



Deliverable D3.2.25 Task 8

ELRC Workshop Report for Lithuania



Dissemination Level:	Public
Version No.:	V1.0
Date:	2019-04-29



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1 Executive Summary

The 2nd Lithuanian ELRC Workshop took place on the premises of Vilnius University (Universiteto str. 5, Vilnius, Lithuania) on the 1st of February 2019.

It was organized jointly by the ELRC Consortium member Tilde, Vilnius University, the Public NAP of Lithuania and the Ministry of Economics and Innovations of Lithuania. Participants from 40 different organizations, mainly public administrations and public institutions, attended the workshop. In general, the participants appreciated the workshop very much, finding a well-organised arrangement, a pleasant atmosphere and interesting presentations.

An event-dedicated web page in Lithuanian was set up at the ELRC website before the event, at <http://www.lr-coordination.eu/l2lithuania>. The page was populated with the agenda (http://www.lr-coordination.eu/l2lithuania_agenda.) and the online registration form.

Invitations to the participants were sent out two weeks before the event. The invitation text was a localized version of the respective template with additional information prepared by Vilnius University (see Appendix 7.1). The invitation was followed by a personal e-mail and calls to the persons to whom invitations were sent. Reminder and updated information were sent out to all registered participants 3 days before the event.

The event attracted 61 participants. All feedback forms that were handed in showed a positive experience.



Image 1 LT ELRC Workshop participants

2 Workshop Agenda

08:00 – 9:00 Registration and coffee

09:00 – 09:20 **Welcome and introduction**
Audrius Valotka, Vilnius University
Andrius Utkā, State Commission of the Lithuanian Language / ELRC National Anchor Point

Session 1. Connecting a multilingual Europe: European context and local needs

09:20 – 09:40 The European Union and Multilingualism in the digital age
Arūnas Butkevičius, Head of the Lithuanian Language Department, Directorate-General for Translation, European Commission

09:40 – 10:00 Connecting public services across Europe: ambition and results so far
Markus Foti, eTranslation at DG Translation ([Presentation](#))

10:00 – 10:20 National initiatives for digital public services and (open) data
Elijus Čivilis, The Ministry of Economy and Innovations ([Presentation](#))

10:20 – 10:50 *Coffee Break*

Session 2. Engage: hands-on data

10:50 – 11:20 Language Equality in the Digital Age: Engine for Business and Economy
Audrius Valotka, Vilnius University

11:20 – 11:40 Overview of the European Language Resource Coordination action (ELRC)
Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC / Tilde ([Presentation](#))

11:40 – 13.10

Lunch Break

13:10 – 13:40

Legal aspects of sharing language resources
Justina Niké, AAA Law ([Presentation](#))

13:40 – 14:00

The CEF eTranslation platform @ work
*Egidijus Zaikauskas, European Commission
representation office in Lithuania ([Presentation](#))*

14:00 – 14:10

Wrap-up

14:10 – 14:40

Coffee Break and Networking

3 Summary of Content of Sessions

3.1 Welcome and introduction



Image 2 Welcome and introduction by Audrius Valotka

The Lithuanian ELRC Workshop was opened by the local organizer Audrius Valotka, Language project manager and DA at Vilnius University, and Andrius Utkā, ELRC National Anchor Point in Lithuania. Audrius Valotka presented the overall aims and objectives of the workshop and briefly introduced the participants to the context of the workshop and the agenda of the second ELRC workshop in Lithuania. ELRC National Anchor Point in Lithuania Andrius Utkā welcomed the audience and introduced the key persons who had conceived and organized the event—the ELRC consortium and the EC/DGT representatives. He also gave a short overview on the status, policy and development of the state language in Lithuania and briefly talked about the European Parliament resolution of 11 September 2018 on language equality in the digital age.

