from all over Europe who all have their own strong regional and national networks, which comprise both industry and also research. For the setup of the NCCs, we benefited from structures and instruments that have been set up by partners of the ELG consortium starting in 2010 and that have been in active use since then, including META-NET¹, META-SHARE (Piperidis et al. 2014)², CRACKER (Cracking the Language Barrier, Rehm 2017)³, EFNIL (European Federation of National Institutions for Language)⁴, ELRC (European Language Resource Coordination)⁵ and the META-FORUM conference series (Rehm et al. 2016, 2020).

In ELG, we made use of this large set of collaborators, established infrastructures and communication instruments. The involvement in different projects and initiatives made it possible to set up a strong and representative network of National Competence Centres with broad reach into regional and national networks already during the ELG proposal preparation phase, i. e., before the project had actually started. We invited more than 30 experts from the field that met a number of criteria (participation in relevant initiatives, members of academic organisations, good connections to industry and research etc.) to participate in ELG as National Competence Centre Leads with a clearly defined set of tasks and responsibilities.

2.1 Tasks and Responsibilities

The NCCs support the ELG project and initiative in various ways. This international network of national networks not only significantly contributes to the population of the ELG cloud platform with services, resources and data sets, it also plays an important role for broadening the reach of the ELG project and initiative. Early in

¹ <http://www.meta-net.eu>

² <http://www.meta-share.org>

³ <http://www.cracker-project.eu>

⁴ <http://www.efnil.org>

⁵ <https://lr-coordination.eu>

the project, the NCCs were asked to provide information and share their knowledge, e. g., on national/regional information about services, datasets, resources, tools, technologies, research centres, experts, communities, companies, initiatives, projects etc. Additionally, the NCCs have been crucial as multipliers who spread the word about ELG and inform regional and national stakeholders and organisations about ELG and its benefits. The NCCs also fed local needs, ideas and demands back to the ELG to make sure that the ELG development takes the requirements of their constituency into account. Moreover, the NCCs helped with general outreach and dissemination activities, e. g., promoting events like the ELG conferences (Section 3) or the ELG open calls (see Part IV) through their own established channels and networks.

Whereas some activities could be performed by the NCCs with sending emails and providing quickly accessible information, there are a number of tasks that required more effort. These included:

- Organisation of a regional/national ELG workshop including agenda preparation, advertising and promotion (web, social media, emails), identification of speakers and participants etc.
- Participation in regional/national events (both scientific and industry conferences and workshops) on behalf of ELG to promote ELG and to interest relevant stakeholders from research and industry.
- Participation in each of the annual ELG conferences (META-FORUM) in order to strengthen the LT community, support dissemination activities related to ELG and to foster discussion on current LT-related topics and trends.
- Desk research and information gathering: Collection of relevant regional/national information regarding funding programmes, national language (technology) development plans, AI strategies etc. with the overall goal of putting together a comprehensive picture of the European LT landscape.⁶

These tasks corresponded to the priorities of the ELG project consortium, but were to be understood as recommendations rather than mandatory activities. The actual selection of tasks to be organised by an NCC depended on the situation in their country and was determined individually.

We organised meetings with all NCC Leads approximately twice a year; originally at least one annual meeting was meant to be held as a face-to-face meeting co-located with the annual ELG conference in order to minimise travel efforts.⁷ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, further face-to-face meetings have been impossible, which is why all follow-up meetings were held virtually. In the NCC meetings, all NCCs Leads were asked to report briefly on the situation in their countries; furthermore, planned activities and tasks foreseen were discussed. Contractual and organisational matters could also be addressed.

⁶ With regard to these desk research activities, many synergies with the project European Language Equality (ELE), which started in January 2021 and which included almost all NCCs as consortium partners, have been identified and made use of, see <https://european-language-equality.eu>.

