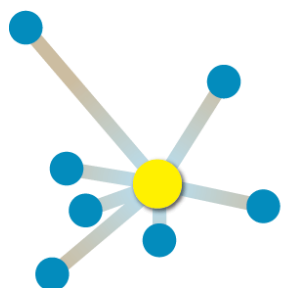


European Language Resource Coordination (ELRC) is a service contract operating under the EU's Connecting Europe Facility SMART 2015/1091 programme.



**European Language
Resource Coordination**
Connecting Europe Facility

Deliverable D3.2.17 Task 8

ELRC Workshop Report for Iceland



Dissemination Level:	Public
Version No.:	V1.0
Date:	27.12.2018



Contents

1	Executive Summary	3
2	Workshop Agenda	4
3	Summary of Content of Sessions	6
3.1	Welcome	6
3.2	Overview of the European Language Resource Coordination Action and Connecting public services across Europe: ambition and results so far	6
3.3	Current Situation and Prospects of Digital Support for Icelandic	6
3.4	The Digital Support for Icelandic Initiative	6
3.5	Digital Support and the Language and Technology Initiative	6
3.6	Almannarómur: Introduction	6
3.7	Databases: The Privacy Concern	7
3.8	Frictionless Use of Open Sources	7
3.9	Panel Discussion: Development of Translation Technology and Consumer Needs	7
4	Synthesis of Workshop Discussions	8
4.1	ELRC and Open Language Data in Iceland	8
4.2	Success stories and lessons learnt	8
5	Workshop Participants	9
6	Appendix	12
6.1	Localised invitation letter	12
6.2	Localised agenda	12
6.3	Localised press release	14
6.4	Workshop Presentations	14

1 Executive Summary

The second ELRC workshop in Iceland was held on 28 September 2018, at the Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute for Foreign Languages, at Veröld – House of Vigdís, University of Iceland. Participants expressed their general appreciation of the workshop and the venue, and found they enjoyed the informative presentations.

The workshop began with an introductory presentation on the ELRC project and its objectives. Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC representative, gave a presentation of the European Language Resource Coordination Action and eTranslation.

Then Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson from Almannarómur, gave a presentation on the current situation and prospects of digital support for Icelandic, followed by Steinþór Steingrímsson from The Árni Magnússon Institute who gave a talk on the Icelandic Government's Initiative for Digital Support for Icelandic.

After a short coffee break, Hallgrímur Jónasson representative of RANNÍS gave a short presentation on RANNÍS the Icelandic research Center. Next Stefanía Halldórsdóttir gave a general introduction to Almannarómur, the organization charged with overseeing the Government's Digital Support for Icelandic Initiative.

Helga Þórisdóttir from Persónuvernd gave a presentation on the privacy concern regarding the use of databases. Stefán Baxter from Global Identifier talked about Frictionless Use of Open Sources.

After a lunch break, a panel discussion on the theme "Development of Translation Technology and Consumer Needs" started. All speakers of the workshop participated in the panel discussion, along with Vilhjálmur Þorsteinsson and Haukur Barri Símonarson representatives of Miðeind, and Ingibjörg Elsa Björnsdóttir from The Icelandic Association of Translators.

The moderator of the panel discussion was Hrafn Loftsson, from Reykjavík University, who also gave a welcoming speech at the beginning of the workshop and delivered the final remarks.

2 Workshop Agenda

8:30 – 09:00

Registration

09:00 – 09:05

Welcome and introduction

Hrafn Loftsson, University of Reykjavík

09:05 – 09:30

Overview of the European Language Resource Coordination action

Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC (Presentation)

09:05 – 09:30

Status and Prospects of Digital Support for Icelandic

Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson, Almennarómur ([Presentation](#))

09:50 – 10:10

The Digital Support for Icelandic Initiative

Steinþór Steingrímsson, Árni Magnússon Institute for Icelandic Studies ([Presentation](#))

10:10-10:30

Coffee Break

10:30 – 10:45

Digital Support and the Language and Technology Initiative

Hallgrímur Jónasson, RANNÍS ([Presentation](#))