3.2 The European Union and Multilingualism in the digital age

Arūnas Butkevičius, Head of the Lithuanian Language Department, Directorate-General for Translation, European Commission, started his presentation by describing the necessity of translations in the European Union as this is a legal background to ensure the equal rights and information accessibility for all EU members. As the amount of information for translation increases constantly, it is absolutely clear that translators at EC DGT are not able to provide translations in a short time. According to the presenter, the digital revolution not only highlighted the problem of multilingualism, but also offered a solution to the problem - machine translation. In the European Union, this solution is supported through the initiative Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). One of its key components is eTranslation, which supports digital infrastructures (e.g. e-identity, e-procurement, e-health records,

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Europeana digital library, e-Justice and customs services). The speaker highlighted that the effectiveness of the use of this tool depends to a large extent on close cooperation between the public sector in the countries and the European Commission. This is the idea and the goal of this workshop. The results and experience of this project will be further built on in the future programs foreseen in the new Multiannual Financial Perspective of the European Commission, which will be implemented from 2021 onwards.



Image 3 Arūnas Butkevičius, Head of the Lithuanian Language Department, Directorate-General for

3.3 Connecting public services across Europe: ambition and results so far

Markus Foti, Senior Expert of eTranslation at DG Translation, started his presentation with a reminder how the machine translation service started at EC DGT. In his presentation he introduced the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) and explained in detail CEF Automated Translation (CEF AT) as a building block. The CEF AT building block today includes the eTranslation service – a central machine translation service run by DGT – and the ELRC-SHARE repository which stores language resources needed to develop multilingual systems and services. CEF Automated Translation helps to deliver these services to Europe’s citizens in the best possible way.

Markus Foti gave an overview of current usage of the e-Translation system, and explained how and who can use this system. Also, he provided some results on institutions using this machine translation system across Europe. He stated some Lithuanian institution names that have already tried the e-Translation tool.

The speaker stressed that the data availability is a key point on making the service high quality and thus to gain widespread use.