⁷ The first and, so far, only face-to-face meeting of all National Competence Centres took place on 7 October 2019, as a pre-conference meeting of META-FORUM 2019 in Brussels (see Figure 1).



Fig. 1 National Competence Centre meeting in Brussels, Belgium (7 October 2019)

2.2 Role and Structure

The rationale behind setting up this international network of national networks was to broaden the reach of the ELG consortium, to provide input with regard to the linguistic situation in the different countries and to fuel the knowledge transfer and sharing between national programmes and initiatives on the one hand and ELG on the other. Since the EU Member States and other European countries have quite diverse situations and individual language policies, a “one-size-fits-all” approach would not have worked. It was crucial for ELG to have access to dedicated experts in all countries to turn to and ask for input. Due to their vast personal connections, the NCCs were ideally suited to make the ELG initiative known in the local markets and in the research spheres of their home countries. It was a deliberate decision to move forward only with academic organisations as NCCs in order to guarantee independence from any commercial interests.

The network of NCCs was compiled based on participation in existing structures and initiatives (META-NET, ELRC NAPs, CLARIN etc.), taking into account scientific standing and existing connections to industry and research. Table 1 lists the NCC Leads, their country and affiliation. Figure 1 shows the NCC Leads at the NCC kick-off meeting in October 2019 in Brussels, Belgium.

2.3 Visibility and Promotion

The NCCs provided valuable insights and feedback to the ELG project and initiative. In return, the project consortium helped increase the visibility of the NCCs and their institutions, for example, by promoting the NCCs and their organisations on the ELG

Name and Country	Institution
Dagmar Gromann	AT Zentrum für Translationswissenschaft, Universität Wien
Walter Daelemans	BE Comp. Ling. and Psycholing. Res. Centre (CLiPS), Univ. of Antwerp
Svetla Koeva	BG Institute for Bulgarian Language, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences
Marko Tadić	HR Inst. of Ling., Faculty of Hum. and Social Science, Univ. of Zagreb
Dora Loizidou	CY Department French and Modern Languages, University of Cyprus
Jan Hajič*	CZ Inst. of Formal and Applied Linguistics, Charles University
Bolette S. Pedersen	DK Centre for Lang. Tech., Dpt. of Nordic Research, Univ. of Copenhagen
Susanna Oja	EE Competence Centre for NLP at the Institute of the Estonian Language
Krister Lindén	FI Department of Digital Humanities, University of Helsinki
François Yvon	FR Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire des Sciences du Numérique, CNRS
Georg Rehm*	DE Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz (DFKI)
Maria Gavriilidou*	EL Institute for Language and Speech Processing (ILSP), R. C. "Athena"
Tamás Váradi	HU Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences
Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson	IS School of Humanities, University of Iceland
Andy Way	IE ADAPT Centre, Dublin City University (DCU)
Bernardo Magnini	IT Human Language Technology, Fondazione Bruno Kessler (FBK)
Inguna Skadina	LV Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Latvia
Albina Aukšoriūtė	LT Institute of the Lithuanian Language
Dimitra Anastasiou	LU Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST)
Michael Rosner	MT Department Intelligent Computer Systems, University of Malta
Vincent Vandeghinste	NL Instituut voor de Nederlandse Taal (INT)
Kristine Eide	NO Norwegian Language Council
Maciej Ogrodniczuk	PL Institute of Computer Science, Polish Academy of Sciences
António Branco	PT Department of Informatics, University of Lisbon
Dan Tufiş	RO Research Institute for AI, Romanian Academy of Sciences
Cvetana Krstev	RS Faculty of Mathematics, Belgrade University (UBG)
Radovan Garabík	SK Ľudovít Štúr Institute of Linguistics, Slovak Academy of Sciences
Simon Krek	SI Jozef Stefan Institute (JSI)
Marta Villegas	ES Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC)
Jens Edlund	SE Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)
Hervé Bourlard	CH Idiap Research Institute
Kalina Bontcheva*	UK Department of Computer Science, University of Sheffield

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Table 1 List of National Competence Centres

website.⁸ At the ELG conferences, the organisers dedicated several sessions to the activities and concerns of selected NCCs and also addressed locally relevant aspects in the conference programme. Furthermore, the NCC meetings served as discussion platforms where the NCCs could promote their topics and exchange experience and knowledge with colleagues from other countries.

