

# META FORUM 2016

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## Closing Session

Jan Hajic, Georg Rehm

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# META-FORUM 2016: Summary

- ❑ Two packed days of presentations and discussions
- ❑ Exciting projects, initiatives, applications, research results
- ❑ Breakthroughs in Neural MT, Neural Parsing, Neural X
- ❑ Diverse aspects of the same topic: *Multilingual Europe*
- ❑ Multiple different stakeholders passionate about the topic
- ❑ This is a challenge and also an opportunity

- ❑ Digital language extinction continues to be an issue
- ❑ Digital divide – good/moderate support for some languages, many languages still completely neglected
- ❑ Digital language death (NPLD, EFNIL, Andras Kornai)
- ❑ Digital language preservation (Sabine Kirchmeier)
- ❑ Lack of data sets for many languages a severe problem
- ❑ Finally official recognition of the importance of multilingualism for the Digital Single Market (EC, Andrus Ansip)
- ❑ The language and multilingualism topic is getting more and more traction everywhere ...

# Address Stakeholder Needs ... META<sup>≡</sup>NET

- ❑ ... of **technology** (services, platforms, applications, apps)
- ❑ ... of the **languages**
  - Not only for the official EU Member State languages
  - But also unofficial, minority, immigrant, refugee, trade partner languages
- ❑ ... of **research** and **development**
- ❑ ... of **innovation** – empowerment of SME, startups and spinoffs
- ❑ ... of the **citizens** – language equality, LT for all
- ❑ ... of **business** – to build the Multilingual Digital Single Market

# Multilingual Europe Stakeholders

- ❑ **European Parliament**
  - Upcoming STOA Study
- ❑ **European Commission**
  - Horizon 2020 WP 2018-2020
  - Connecting Europe Facility, Automated Translation – CEF AT
  - New Unit “Learning, Multilingualism, Inclusion” – implications?
- ❑ **Language Communities: EFNIL und NPLD**
  - Joint position paper 2016, 2015
- ❑ **Cracking the Language Barrier – Multilingual Europe Community**
  - Multilingual Digital Single Market SRIA 1.0, META-NET SRA etc.
- ❑ **EU Member States and Non-Member States**
  - National and regional funding agencies (ES, NL etc.)
- ❑ **Research Communities**, especially Big Data community (BDVA SRIA V3.0), Web community and many others (Robotics, IoT etc.)
- ❑ **Standardisation – W3C and others**

# Towards a Multilingual Strategy of the EU

- ❑ **There is a lot of traction for the multilingualism/language topic.**
- ❑ Multilingual Strategy must take into account **several stakeholders:** citizens, business/innovation, DSM, research (multiple communities)
- ❑ **Components in place (in progress):** SRIAs, STOA Study etc.
- ❑ We need the **political will to establish language policy change** on the level of (a) **member states** and (b) the **European Union**
- ❑ **Some Member States are ahead** (DK, IE, EE, ES, NL, SL)
- ❑ **Coordinate, intensify the push and keep up the pressure from Member States, EP, EC, research community, businesses etc.**
- ❑ **Let's initiate a Concerted Action – maybe even a Shared Programme (EU/MSs). **Multilingual Europe community is ready!****

# Thank you very much!

- ❑ All presenters
- ❑ All participants of panel discussions
- ❑ All session chairs
- ❑ All members of the programme committee
- ❑ All authors of submitted papers
- ❑ All participants of the conference!

# Thank you very much!

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- ❑ Nieves Sande (DFKI)
- ❑ Thea Busch (DFKI)
- ❑ Aljoscha Burchardt (DFKI)
- ❑ Sarah Weichert (DFKI)
- ❑ António Branco (University of Lisbon) and team, especially
- ❑ Ana Tavares and all the others!





**Thank you.**

**office@meta-net.eu**

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