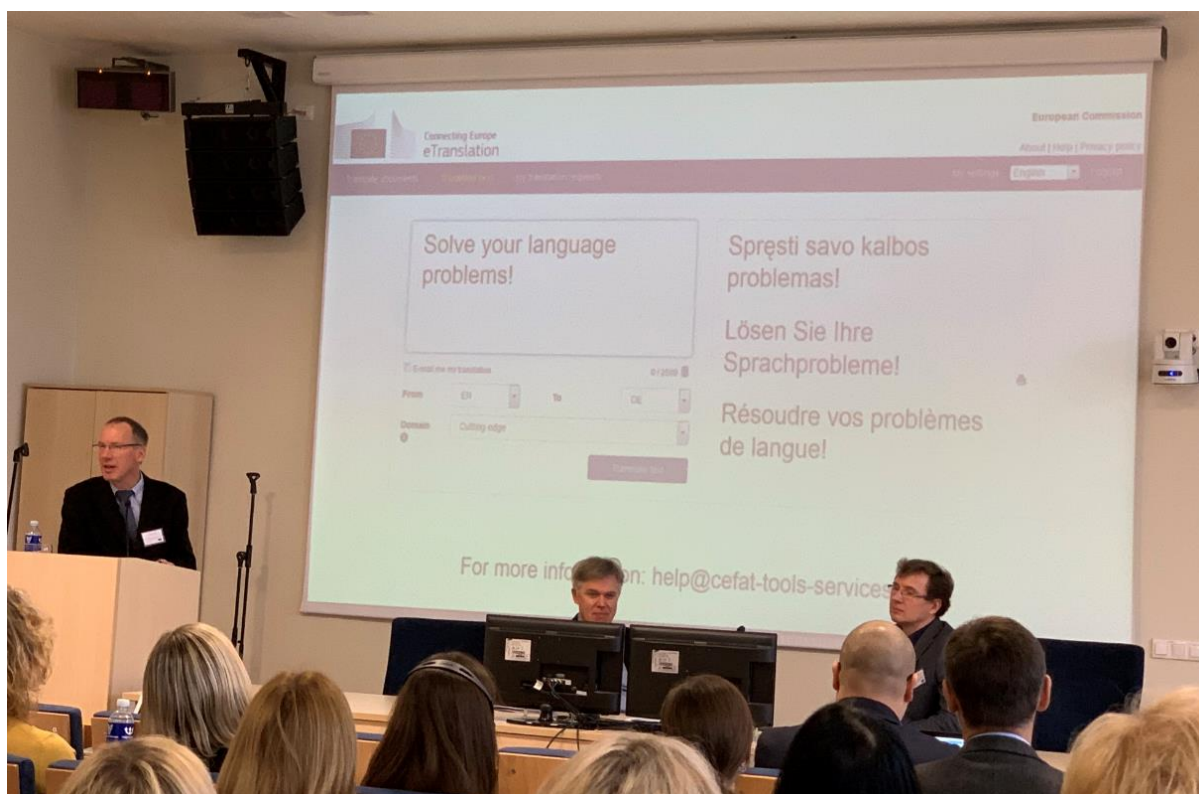


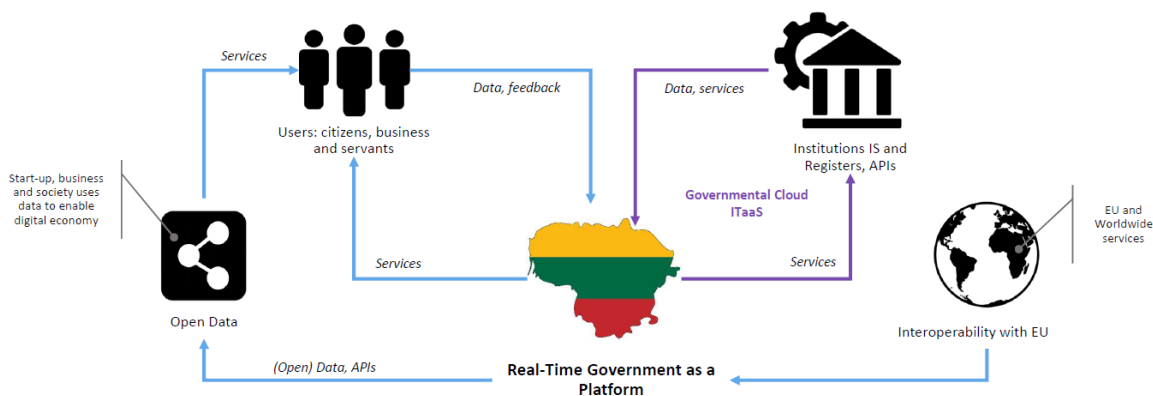
Image 4 Markus Foti demonstrating eTranslation in action

3.4 National initiatives for digital public services and (open) data

Elijus Čivilis, Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Economy and Innovation in Lithuania, started his presentation from the comparison of the second Lithuanian religion - basketball and the leadership in today's world. The size of the country or size of the language does not make difference, but leadership in future technologies does make & difference. He described what Lithuania is known for in the world today. One of the main areas that raised Lithuania's awareness in the digital world is leading public e-government services. The presenter showed different examples of the usage of these services in Lithuania, described the challenges the citizens meet with, described the ways to solve the upcoming issues. Also, Elijus Čivilis, provided information on e-service distribution and implementation in different municipalities in Lithuania.

Real-Time Digital Government as a Platform

EKONOMIKOS
IR INOVACIJŲ
MINISTERIJA



2019-02-07

17

Image 5 E-services Platform

The speaker also presented the plans of the Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation for further digitization of Lithuania, for public service evolution, and a digital public service roadmap.



Image 6 Elijus Čivilis, Vice-Minister at the Ministry of Economy and Innovation in Lithuania

3.5 Language Equality in the Digital Age: Engine for Business and Economy

Audrius Valotka, Language Project Manager and DA at Vilnius University, started his speech describing the factors of the last decade that are relevant to the economy and language: new countries joining the EU with their own languages, internal and external migration, increase in supranational institutions of the European Union due to EU enlargement, and the growth in global trade. These changes, according to the presenter, increase the cultural and linguistic diversity where both potential of conflict and new opportunities lie.