The fact that more than two thirds of the project's runtime took place during the global COVID-19 pandemic thwarted our collective plans for almost all face-to-face events and workshops and severely affected our dissemination activities. However, the shift to virtual formats has allowed interested people to attend conferences or workshops who might not have attended otherwise because of the effort and expenses

⁸ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/ncc/>

involved. In addition, online events have made it easier for the ELG team to provide presentations and platform demos because there was no travel component involved.

In June 2022, a new format was introduced for META-FORUM 2022, as this final project conference was planned and conducted as a hybrid event, combining the benefits of face-to-face and online conferences.

2.4 Operational Aspects

Operationally, DFKI as the coordinating partner of the ELG project prepared subcontracts that specified the details of the cooperation between ELG and the NCCs. The NCCs agreed to take over tasks in the interest of disseminating and promoting the European Language Grid in their countries with the activities described. In return, the ELG project reimbursed costs incurred for activities like:

- Organisation of a regional or national ELG workshop.
- Participation in the annual ELG conferences 2019 and 2022 (including costs for travel and accommodation).
- Participation in regional or national conferences or other events to promote ELG (including costs for travel, accommodation and conference fees, if applicable).
- Desk research, participation in surveys or questionnaires, communication and participation in virtual meetings.

3 Conferences and Workshops

ELG organised four annual conferences (META-FORUM 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022) to present, discuss and widely disseminate the idea of a joint technology cloud platform under the umbrella of the wider *Multilingual Europe* topic. While these conferences are described in more detail in Section 3.1, the more focused ELG workshops and additional events are described in Sections 3.2 and 3.3, respectively.

3.1 META-FORUM Conference Series

META-FORUM is the annual international conference on Language Technologies in Europe, organised by ELG together with the META-NET Network of Excellence, dedicated to fostering the multilingual European information society. Previous META-FORUM editions were organised and financially supported through the EU projects META-NET (T4ME; 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013) and CRACKER (2015, 2016, 2017). For the four editions 2019-2022, ELG took over the organisation of META-FORUM, which at the same time serves as the annual ELG conference (Section 3.1.1 to 3.1.4). Table 2 shows all META-FORUM conferences so far.

The two main goals of META-FORUM are community building and outreach to the wider European Language Technology community including research and industry. The ELG editions also had the goal of promoting the ELG initiative and also ELG as the primary platform for Language Technology in Europe. The conferences featured presentations and project expos with a special collaboration focus in order to attract users and providers of LT. As the conference also functions as a dissemination and promotion platform, the ambition was to attract a large and varied number of participants so that all relevant stakeholder groups were adequately covered.

Year	Conference Motto	Location	Date
2010	Challenges for Multilingual Europe	Brussels, BE	Nov. 17/18
2011	Solutions for Multilingual Europe	Budapest, HU	June 27/28
2012	A Strategy for Multilingual Europe	Brussels, BE	June 20/21
2013	Connecting Europe for New Horizons	Berlin, DE	Sept. 19/20
2015	Technologies for the Multilingual Digital Single Market	Riga, LV	April 27
2016	Beyond Multilingual Europe	Lisbon, PT	July 04/05
2017	Towards a Human Language Project	Brussels, BE	Nov. 13/14
2019	Introducing the European Language Grid	Brussels, BE	Oct. 08/09
2020	Piloting the European Language Grid	<i>online</i>	Dec. 01-03
2021	Using the European Language Grid	<i>online</i>	Nov. 15-17
2022	Joining the European Language Grid	Brussels, BE	June 08/09

