LetsMT!

Platform for Online Sharing of Training Data and Building User Tailored MT

www.letsmt.eu

Project no. 250456

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V0.8	31/08/2012	final	Tilde	Andrejs Vasiļjevs	Section about the Riga conference added.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With this final version of D7.5 the report on organisation and rolling out of two special LetsMT! workshops is presented. The first one was targeting translation and localisation industry and it was organised adjoining the GALA2012 conference in Monte Carlo, on 2012-03-25. The second workshop was organised as one of LREC2012 post-conference workshops in Istanbul, on 2012-05-26. With these workshops LetsMT! specifically targeted for dissemination two different communities, industry and research respectively. As an addition, a final list of all conferences and workshops where LetsMT! project appeared as co-organiser or supporter is given.

Table of Contents

1 Introduction

Dissemination of information about the projects is one of activities that rises the awareness about the project, its goals, achievements, partners involved as well as funding part(ies). Although it does not produce tangible results that are produced by the main research activities of the project, the Dissemination and sustainability work package (WP7) with its results that convey information about the project is considered as important as the other WPs.

One of goals of WP7 is to **disseminate** project results and to transfer the project knowledge, technologies, lessons learned and best practices to interested communities and thus to ensure their impact and long-term sustainability.

In a research and professional communities, conferences, workshops and seminars represent the most straightforward way to personally spread information. It includes both, unidirectional and bidirectional, i.e. interactive communication when it is needed. Apart from participating at such events organised by other parties, LetsMT! project has organised at two international workshops with relevant target groups, in association with major international conferences.

This deliverable D7.5.3 follows the previous D7.5.1 and D7.5.2 and gives the final report on two LetsMT! workshops that were organised in order to bring closer the targeted audience and disseminate information about the LetsMT! project during the last six months at the most important events in the field. Also, a final list of conferences and workshops that have been co-organised or supported by LetsMT! is given in the second section of this deliverable.

According to the implementation of dissemination activities described in the D7.1 *Dissemination plan* two workshops had to be organised by the LetsMT! consortium. Following the stratification of targeted audience from D7.1, the first workshop was aiming to spread the information about the project to the localisation and translation industry, while the second was intended for scientific community where the research results of the project were presented, discussed and communicated in the manner that allowed two way communication, i.e., much needed feedback in the form of questions and answers, arguing about problematic spots etc.

We believe that the dissemination instruments described in this deliverable have significantly raised the profile and visibility of the project, as a complement to other dissemination channels used.

2 GALA2012 workshop

2.1 Target audience

Targeted audience for this workshop was localisation and translation industry, i.e. companies and individuals that might become potential users of LetsMT! reults, and particularly the LetsMT! platform with SMT training and translating services. To maximise the outreach to this kind of audience and after careful consideration at which events our dissemination effort would yield the most successful effect, we decided to contact the organisers of the GALA2012 conference, that was held in Monte Carlo, from 26 to 28 March 2012.

GALA conferences are considered to be the top-most global events in this industry and in the end it turned right to organise a workshop in that context and with that kind of audience.

GALA conferences usually do not have satellite events, but this time our negotiations were successful, so the organisers allowed us to organise a half-day workshop under their name and in the same premises. Even more, they also supported our workshop with their logistics, so the whole organisation resulted with a very successful event.[1]

2.2 Co-organisation

The workshop was organised jointly with the ACCURAT project (http://www.accurat-project.eu). The general aim of the workshop was to demonstrate, among other things, the LetsMT! platform for training SMT systems from user's own parallel data and for usage of these systems for particular language pairs and domains. Also, several use cases were presented how to use LetsMT! services in different ways, such as web page widget, browser plug-in, integration with translation and localisation environment, and special apps for iOS and Android mobile devices. In order to accomodate both projects needs, the workshop was given a title *Customized Machine Translation: Platform, Tools and Application LetsMT! cloud platform and ACCURAT tools*.

The workshop took place on 25 March 2012 with more than 30 registered participants among which were members of LT development teams of important players in the files such as PayPal and Adobe.