Image 7 Audrius Valotka, Language Project Manager and DA at Vilnius University

Audrius Valotka reviewed different interesting facts and results presented in the conference *Language Equality in the Digital Age*. It is stated that the language barrier stops the growth of investments. This is already manifested in the early stages when an entrepreneur wants to get acquainted with the legal environment of another country and starts experiencing the linguistic “discrimination”. Lithuanian companies, like all other companies in Europe, lose a lot of business transactions due to lack of language skills. A weak knowledge of a foreign language is not just a communicative, informational issue. This is also a security issue which could be called a linguistic security.

The speaker acknowledges that the language barrier is a major obstacle for small and medium-sized businesses. Due to insufficient knowledge of foreign languages the companies lose trade opportunities 4-5 times more often.

In his presentation, Audrius Valotka reviewed the projects dedicated to the development of the Lithuanian language technologies, and the results – different tools and services have been developed for public use. He also encouraged a closer cooperation between business companies and science institutions. This cooperation could give more opportunities for business to enter the international market.

3.6 Overview of the European Language Resource Coordination action (ELRC)

Andrejs Vasiljevs, the ELRC representative, welcomed the audience on behalf of the consortium.



Image 8 Andrejs Vasiljevs, the ELRC representative

He described the crucial role that language technology development has for smaller languages for them to survive in the digital era and the importance of cooperation in collecting language resources for building automated translation systems.



Image 9 Importance of Technology development to preserve languages

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The speaker went deeper into the ELRC and eTranslation. In his presentation he explained why these initiatives are needed, what the ELRC goals are and why overcoming 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 also informed on how the ELRC works, what organizations are involved, what makes data so valuable and how one can get involved and be assisted in the data contribution process. He also explained that the way to enhance the performance of eTranslation is with the corresponding "training data" that is "fed" into the system (i.e. language resources, such as bilingual corpora, multi-lingual corpora, terminologies, etc.). In-domain training data (i.e. translations from the target domain) are essential for achieving high-quality translation.

3.7 Legal aspects of sharing language resources

Justina Nikė, a lawyer and a representative of the company AAAlaw, commenced the session about the legal aspects of sharing language resources. In her presentation, she discussed the legal frameworks and implications on language resource creation, re-use and modifications. She also discussed personal data protection including GDPR and its implications on language resource sharing. The speaker described the concept of open data produced in public administration, together with the legislation dedicated to copyright, privacy protection etc. She pointed out that also language data is defined as public data in Lithuanian legislation. Lastly, Justina Nikė provided some recommendations related to the opening up the data for sharing.



Image 10 Important aspects of IPR for language data

3.8 The CEF eTranslation platform @ work



Image 11 Egidijus Zaikauskas, the Language Officer at European Commission

Egidijus Zaikauskas, the Language Officer at the European Commission representation office in Lithuania, started his presentation from some machine translated examples explaining why machine translation provides one or the other translation and what the influencing factors are.

He introduced the workshop participants to the eTranslation website where translation of texts in a variety of formats and sources can be requested. He elaborated on the use of the eTranslation platform, its availability, users and benefits and gave practical examples of its actual use. Furthermore, Egidijus Zaikauskas underlined the safety of the eTranslation service and its privacy as documents are deleted after 24 hours or upon demand immediately after delivery.