Table 2 META-FORUM conference series

3.1.1 META-FORUM 2019

META-FORUM 2019 took place in October 2019 in Brussels.⁹ Its motto was “Introducing the European Language Grid”. The first session was dedicated to a presentation of the overall ELG project including a very first prototype of the platform, which was demonstrated live on stage to the LT community and stakeholders from the EU institutions for the very first time. After presentations of the three project areas (ELG Platform, ELG Content, ELG Community), the open calls for pilot projects were announced including overall procedures and timeline. Another session focused on the six LT research projects – ELITR, COMPRISE, Bergamot, EMBEDDIA, Gourmet and Prêt-à-LLOD – funded under the Horizon 2020 call ICT-29b-2018 “A multilingual Next Generation Internet”. Moreover, panel discussions and presentations on LT and AI, on LT and digital public services, on news from the language communities as well as discussions with stakeholders from industry were organised. An expo featured LT and relevant AI projects. Interest in the ELG platform was very high during and after the conference, as evidenced by a high number of relevant discussions during the sessions and in the breaks. These discussions provided valuable feedback for the further development of the platform. All in all, feedback regarding the event

⁹ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2019/>

was overwhelmingly positive. Among others, stakeholders from minority languages expect ELG to make significant breakthroughs, because they hope to find datasets more easily. After the conference, we received several enquiries from companies highly interested in including their services in the ELG platform.

3.1.2 META-FORUM 2020

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, META-FORUM 2020 had to be organised as a virtual event, it was held in early December 2020.¹⁰ The motto of the conference was “Piloting the European Language Grid” and it consisted of three half days of presentations and panel discussions. META-FORUM 2020 received a lot of interest with many fruitful conversations. Once again, a strong focus was on presenting the wider landscape of currently funded projects in the area of LT and language-centric AI but also the industry perspective was taken into account.

Holding a conference that is supposed to foster community building and networking as an online event, is a technical challenge. At the same time, the year 2020, with many cancelled events, made it even more necessary to provide room for open exchange among colleagues and (potential) collaborators. This is why we decided to organise a large project expo to enable in-depth discussions on different approaches in the various projects.¹¹ Like a face-to-face expo, not only the general idea of the respective project was presented but the virtual booths also allowed for technical demos, detailed explanations and profound exchange between visitors and the project representatives. The expo featured 35 projects, all of which had their own dedicated virtual meeting room. We also prepared web pages for each project with an abstract, project poster and other visual materials provided by the projects. Thus, visitors could study the material on the website or jump into the project meeting rooms (i. e., the virtual expo booths) and stay in the meetings as long as they liked. Apart from the first set of ten ELG pilot projects, the following projects participated in META-FORUM 2020 with project booths: AI4MEDIA¹², Bergamot¹³, COMPRISE¹⁴, CURLICAT¹⁵, DSDE¹⁶, Elexis¹⁷, ELG¹⁸, ELITR¹⁹, ELRC²⁰, EMBED-

¹⁰ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2020>

¹¹ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2020/meta-forum-2020-project-expo/>

¹² <https://ai4media.eu>

¹³ <https://browser.mt>

¹⁴ <https://www.comprish2020.eu>

¹⁵ <http://clip.ipipan.waw.pl/CURLICAT>

¹⁶ <https://www.cjvt.si/rsdo/en/project/>

¹⁷ <https://elex.is>

¹⁸ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu>

¹⁹ <https://elitr.eu>

²⁰ <http://www.lr-coordination.eu>

DIA²¹, EUCPT²², FedTerm²³, Gourmet²⁴, Lynx²⁵, MAPA²⁶, MARCELL²⁷, Marian²⁸, MeMAD²⁹, MT4All³⁰, NexusLinguarum³¹, NTEU³², Prêt-à-LLOD³³, PRINCIPLE³⁴, PROVENANCE³⁵, QURATOR³⁶ and WeVerify³⁷. In addition, members of the ELG consortium provided demos of the platform and discussed questions and ideas of (potential) users, providers and other interested parties.