2.3 Workshop programme

The agenda of the workshop was the following:

09:00 Andrejs Vasiļjevs (Tilde): *The Quest for Better MT*

09:10 Achim Ruopp (Digital Silk Road): *Modern Ubiquitous Machine Translation – Threat or Opportunity?*

09:35 Indra Sāmīte (Tilde): *LetsMT! and ACCURAT at Your Service*

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[1] Quote from the GALA web page (http://www.gala-global.org/gala-press-release/gala-2013-language-business-business-language-17-20-march-2013-miami-usa-call-pap, 2012-08-20): *Feedback from the GALA 2012 conference, which was held this past March in Monaco, was overwhelmingly positive. In a survey conducted after the conference, 95 percent of participants reported that they were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the conference. Eighty-four percent said they learned new concepts or strategies and 77 percent reported making contacts at GALA 2012 that may generate new business for them. As summed up by Stefan Gentz of TRACOM in Germany: 'The GALA 2012 Conference in Monaco was one of the best language industry events I have ever attended in my 15+ years career.'* We hope that LetsMT! workshop contributed to this judgment.

09:50 Marko Tadić (Univ. of Zagreb, FFZG): *ACCURAT Toolkit = More Data*

10:10 Raivis Skadiņš (Tilde) *LetsMT! Do-it-Yourself Demo*

10:30 coffee break

10:50 Use cases

- Gregor Thurmair (Linguatec): *Creating Lexicon Entries for Narrow Domains from Comparable Corpora*
- Mateja Verlič (Zemanta): *Using SMT in the Blogging Environment*
- Andrejs Vasiļjevs (Tilde): *Real World Evaluation of SMT in Localization*

11:40 Panel discussion *Customized MT: Truth or Myth?*

- Marko Tadić (moderator)
- Achim Ruopp
- Andrejs Vasiļjevs
- Indra Sāmīte
- Gregor Thurmair

12:30 End of the workshop

The panel discussion involved members of the audience and it turned into an interesting discussion about the possibility to use MT in everyday tasks, particularly for under-resourced languages and narrow domains. It seems that these topics provoked a lot of interest as it looks like this is the next direction the translation and localisation industry is going to take, after achieving certain level of industrialisation for major languages.

The original list of speakers featured also a translation expert from EC DG Translation, but this person was hard to reach in desired time, so we remained with dr. Achim Ruopp as the only invited speaker.

Figure 1: GALA2012 LetsMT! workshop panel discussion

3   The 5th BUCC workshop

3.1   Target audience

The target audience for the second workshop were research communities in the fields of computational linguistics, corpus linguistics, language technologies and natural language processing. The LREC2012 was recognised as a conference that can accomodate all our needs: European and global impact, considerable size, possibility to organise a satellite workshops, well positioned in the community, good timing in the respect to the project duration, etc. The decision to organise the whole day workshop at LREC2012 was made in early 2011 and preparations for it were going since mid-2011.

3.2   Co-organising

LetsMT! project responded to the call for workshop proposals and sent the first proposal. However, due to extremely large number of proposals sent to the LREC2012 organisers, it was conditionally accepted providing that it gets merged with the proposal for 5th Workshop on Building and Using Comparable Corpora. From the point of view of the organisers and having in mind the closeness of topics that both proposals covered, we had to agree in order to be present at the most important event of the community. The first proposal, the merged proposal and the final Call for Papers are attached as Annexes to this deliverable.

The joint proposal was accepted and the workshop was given a title *The Fifth Workshop on Building and Using Comparable Corpora (5th BUCC) with special topic Language Resources for Machine Translation in Less-Resourced Languages and Domains*, to accomodate the needs of the LetsMT! and other projects involved in organisation. The joint proposal catered for the situation that there are several EU-funded project dealing with the usage of parallel and comparable corpora running at the moment, and that for all of them such a workshop could be usefull. Therefore, this joint proposal involved a number of projects as coorganising entities: ACCURAT, HyghTra, LetsMT!, TTC, while other similar project were invited to present their results that were relevant for the general topic of the workshop.