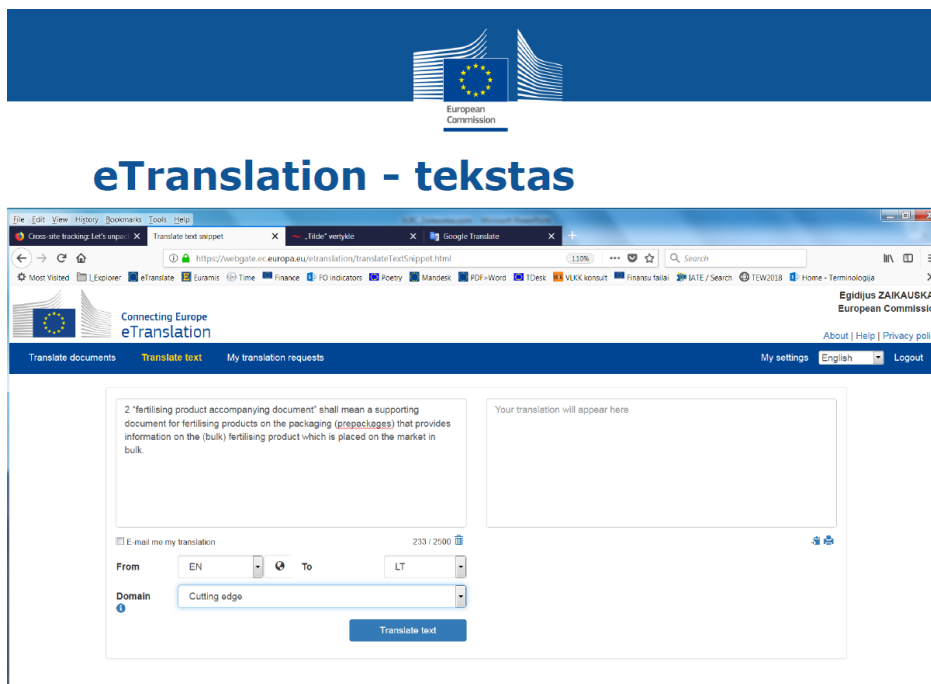


Image 12 eTranslation interface

He also confirmed, along with many other presenters during the day, that data and domain specific data is the key to the success of the eTranslation system and ELRC is working to provide the necessary data sets.

3.9 Wrap-up

In the concluding session Audrius Valotka gave a brief summary of the main issues discussed during the day ranging from the CEF Programme and how ELRC is organized to support its objectives, the role of eTranslation and how data is the key factor in enhancing its quality and extending its applicability to new domains. He hoped that participants now appreciated the value of translation data that may be residing in their organizations and appealed to them to share their data with ELRC.

The local organizers then thanked all speakers, participants as well as interpreters for their contribution to making the workshop as mutually useful as possible.

4 Synthesis of Workshop Discussions

4.1 ELRC and Open Language Data in Lithuania

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 Lithuanian government and its bodies in the recent years have shown a strong wish to proceed with the centralized digitalization of public services. The Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovations prepared a strategy on Real-time Digital Government as a Platform where one of the main activities is creating a governmental cloud - Open Data Ecosystem - for better data management, maintaining the Open Data portals, and continuation of PSI Directive implementation. The government also encourages representatives from various public administration offices and businesses to apply for open CEF Calls.

4.2 Success stories and lessons learnt

Highlights of the workshop include:

- the 2nd workshop attracted interest from a much wider range of institutions in comparison to the 1st ELRC workshop in Lithuania;
- there is still lack of interest at the level of decision makers;
- data holders/contributors are sometimes confused with the relation between ELRC and other data initiatives or projects (META-SHARE, CLARIN, CEF-funded projects), and don't fully understand the differences between them;
- data contributors are sometimes reluctant to give their LRs due to concerns about their relevance and/or quality – this is the point that has to be included in future ELRC workshops.

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5 Workshop Participants

The Lithuanian ELRC workshop received 80 registrations spanning a wide range of ministries and public organizations, and from LSPs and academia. Before the workshop the cold calling activities were organized; in this way organizers were able to make sure that important public administration institutions were represented. The workshop was well-attended – there were 61 participants.