10:45-11:00

Almannarómur: Introduction

Stefanía Halldórsdóttir, Almennarómur ([Presentation](#))

11:00-11:15

Databases: The Privacy Concern

Helga Þórsdóttir, Persónuvernd ([Presentation](#))

11:15-11:45

Frictionless Use of Open Sources

Stefán Baxter, Global Identifier ([Presentation](#))

11:45-12:45

Lunch Break

Development of Translation Technology and Consumer Needs

Panel Discussion

Moderator: *Hrafn Loftsson*

Panelists:

12:45- 14:00

- *Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC*
- *Kári Örlygsson, the Translation Center of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
- *Vilhjálmur Þorsteinsson/Haukur Barri Símonarson, Miðeind*
- *Representative of the Icelandic Association of Translators and Interpreters*
- *Representative of Icelandic municipalities*

Final Remarks

Hrafn Loftsson

3 Summary of Content of Sessions

3.1 Welcome

A general presentation was given by **Hrafn Loftsson** from the University of Reykjavík, welcoming all the participants and giving basic information on the agenda and the venue.

3.2 Overview of the European Language Resource Coordination Action and Connecting public services across Europe: ambition and results so far

Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC representative, gave a presentation of the European Language Resource Coordination Action and eTranslation. His presentation explained the ELRC goals and why fighting the language barriers is important for a European Single Digital market. eTranslation is one of the building blocks of the Connecting Europe Facility program, and thus in the European Commission's intention of creating cross-border digital services that automate and streamline many aspects of public administration activities. Andrejs Vasiljevs explained how ELRC works, what organisations participate in the initiative and the value of data bases to effective and accurate translation.

3.3 Current Situation and Prospects of Digital Support for Icelandic

Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson from Almannarómur, gave a presentation on the current situation and prospects of digital support for Icelandic. Eiríkur began his talk by chronologically going through the history of language technology in Iceland, its major challenges and milestones that have been reached, one of them being the two-year interdisciplinary programme Master program in Language Technology that is run jointly by Reykjavik University and University of Iceland.

3.4 The Digital Support for Icelandic Initiative

Steinþór Steingrímsson from The Árni Magnússon Institute gave a talk on the Digital Support for Icelandic Initiative. In his talk, Steinþór described the main available databases held by The Árni Magnússon Institute for Iceland. They include Corpora such as a 500 000 word dictionary of the most frequent words in Iceland. MÍM (2012) which includes 25 million words, a new giant corpus of 1.250 million words and some smaller corpora. He stated that there were too few parallel language databases for the development of accurate machine translation programs.

3.5 Digital Support and the Language and Technology Initiative

Hallgrímur Jónasson gave a short presentation on RANNÍS, The Icelandic Centre for Research, which supports research, innovation, education and culture in Iceland. RANNIS cooperates closely with the Icelandic Science and Technology Policy Council and provides professional assistance in the preparation and implementation of the national science and technology policy. Hallgrímur, in his talk, focused on The Strategic Research and Development Programme for Language Technology, which is an open competitive research and development fund, aiming to protect and support the Icelandic language as well as to facilitate the use of new information technologies in the Icelandic community, for the benefit of the public, institutions and companies.

3.6 Almannarómur: Introduction

Stefanía Halldórsdóttir chair of the board of Almannarómur spoke next. Since 2011, Eiríkur has worked with her colleagues in Almannarómur, a private foundation, towards creating a free Icelandic language corpus. In her talk she stressed the importance of supporting Icelandic language technology, for reasons such as equality and human rights, efficiency in public services, speed and security in health care and civil protection against natural resources.

3.7 Databases: The Privacy Concern

Helga Þórisdóttir from Persónuvernd (The Data Protection Authority) gave a presentation on the privacy concerns related to use of databases as sources for machine translation. After briefing guests on the role and purpose of The Data Protection Authority, she mapped out the increasing amount of personal data being collected and processed, and warned against the risk of exploitation as computers and technology develop.

