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ABOUT META-NET

META-NET is a Network of Excellence funded by the European Commission [48]. The network currently consists of 54 members from 33 European countries. META-NET forges META, the Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance, a growing community of language technology professionals and organisations in Europe. META-NET fosters the technological foundations for a truly multilingual European information society that:

- makes communication and cooperation possible across languages;
- grants all Europeans equal access to information and knowledge regardless of their language;
- builds upon and advances functionalities of networked information technology.

The network supports a Europe that unites as a single digital market and information space. It stimulates and promotes multilingual technologies for all European languages. These technolo¬gies support automatic translation, content production, information processing and knowledge management for a wide variety of subject domains and applications. They also enable intuitive language-based interfaces to technology ranging from household electronics, machinery and vehicles to computers and robots.

Launched on 1 February 2010, META-NET has already conducted various activities in its three lines of action META-VISION, META-SHARE and META¬-RESEARCH.

META-VISION fosters a dynamic and influential stakeholder community that unites around a shared vi¬sion and a common strategic research agenda (SRA). The main focus of this activity is to build a coher¬ent and cohesive LT community in Europe by bring¬ing together representatives from highly fragmented and diverse groups of stakeholders. The present White Paper was prepared together with volumes for 29 other languages. The shared technology vision was developed in three sectorial Vision Groups. The META Technology Council was established in order to discuss and to prepare the SRA based on the vision in close interaction with the entire LT community.

META-SHARE creates an open, distributed facility for exchanging and sharing resources. The peer-to-peer network of repositories will contain language data, tools and web services that are documented with high-quality metadata and organised in standardised cate¬gories. The resources can be readily accessed and uni¬formly searched. The available resources include free, open source materials as well as restricted, commercially available, fee-based items.

META-RESEARCH builds bridges to related technol¬ogy fields. This activity seeks to leverage advances in other fields and to capitalise on innovative research that can benefit language technology. In particular, the action line focuses on conducting leading-edge research in machine translation, collecting data, preparing data sets and organising language re-sources for evaluation purposes; compiling inventories of tools and methods; and organising workshops and training events for members of the community.

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