Institutions	Number of participants	Percentage
Public sector	26	42,6%
Technology eco-system (=research, academia, private companies developers of digital services)	25	41%
LSPs (=translators, interpreters, LSPs)	4	6,6%
Other (EC and ELRC consortium representatives, secretariat support staff, and other participants that cannot be grouped into any of the above)	6	9,8%
Total:	61	100%

6 Appendix

6.1 Localised invitation letter

Europa be kalbos barjerų: Lietuva Europos skaitmeninių paslaugų sistemoje

Antrasis Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo seminaras Lietuvoje

Lietuvos, kaip ir kitų ES valstybių, viešojo administravimo institucijos – parlamentai, ministerijos, agentūros ir kt. – užsako daug vertimų ir skiria tam daug lėšų. Siekiant naikinti tarpkalbinius barjerus, Europos Komisijos Europos infrastruktūros tinklų priemonė (EITP) kuria paslaugą „eTranslation“, kurią įgyvendinus viešojo administravimo įstaigos galės nemokamai naudotis mašininio vertimo programa, itin gerai pritaikyta administracinių tekstų vertimui. Tai reiškia, kad poreikis samdyti daugiau vertėjų raštu taps nebe toks aktualus, o vertimui skirtos lėšos bus taupomos iš esmės.

Kad vertimo programa būtų efektyvi, jai būtini pakankami tekstiniai išteklių. Šiuo metu tik viena kita Lietuvos viešojo administravimo įstaiga tvarkingai išsaugo dvikalbius lygiagrečius tekstus – „maistą“ mašininio vertimo programai. Tiesa, kai kurie žingsniai jau žengti: nuo 2015 m. Lietuva dalyvauja Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo konsorciumo veikloje, o Lietuvos viešojo administravimo institucijos, pvz., Lietuvos Respublikos Seimas, Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybė pateikė vienakalbius ir daugiakalbius kalbos duomenis, kuriuos Europos Komisija jau naudoja, siekdama pritaikyti sistemą „eTranslation“ lietuvių kalbai. Vis dėlto dar yra daug galimybių, kaip ateityje sustiprinti šalies ir lietuvių kalbos padėtį Europos bendroje daugiakalbėje skaitmeninėje rinkoje.

Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo (ELRC) tinklas, šio seminaro iniciatorius, siekia surinkti nacionalinėms viešojo administravimo institucijoms ir jų paslaugoms aktualius kalbinius išteklius, kurie bus panaudoti „eTranslation“ tobulinti.

Kaupiant kalbinius vertimo išteklius iškyla nemažai klausimų: standartų pasirinkimas, išteklių administravimas, intelektinės nuosavybės aspektai. Dėl šios priežasties, praėjus dvejim metams po pirmojo trisdešimtyje Europos šalių vykusio seminarų ciklo, ELRC konsorciumas, veikdamas Europos Komisijos vardu, grįžta į Lietuvą su antruoju seminaru, kuris vyks 2019 m. vasario 1 dieną Vilniaus universitete. Seminaro tikslas – aptarti Lietuvos padėtį ir perspektyvas skaitmeniniais ryšiais susiaurėjusioje daugiakalbėje Europoje. Be to, ELRC seminare bus siekiama atkreipti dėmesį į atitinkamas nacionalines su e. valdžia susijusias strategijas ir veiksmus, daugiakalbystę bei atvirusius duomenis. Konstruktyviame dialoge su Europos Komisijos ekspertais, aukšto rango atstovais iš Lietuvos viešojo administravimo ir valdžios institucijų, kalbinių technologijų specialistais bei kalbinių paslaugų teikėjais bus aptarti šiuolaikinių daugiakalbių viešojo administravimo institucijų patirtis bei poreikiai. Taip pat bus nustatyti daugiakalbių duomenų šaltiniai, kurie padės pritaikyti EITP paslaugą „eTranslation“ pagal Lietuvos viešųjų paslaugų poreikius, bei svarstomi techniniai ir teisiniai klausimai, susiję su duomenų naudojimu automatiniam vertimui.