3.8 Frictionless Use of Open Sources

Stefán Baxter from Global Identifier talked about Frictionless Use of Open Sources. Digital Divide, formed around the turn of the century, is insignificant compared to the data gap that the fourth industrial revolution will bring. He stressed the importance of powerful language technology and open sources in order to protect the diversity of operations in the fourth industrial revolution.

3.9 Panel Discussion: Development of Translation Technology and Consumer Needs

After engaging in a lively conversation during the one-hour lunch break, a panel discussion involving all speakers with the additional participation of **Vilhjalmur Þorsteinsson** and **Haukur Barri Símonarson** from Miðeind, a company actively involved in machine translation program development, and **Ingibjörg Elsa Björnsdóttir** representing The Icelandic Association of Translators began the discussion with active audience participation.

Participants in the audience pointed out how computers were far from providing accurate enough translations and also to what extent translators could or would share their translations.

The moderator of the panel discussion was **Hrafn Loftsson**, from the University of Iceland, who also delivered the final remarks of the workshop.

4 Synthesis of Workshop Discussions

4.1 ELRC and Open Language Data in Iceland

Equal access and privacy issues need to be addressed in tandem with open access language data while, development of language corpora needs to be enhanced. The Icelandic Initiative to Support Icelandic in a Digital World is a promising start in this process.

4.2 Success stories and lessons learnt

The continued development of language corpora from different fields and genres of language practice are crucial for the development of effective and highly functioning machine translation programs which in turn are important for an uninterrupted flow of information cross language barriers. It is important that those who translate share their work and experience for this purpose also. There are however privacy, copyright and equal access issues that must be addressed in this evolution. The Icelandic government has taken an important step in supporting Icelandic in a rapidly changing digital environment.

5 Workshop Participants

Emails were sent to selected target groups, public agencies, the universities in Iceland, translation companies and individual translators. Around 245 invitations were sent out, in three rounds.

Announcements were also published at the website of The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages and The University of Iceland, as well at the inner web of the University of Iceland. Some personal phone calls were made to a number of people.

A Facebook event was created to spread the word about the workshop, which was further advertised at the Facebook pages of The Vigdís Finnbogadóttir Institute of Foreign Languages and Veröld – House of Vigdís.



Veröld - hús Vigdísar shared a post. 28 September · 🌐

Vélrænar þýðingar, horfur íslenskrar máltækni og gagnagrunnar eru umræðuefni sem brenna á mörgum þessa dagana. Margir sérfræðingar á þessu sviði eru saman komnir í ELRC málstofunni sem haldin er í Veröld - húsi Vigdísar, til að ræða hugmyndir sínar og framtíðarhorfur.

Stofnun Vigdísar Finnbogadóttur is at Veröld - hús Vigdísar. 28 September · Reykjavík, Iceland · 🌐

ELRC málstofa um gagnagrunna og vélrænar þýðingar stendur nú yfir í Veröld - húsi Vigdísar, þar sem einmála og margmála málheildir, staða og horfur íslenskrar máltækni og þróun þýðingatækni eru m. a. til umræðu.

Image 1 <https://www.facebook.com/pg/veroldhusvigdisar/posts/>



**MÁLSTOFA ELRC
GAGNAGRUNNAR OG
VÉLRÆNAR ÞÝÐINGAR**
28. SEPTEMBER 2018

Skráning:
<http://www.lr-coordination.eu/is/i2iceland>

IHR ELRC-TEAM

SEPT 28 **Málstofa ELRC - Gagnagrunnar og vélrænar þýðingar**

Public - Hosted by Veröld - hús Vigdísar and Stofnun Vigdísar Finnbogadóttur

★ Interested ✓ Going ...

🕒 Friday, 28 September 2018 from 09:00-14:00 UTC
about 2 months ago

📍 Veröld - hús Vigdísar
Brynjólfsgrata 1, 107 Reykjavík, Iceland Show map

About Discussion

Details

Ísland er þátttakandi í evrópsku samstarfi um málföng - European Language Resource Coordination, ELRC.