Interest in the ELG platform and initiative was considerably stronger than in 2019, i. e., ELG was gaining more and more traction. META-FORUM has proven to be an effective marketing and information channel for ELG. Discussions that took place in the expo provided, again, a lot of valuable feedback and inspiration. This format worked also very well to advertise the work of the ELG pilot projects. Despite the challenging conditions, the conference was successful, while it is obvious that virtual events can only emulate certain parts of a face-to-face event while others – the often mentioned informal chats over coffee – are difficult to recreate in the virtual format. While not every participant attended each session, the online format made it possible for visitors to select only those sessions they are interested in and for which they had sufficient time capacities. The virtual format made it possible for all participants to attend including those with time and budget restrictions. A poll during the opening session showed that more than half of the participants attended META-FORUM for the first time in 2020. All META-FORUM 2020 sessions are available online.³⁸

3.1.3 META-FORUM 2021

META-FORUM 2021 was the 10th edition of the conference series overall and the second to take place online, given the ongoing pandemic situation.³⁹ The motto of

²¹ <http://embeddia.eu>

²² <https://www.presidencymt.eu>

²³ <https://www.eurotermbank.com>

²⁴ <https://gourmet-project.eu>

²⁵ <https://lynx-project.eu>

²⁶ <https://mapa-project.eu>

²⁷ <http://marcell-project.eu>

²⁸ <https://marian-project.eu>

²⁹ <https://memad.eu>

³⁰ <http://ixa2.si.ehu.es/mt4all/>

³¹ <https://nexuslinguarum.eu>

³² <https://nteu.eu>

³³ <https://pret-a-llod.github.io>

³⁴ <https://principleproject.eu>

³⁵ <https://www.provenanceh2020.eu>

³⁶ <https://qurator.ai>

³⁷ <https://weverify.eu>

³⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLL1cFzaG0S5ghZz0HxO5TEUIdwrY7J8qJ>

³⁹ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021/>

the conference was “Using the European Language Grid” and it highlighted the first actual uses of the ELG platform. The setup of the conference was similar to the structure used in 2020. However, the project expo was organised using the virtual meeting space environment Gather.town to further stress the community aspect.⁴⁰

As the motto implies, in 2021 using and benefiting from ELG was the main focus. To demonstrate this, five of the ten successfully finished pilot projects were featured with their results. Furthermore, representatives from the European LT industry took part in a panel to discuss their expectations towards and experiences with the ELG platform. In the more hands-on ELG integration tutorial, potential users who were considering to integrate their own tools and services into ELG had the chance to learn how. All META-FORUM 2021 sessions are available online.⁴¹

Overall interest in the conference was enormous and the number of participants significantly exceeded that of the previous year. The feedback collected in the session again proved to be a valuable source of information and was thoroughly evaluated after the conference in order to further enhance the platform development.

3.1.4 META-FORUM 2022

While the virtual editions of META-FORUM 2020 and 2021 were very successful, there are certain disadvantages of online-only events compared to face-to-face conferences. This is why META-FORUM 2022 was organised as a hybrid event, combining the advantages of flexibility and higher reach with the benefits of face-to-face discussions. The onsite conference in Brussels was held under appropriate COVID-19-safe conditions with approx. 100 participants from the European LT community and representatives of the European Institutions. Several hundred participants attended the conference online.

3.2 ELG Workshops

ELG is committed to community building and collaborating with relevant initiatives on the European level as well as forming its own network of networks (Section 2). The network of 32 NCCs acts as local and national bridges to the ELG initiative and cloud platform. Accordingly, dedicated workshops with and for the national LT communities have been a crucial task the NCCs were asked to fulfil.⁴² These workshops were organised with the goal of making ELG known all over Europe.