Seminaras skirtas skaitmeninių viešųjų paslaugų teikėjams, viešojo administravimo institucijų vadovams, tarnautojams ir partneriams, vertėjams ir asmenims, kurie tvarko daugiakalbius dokumentus ir duomenis. Dalyvavimas **nemokamas**.

Jei reikia papildomos informacijos, kreipkitės į seminaro vadovą dr. Audrių Valotką, audrius.valotka@flf.vu.lt, 8-652-78691. Nekantriai laukiame jūsų atsakymo.

Renginio vieta: Vilniaus universiteto Filologijos fakultetas (Universiteto g. 5, Vilnius), 92 aud.

Renginio data: 2019 m. vasario 1 d., 9.00–14.00

Renginio organizatoriai: ELRC, Vilniaus universitetas, LR Ekonomikos ir inovacijų ministerija, Tilde.

6.2 Localised agenda

Antrojo ELRC seminaro Lietuvoje darbotvarkė

08:00 – 09:00	Registracija
09:00 – 09:20	Sveikinimo žodis ir įvadas <i>Audrius Valotka, Vilniaus universitetas Andrius Utkā, VLKK, ELRC atstovas</i>
1 sesija. Kaip sujungti daugiakalbę Europą: Europos kontekstas ir vietos poreikiai	
09:20 – 09:40	Europos Sąjunga ir daugiakalbystė skaitmeniniame amžiuje <i>Arūnas Butkevičius, Europos Komisijos Vertimo raštu generalinio direktorato Lietuvių kalbos departamento vadovas</i>
09:40 – 10:00	Sujungti viešojo administravimo paslaugas visoje Europoje: užmojai ir pasiekimai <i>Markus Foti, eTranslation at DG Translation</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Nacionalinės iniciatyvos skaitmeninių viešųjų paslaugų ir (atvirųjų) duomenų srityje <i>Elijus Čivilis, Lietuvos Respublikos Ekonomikos ir inovacijų ministerija</i>
10:20 – 10:50	Kavos pertrauka
10:50 – 11:20	Kalbų lygybė skaitmeniniame amžiuje – verslo ir ekonomikos variklis <i>Audrius Valotka, Vilniaus universitetas</i>
11:20 – 11:50	Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo (ELRC) veiklos apžvalga <i>Andrejs Vasiljevs, ELRC / Tilde</i>
11:50 – 13:20	Pietų pertrauka

2 sesija. Prisidėkite: duomenys, kuriais galite pasidalyti

13:20 – 13:40	Dalijimosi kalbos ištekliais teisiniai aspektai <i>Justina Nikė, AAA Law</i>
13:40 – 14:00	Kaip veikia CEF „eTranslation“ platforma <i>Egidijus Zaikauskas, Europos Komisijos atstovybė Lietuvoje</i>
14:00 – 14:10	Baigiamasis žodis
14:10 – 14:40	Kava ir pokalbiai

6.3 Localised press release

Europos kalbų lygybė: ar lietuvių kalba gali prilygti anglų?

Daugeliui įprasta, kad užsienio internetinėse parduotuvėse, tarptautinių institucijų ir paslaugų svetainėse informacija pateikiama anglų ar kitomis populiariausiomis kalbomis. Vis tik sparčiai tobulėjančios kalbos technologijos ir Europos Sąjungos deklaruojamas kalbų lygybės principas leidžia tikėtis, kad greitai tokiuose tinklalapiuose visą informaciją gausime ir gimtosiomis kalbomis. Kodėl svarbu praktikoje įtvirtinti kalbos lygybės idėją bus aptariama vasario 1 dieną vyksiančiame Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo seminare.

Vilniaus universiteto ir ELRC konsorciumo organizuojamame renginyje akademikai, valstybės institucijų atstovai, teisininkai bei kalbos inovacijų specialistai dalinsis savo pastebėjimais apie kalbos išteklių koordinavimo iššūkius ir galimybes.