Í fyrra var lögð fram metnaðarfull verkáætlun til fimm ára um íslenska máltækni, og ríkisstjórnin ákvað í lok síðasta árs að hrinda henni í framkvæmd. Samið hefur verið við sjálfseignarstofnunina Almennaróm að verða miðstöð íslenskrar máltækni og hafa umsjón með framkvæmd áætlunarinnar. Meðal annars stendur til að gera átak á sviði vélrænna þýðinga og þar mun samstarf við ELRC skipta máli. ELRC hvetur ykkur til að íhuga hversu mikið þið þarfnist fjöltyngdrar, opinberrar stafrænnar þjónustu og til að nýta sem best ónotuð en engu að síður verðmæt málföng sem þær opinberu stofnanir sem þið starfið við hafa byggt upp og safnað.

Með þessari málstofu um máltækniáætlun ríkisstjórnarinnar og vélrænar

[See more](#) ▾

Related Events [See more](#)



Að nota Evrópska tungumálar...
Tomorrow UTC at Veröld - hús ...
127 guests
Interested · Going



Cafe Lingua | Heimsins jólar
Thursday UTC at Veröld - hús V...
632 guests
Interested · Going



Sancta Maria - aðventutónleik...
Saturday UTC at Háteigskirkja
1,017 guests
Interested · Going



70 ára afmæli Mannréttindayfi...
Mon, 10 Dec UTC at Veröld - hú...
420 guests
Interested · Going



„Minna hot í ár“ Stjórnsmálaor...
Wednesday UTC at Veröld - hús...
1,902 guests
Interested · Going



Suspiria - Frumsýning//Premi...
Thursday UTC at Bíó Paradís
711 guests
Interested · Going

English (UK) · English (US) · Latviešu · Español · Русский +

[Privacy](#) · [Terms](#) · [Advertising](#) · [AdChoices](#) > · [Cookies](#) · [More](#) · [Facebook](#) © 2018

Image 2 <https://www.facebook.com/stofnunvf/photos/gm.2169249150014841/1911500065595637/?type=3&theater>

In total, 43 people registered for the workshop. Out of these, 35 participated at the workshop, including the organisers. Out of these, excluding the organisers, 12 came from private companies and 20 from public sector. Out of the remaining 5, 3 came from our own institution, and the last 2 were partners in ELRC or European Commission.



Image 3 ELRC Workshop in Iceland on 28 September

Most participants work within or close to the machine translation business, translation services and the language sector.

6 Appendix

6.1 Localised invitation letter

MÁLSTOFA ELRC GAGNAGRUNNAR OG VÉLRÆNAR ÞÝÐINGAR 28. SEPTEMBER 2018

Þér er boðið að taka þátt í málstofu ELRC (European Language Resource Coordination) um gagnagrunna og vélrænar þýðingar sem fram fer í Veröld – húsi Vigdísar þann 28. september 2018.

Nánari upplýsingar um viðburðinn má finna í fylgiskjali frá framkvæmdastjórn Evrópusambandsins.

Skráning á málstofu ELRC fer fram á vefsíðu okkar:

<http://www.lr-coordination.eu/is/l2Iceland>

6.2 Localised agenda

08:30 – 09:00	Skráning
09:00 – 09:05	<i>Hrafn Loftsson</i>
09:05 – 09:30	Yfirlit yfir markáætlun ELRC <i>Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC</i>
09:30 – 09:50	Staða og horfur í íslenskri máltækni <i>Eiríkur</i> <i>Rögnavaldsson, Almanarómur (Presentation)</i>
09:50 – 10:10	Íslenskar málheildir – einmála og margmála <i>Steinþór Steingrímsson, Stofnun Árna</i> <i>Magnússonar í íslenskum</i> <i>fræðum (Presentation)</i>
10:10-10:30	<i>Kaffi</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Máltækniþjóður og markáætlun um tungu og tækni <i>Hallgrímur Jónasson, RANNÍS (Presentation)</i>