Two LetsMT! partners were selected in the organising committe of the workshop: Marko Tadić (FFZG) and Andrejs Vasiļjevs (Tilde), while Marko Tadić was also editor in chief of the workshop Proceedings (http://www.lrec-conf.org/proceedings/lrec2012/workshops/16.BUCC2012%20Proceedings.pdf).

The usual process of collecting contributions to the workshop started with a call for papers that was issued by organising committee and followed by blind reviewing process with at least two reviewers accepting the contribution. The programe and proceedings were completed in time for publishing with the rest of LREC2012 materials.

3.3 Workshop programme

The 5th BUCC workshop was organised as the LREC2012 whole day post-confrenece workshop:

09:00 – 09:10 **Opening**

Oral Presentations 1: Multilinguality (Chair: Pierre Zweigenbaum)
09:10 – 09:30 Philipp Petrenz, Bonnie Webber: *Robust Cross-Lingual Genre Classification through Comparable Corpora*
09:30 – 09:50 Qian Yu, François Yvon, Aurélien Max: *Revisiting sentence alignment algorithms for alignment visualization and evaluation*

Invited Projects Session (Chair: Serge Sharoff)
09:50 – 10:10 Inguna Skadiņa: *Analysis and Evaluation of Comparable Corpora for Under-Resourced Areas of Machine Translation* (ACCURAT, http://www.accurat-project.eu)
10:10 – 10:30 Andrejs Vasiļjevs: *LetsMT! – Platform to Drive Development and Application of Statistical Machine Translation* (LetsMT!, http://www.letsmt.eu)

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

Invited Project Session (Contd.)
11:00 – 11:20 Núria Bel, Vassilis Papavasiliou, Prokopis Prokopidis, Antonio Toral, Victoria Arranz: *Mining and Exploiting Domain-Specific Corpora in the PANACEA Platform* (PANACEA, http://panacea-lr.eu)
11:20 – 11:40 Adam Kilgarriff, George Tambouratzis: *The PRESEMT Project* (PRESEMT, http://www.presemt.eu)
11:40 – 12:00 Béatrice Daille: *Building Bilingual Terminologies from Comparable Corpora: The TTC TermSuite* (TTC, http://www.ttc-project.eu)

12:00 – 12:30 **Panel Discussion with Invited Speakers**

12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch Break**

Oral Presentations 2: Building Comparable Corpora (Chair: Reinhard Rapp)
14:00 – 14:20 Aimée Lahaussois, Séverine Guillaume: *A viewing and processing tool for the analysis of a comparable corpus of Kiranti mythology*
14:20 – 14:40 Nancy Ide: *MultiMASC: An Open Linguistic Infrastructure for Language Research*

Booster Session for Posters (Chair: Marko Tadić)
14:40 – 14:45 Elena Irimia: *Experimenting with Extracting Lexical Dictionaries from Comparable Corpora for: English-Romanian language pair*
14:45 – 14:50 Iustina Ilisei, Diana Inkpen, Gloria Corpas, Ruslan Mitkov: *Romanian Translational Corpora: Building Comparable Corpora for Translation Studies*
14:50 – 14:55 Angelina Ivanova: *Evaluation of a Bilingual Dictionary Extracted from Wikipedia*
14:55 – 15:00 Quoc Hung-Ngo, Werner Winiwarter: *A Visualizing Annotation Tool for Semi-Automatical Building a Bilingual Corpus*
15:00 – 15:05 Lene Offersgaard, Dorte Haltrup Hansen: *SMT systems for less-resourced languages based on domain-specific data*
15:05 – 15:10 Magdalena Plamada, Martin Volk: *Towards a Wikipedia-extracted Alpine Corpus*
15:10 – 15:15 Sanja Štajner, Ruslan Mitkov: *Using Comparable Corpora to Track Diachronic and Synchronic Changes in Lexical Density and Lexical Richness*
15:15 – 15:20 Dan Ştefănescu: *Mining for Term Translations in Comparable Corpora*

15:20 – 15:25 George Tambouratzis, Michalis Troullinos, Sokratis Sofianopoulos, Marina Vassiliou: *Accurate phrase alignment in a bilingual corpus for EBMT systems*