Kalbos barjerai – kliūtis prekybai

Seminaro metu kalbų lygybės reikšmę ekonomikai ir prekybai aptarsiąs Vilniaus universiteto Filologijos fakulteto humanitarinių mokslų daktaras Audrius Valotka sako, kad skaitmeniniame amžiuje kalbų lygybė nėra tiesiog graži idėja – tai verslo ir ekonomikos variklis.

„Vis didesnei daliai prekybos persikeliant į elektroninę erdvę, tinkamai išnaudojami skirtingų kalbų ištekliai tampa savotišku ūkio veiklos katalizatoriumi. Kalbos barjerai e-komercijos srityje daugeliu atvejų yra ir prekybos barjerai, todėl nuo galimybės kurti efektyvias daugiakalbes platformas didele dalimi priklauso tarptautinio elektroninio verslo sėkmė“, – sako A. Valotka.

Tyrimai rodo, kad net 50 proc. europiečių nėra pasirengę pirkti interneto parduotuvėse, kuriose informacija pateikiama ne jų gimtąja kalba. Pašnekovo teigimu, ne mažiau svarbus yra ir socialinis

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kalbų lygybės aspektas, nes nuo galimybės gauti viešąsias paslaugas gimtąja kalba priklauso jų prieinamumas ir kokybė.

„Įsivaizduokite, kad slidinėdami Italijos kurorte patiriate traumą ir kreipiatės į vietos gydymo įstaigą, o visa informacija, kurią gaunate, yra tik italų kalba. Be abejo, tai sukeltų nepatogumų. Su panašiomis problemomis neretai susiduria ir emigrantai, atvykę į svetimą šalį ir norintys pateikti dokumentus vietos institucijoms. Galimybė gauti viešąsias paslaugas gimtąja kalba palengvintų komunikaciją ir liktų mažiau biurokratinių kliūčių“, – įsitikinęs A. Valotka.

Kalbos technologijos leistų sutaupyti milijonus

A. Valotka įsitikinęs, kad šiuolaikinių technologijų taikymas kalbų lygybės principui įtvirtinti leistų valstybės institucijoms sutaupyti daug lėšų, kurios šiandien yra išsekvojamos vertimams rankiniu būdu. Anot specialisto, Lietuvoje vien Migracijos departamentas vertimams per metus išleidžia apie 5 mln. eurų.

„Šiandien jau yra prieinamos išties gerai veikiančios kalbos sintezavimo, šnekos atpažinimo ir automatinio vertimo technologijos, kurios gali padėti praktikoje įtvirtinti kalbų lygybės principą. Tam, kad šios technologijos būtų naudojamos plačiau, visų pirma reikia politinės valios ir tolimesnio kalbos technologijų vystymo, investicijų į šią sritį. Neabejoju, kad jos atsipirktų su kaupu“, – sako A. Valotka.

Tuo metu kalbos technologijų bendrovės „Tilde IT“ direktorė Renata Špukienė sako, kad jau ir lietuvių kalbai pritaikytos technologijos yra stipriai pažengusios ir taikytinos praktikoje.

„Šnekos atpažinimo technologijos, leidžiančios sakomą lietuvių kalbą automatiškai paversti tekstu, jau geba žodžius atpažinti ir užrašyti iki 80 proc. tikslumu. Ši sistema apdorodama vis daugiau informacijos nuolat tobulėja, tad jos tikslumas tik didės. Tikslesnės tampa ir automatinio vertimo sistemos. Šių technologijų principai jau yra pakankamai išstobulinti, tad dabar didžiausia užduotis – „apmokyti“ jas, leidžiant išanalizuoti kuo daugiau kalbos resursų“, – sako R. Špukienė.

Antrasis Lietuvoje Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo seminaras, subursiantis skirtingų sričių atstovus, vyks vasario 1 dieną Vilniaus universiteto Filologijos fakulteto 92 auditorijoje (Universiteto gatvė 5, Vilnius). Dalyvavimas seminare nemokamas, tačiau su išankstine registracija. Registruoties renginiui galima Europos kalbų išteklių koordinavimo [interneto svetainėje](#).