Almannarómur: Kynning

10:45-11:00

Stefanía

Haldórsdóttir, Almannarómur ([Presentation](#))

11:00-11:15

Gagnagrunnar: Álitafni tengd persónuvernd

Helga Þórisdóttir, Persónuvernd ([Presentation](#))

11:15-11:45

Hlutverk opinna gagna, dreifing þeirra og notkun

Stefán Baxter, Global Identifier ([Presentation](#))

11:45-12:45

Hádegishlé

Þróun þýðingaforríta og þarfir neytenda

Pallborðsumræður

Fundarstjóri: *Hrafn Loftsson*

12:45- 14:00

Framsögumenn

Vilhjálmur Þorsteinsson/Haukur

Barri Símonarson, Miðeind

Ingibjörg Elsa Björnsdóttir, Félag

þýðenda og túlka

Lokaorð

Hrafn Loftsson

6.3 Localised press release

Málstofa ELRC - Gagnagrunnar og vélrænar þýðingar

Önnur málstofa ELRC um gagnagrunna og vélrænar þýðingar verður haldin í Veröld - húsi Vigdísar þann 28. september kl. 09:00-14:00.

Ísland er þátttakandi í evrópsku samstarfi um málföng - European Language Resource Coordination, ELRC.

Í fyrra var lögð fram metnaðarfull verkáætlun til fimm ára um íslenska máltækni, og ríkisstjórnin ákvað í lok síðasta árs að hrinda henni í framkvæmd. Samið hefur verið við sjálfseignarstofnunina Almennaróm að verða miðstöð íslenskrar máltækni og hafa umsjón með framkvæmd áætlunarinnar. Meðal annars stendur til að gera átak á sviði vélrænna þýðinga og þar mun samstarf við ELRC skipta máli. ELRC hvetur ykkur til að íhuga hversu mikið þið þarfnist fjöltyngdrar, opinberrar stafrænnar þjónustu og til að nýta sem best ónotuð en engu að síður verðmæt málföng sem þær opinberu stofnanir sem þið starfið við hafa byggt upp og safnað.

Með þessari málstofu um máltækniáætlun ríkisstjórnarinnar og vélrænar þýðingar er ætlunin að vekja athygli á verkefninu meðal aðila sem sinna þjónustu við almenning og fyrirtæki en ljóst er að vélrænar þýðingar sem byggjast á gagnagrunnum eru til þess fallnar að auka og bæta aðgengi almennings og fyrirtækja að stjórnsýslu og auðvelda samskipti við stjórnvöld þvert á tungumál. Þetta er mikilvægt í samfélagi þar sem er vaxandi þörf fyrir að geta sinnt öðrum en þeim sem eiga íslensku að móðurmáli.

Sérfræðingur frá framkvæmdastjórn Evrópusambandsins, fulltrúar íslenskrar stjórnsýslu, auk sérfræðinga í máltækni og þýðingum, munu koma saman til að miðla reynslu sinni og ræða þörfina fyrir nútímalega stjórnsýslu sem þjónað getur einstaklingum á mörgum tungumálum.

Síðast en ekki síst, verður reynt að auðkenna gagnagrunna sem nýst gætu til vélrænna þýðinga og leitað leiða til aðlögunar íslensku að CEF eTranslation og hagnýtingar slíkrar tækni innan íslenskrar stjórnsýslu og lagaumhverfis.

Vinnustofan er haldin þátttakendum að kostnaðarlausu, en skráning er nauðsynleg.

Skráning, dagskrá og nánari upplýsingar **HÉR** (<http://www.lr-coordination.eu/is/I2Iceland>)

6.4 Workshop Presentations

All localised presentations have been uploaded to the NAPs shared workspace (/Workshops/Country-specific information/Iceland/Powerpoint Presentations). The presentations are made available online, together with the video recordings, on the ELRC website: http://www.lr-coordination.eu/I2Iceland_agenda