15:25 – 15:30 Kateřina Veselovská, Ngãy Giang Linh, Michal Novák: *Using Czech-English Parallel Corpora in Automatic Identification of* It

15:30 – 15:35 Manuela Yapomo, Gloria Corpas, Ruslan Mitkov: *CLIR - and Ontology-Based Approach for Bilingual Extraction of Comparable Documents*

15:35 – 16:30 **Poster Session and Coffee Break** (coffee from 16:00 – 16:30)

Oral Presentations 3: Lexicon Extraction and Corpus Analysis (Chair: Andrejs Vasiļjevs)

16:30 – 16:50 Amir Hazem, Emmanuel Morin: *ICA for Bilingual Lexicon Extraction from Comparable Corpora*

16:50 – 17:10 Hiroyuki Kaji, Takashi Tsunakawa, Yoshihoro Komatsubara: *Improving Compositional Translation with Comparable Corpora*

17:10 – 17:30 Nikola Ljubešić, Špela Vintar, Darja Fišer: *Multi-word term extraction from comparable corpora by combining contextual and constituent clues*

17:30 – 17:50 Robert Remus, Mathias Bank: *Textual Characteristics of Different-sized Corpora*

17:50 – 18:00 **Wrapup discussion and end of the workshop**

3.4 LetsMT! presentations

Apart from the invited talk in which the LetstMT! project was generally presented, and which was given by Andrejs Vasiļjevs under title *LetsMT! – Platform to Drive Development and Application of Statistical Machine Translation*, LetsMT! partners were present with an additional presentation by Lene Offersgaard and Dorte Haltrup Hansen under title *SMT systems for less-resourced languages based on domain-specific data*.

It is general opinion that the LetsMT! project partners presented new, original and valuable results and that they contributed in spreading the project results in a clear and acceptable manner, thus raising the project visibility and notability.

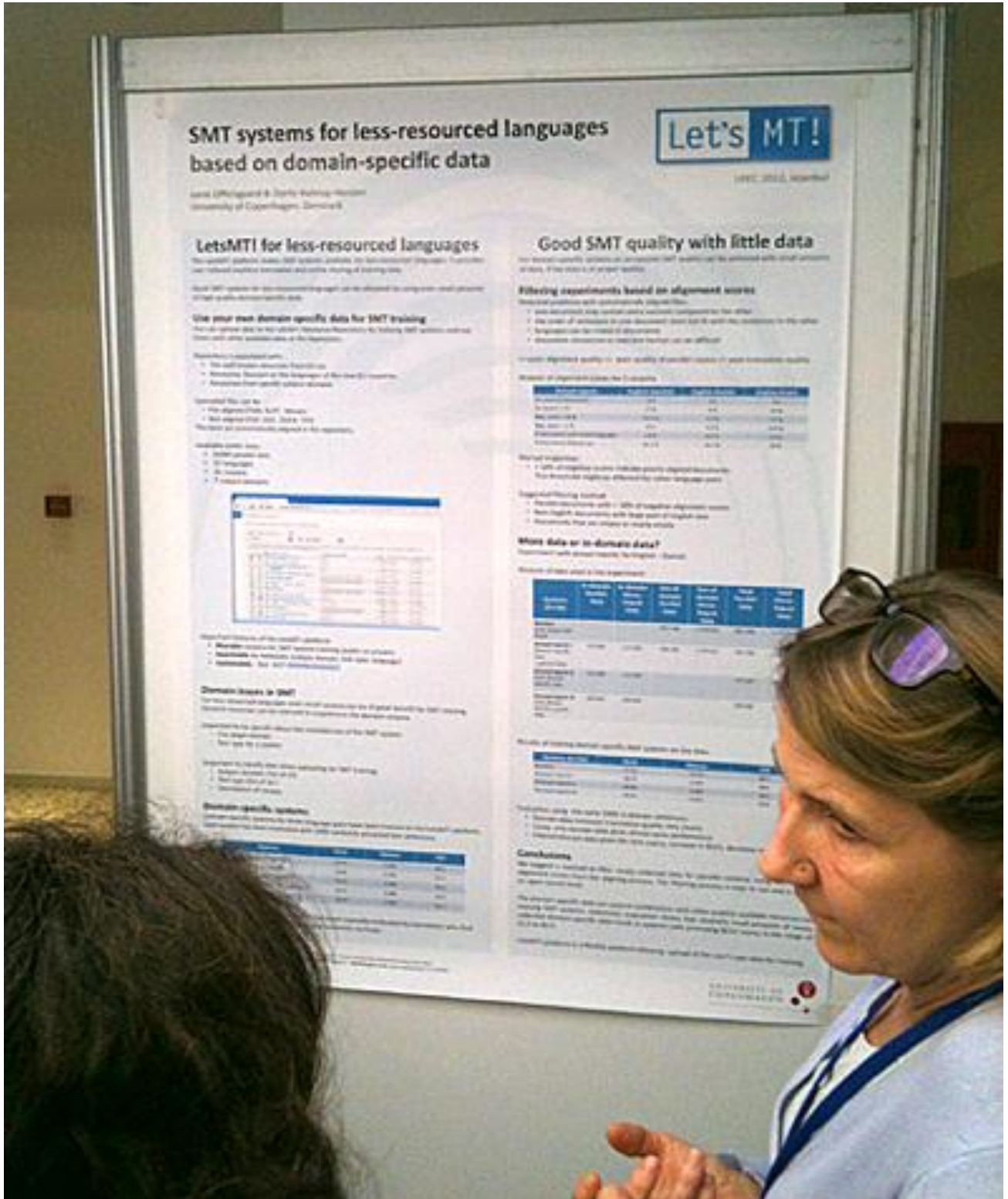Figure 2: Andrejs Vasiļjevs presenting LetsMT! project