Usually the workshops were organised as individual events by each NCC. In some cases, they were co-hosted by several NCCs together, e. g., the ELG workshop at SwissText 2020 (hosted by the ELG NCCs Austria, Switzerland and Germany) or

⁴⁰ <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/meta-forum-2021/project-expo/>

⁴¹ <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLL1cFzaG0S5iDaCg2SliyA-4axKY0LfiQ>

⁴² <https://www.european-language-grid.eu/events/>

National Competence Centre(s)	Location	Date
Switzerland, Austria, Germany	<i>online</i>	23 June 2020
Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia	Kaunas, LT	21 Sept. 2020
Poland	<i>online</i>	27 Oct. 2020
Finland	<i>online</i>	15 Dec. 2020
Germany	<i>online</i>	20 April 2021
Austria	<i>online</i>	11 May 2021
Switzerland, Austria, Germany	<i>online</i>	14 June 2021
Belgium, Luxembourg	<i>online</i>	08 July 2021
Spain	<i>online</i>	23 Sept. 2021
Czech Republic, Slovakia	<i>online</i>	18 Oct. 2021
Denmark	Copenhagen, DK	16 Nov. 2021
Netherlands	<i>online</i>	03 Dec. 2021
France	<i>online</i>	08 Feb. 2022
Bulgaria	<i>online</i>	11 Feb. 2022
Serbia	<i>online</i>	11 March 2022
Norway	Oslo, NO	16 March 2022
Romania	<i>online</i>	24 March 2022
Slovenia	<i>online</i>	27 May 2022
United Kingdom	<i>online</i>	17 June 2022

Table 3 Workshops organised by the National Competence Centres

the ELG workshop of the Baltic NCCs of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia that was co-located with the Baltic HLT conference in 2020.

Since all workshops were held during the pandemic, almost all were online events that usually attracted between 25 and 100 participants. Depending on the country and target audience of the workshop, they either had a more informative or a more technical spin, or a combination of both. In an introductory talk by the project coordinator or a partner of the consortium, ELG and its history, its goals and current status was presented. In a separate presentation, the technical setup of the platform and its offerings were explained. After that, the NCCs either organised discussion panels or invited speakers from industry to emphasise the demands and expectations towards ELG. Especially these talks often spurred interesting and inspiring discussions and provided valuable feedback for the ELG consortium. In various workshops, a short hands-on tutorial session was included in which a member of the technical ELG team explained how to make available services or resources through ELG. Many of the ELG NCC workshops are available online.⁴³ Table 3 lists all NCC workshops.

3.3 Additional Conferences

Representatives of the ELG consortium took the opportunity to promote the platform and the initiative at numerous occasions throughout the run-time of the ELG project. In addition to local events, ELG was also present with talks and papers at

⁴³ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCarEHmsWT2JslcvvWkbhL4A>

more than 50 different European and international conferences, such as LT4ALL (2019), LREC 2020, AI Boost (2021), European Big Data Value Conference (2021), Fachtagung Maschinelle Verfahren in der Erschließung (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek, 2021) and Wales Academic Symposium on Language Technologies (2022).

4 Conclusions

The collaboration with the National Competence Centres was successful. The impact they have had in their countries to promote ELG cannot be overstated. Also, the NCCs' expert knowledge of language resources in their regions and their contacts to representatives from industry and research have been and continue to be extremely useful. Although the formal contracts with the NCCs will expire at the end of the project, we will make an effort to maintain good working relationships with these experts in the future and, if possible, to intensify the work again in future projects.

Under the umbrella of the ELG legal entity we will continue to organise events and workshops in the coming years to demonstrate new developments and to seek contact with the communities in the various European countries and regions in order to further promote networking. The annual META-FORUM conference is an established brand and will continue to be an important activity to bring stakeholders together and counteract the fragmentation of the European LT community. Experiences from the last years with different meeting formats have significantly extended the spectrum of what is possible.

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