Figure 3: Dorte Haltrup presenting LetsMT! project results

4 Conferences co-organised in cooperation with, or supported by LetsMT!

4.1 Formal Approaches to South-Slavic and Balkan Languages (FASSBL7)

This conference is a biannual international conference focused on South Slavic and Balkan languages. It was transferred to Croatia in 2008 and it takes place in Dubrovnik in several iterations co-organised jointly by FFZG, Croatian Language Technologies Society and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences together with support from several international projects. In 2010 the conference was held between 4th and 6th October 2010. The projects LetsMT!, ACCURAT and ATLAS were selected as co-organisers and this also gave them the opportunity to present the project goals and achievements at the conference. The conference was the successor of the five previous FASSBL conferences held in Bulgaria (up to 2006) and in Dubrovnik (2008). The conference URL is http://hnk.ffzg.hr/fassbl2010. The LetsMT! project was presented by the poster and other dissemination materials (flyer, t-shirts).

4.2 Human Language Technologies 2010 – the Baltic Perspective

The main aim of this conference is to provide a forum for the sharing of new ideas and recent advances in human language processing and to promote cooperation between the research communities of computer science and linguistics from the Baltic countries and the rest of the world.

The conference aims to bring together scientists, developers, providers and users to discuss state-of-the-art of HLT in the Baltic countries, to exchange information and to discuss problems, to find new synergies and to promote initiatives for international cooperation.

Central themes of this year conference were:

- Language resources and technology for the Humanities
- Building and using corpora for Machine Translation

The conference is the successor of the three previous Baltic HLT conferences held in Riga (2004), Tallinn (2005) and Kaunas (2007). The conference URL is http://www.lumii.lv/hlt2010/.

Beside the usual dissemination materials (poster, flyer and t-shirts), the LetsMT! project was also presented with the paper and oral presentation LetsMT! *Platform for Online Sharing of Training Data and Building User Tailored Machine Translation* by Andrejs Vasiļjevs, Tatiana Gornostay and Raivis Skadiņš.

4.3 FLaReNet Forum 2011

By creating a consensus among major players in the field, the mission of FLaReNet is to identify priorities as well as short, medium, and long-term strategic objectives and provide consensual recommendations in the form of a plan of action for EC, national organisations and industry. Through the exploitation of new collaborative modalities as well as workshops and meetings, FLaReNet was sustaining the international cooperation and (re)created a wider Language Technologies community. In this respect the FLaReNet Forum 2011 was organised in Venice (26-27 May 2011) and LetsMT! was between co-organising projects. This also gave the opportunity to Andrejs Vasiļjevs to present the project goals and achievements at the conference under the title *How to get more data for under-resourced languages and domains?* (see more at http://project.letsmt.eu/index.php?p=video-lectures where the whole presentation is accessible as video lecture). The conference URL is http://www.flarenet.eu/?q=FLaReNet_Forum_2011.

4.4 NooJ2011 conference

The main aim of this conference was to provide a forum for the sharing of new ideas and recent advances in human language processing by concentrating on the NooJ development environment. The conference intended to:

- give NooJ users and researchers in linguistics and in computational linguistics the opportunity to meet and share their experience as developers, researchers and teachers;

- present to NooJ users the latest linguistic resources and NLP applications developed for/with NooJ, its latest functionalities, as well as its future developments;

- offer researchers and graduate students two tutorials (one basic and one advanced) to help them parse corpora and build NLP applications using NooJ;

- provide the occasion to present and discover the recent developments of NooJ itself.

Since the NooJ can also offer environment to develop machine translation, it was interesting to investigate how this combines with LetsMT! pure SMT and more applicative approach. The LetsMT! project was presented with standard dissemination material (poster, flyer, t-shirt).

The NooJ2011 conference was organised in Dubrovnik (13-15 June) and it was the successor of a series of successful conferences held in Barcelona (2007), Budapest (2008), Tozeur (2009) and Komotini (2010). The conference URL is http://lt.ffzg.hr/nooj2011/.

4.5 SlaviCorp2011

On 27 August 2009 in Stara Lesna, the International Committee of Slavists established the Corpus Linguistics Committee, following a motion tabled by representatives of a number of Slavic national corpora. The proponents of the motion included members of major corpus linguistics teams from Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine. The topics of the conference include, but are not limited to the following:

- recent developments in national Slavic corpora;

- new Slavic corpus projects;

- parallel Slavic corpora;

- Slavic corpora and corpus based lexica;

- diachronic Slavic corpora and digital text collections;

- annotation in Slavic corpora;

- applications of Slavic corpora: research, teaching, LT, M(A)T etc.

In 2011 the conference also included participation from Baltic languages, so Lithuanian was present also, opening the space for other Baltic languages to joint at the future conferences. Since better part of Slavic languages could be considered under-resourced in the respect of existing MT systems, LetsMT! project, presented by a poster, appeared with a platform where they could find the opportunity to reduce their under-resourcedness, or could find an appropriate usage of parallel corpora where some Slavic language take part in language pair. The conference URL is http://hnk.ffzg.hr/slavicorp2011.

4.6 Riga Conference "Language, Technologies and the Future of Europe"

LetsMT! is co-organizer of international conference *Language, Technologies and the Future of Europe* to be held in Riga on September 21, 2012. This conference is organized together with the Ministry of Culture of Latvia, META-NORD project and Microsoft Research. The main purpose of the conference is to raise awareness of the key stakeholders - politicians, government institutions, academic sector, industry, mass media – about the importance of language technologies, possibilities

that they provide, related European Commission programmes and key achievements in the area. Importance of the conference is highlighted by the participation of Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, the Prime Minister of Lavia, who will give an opening speech.

LetsMT! presentation is included in the conference program. There will be a LetsMT! demo booth at the conference site where participants will get possibility to try the platform and signup for its services. Project leaflets will be disseminated to all conference participants.

5 Conclusions

In this deliverable a detailed description of two workshops that LetsMT! project organised was given, the role of LetsMT! partners explained and dissemination effect detailed. As a conclusion it can be said that these dissemination instruments have conveyed the information about the project, contributed to raising of the awareness of its achievements and to presented its results to the targeted audience: localisation and translation industry and research community. Also, a list of workshops and conferences where LetsMT! participated as co-organiser or supporter is given.

Appendix A: GALA2012 workshop announcement

Customized Machine Translation: Platform, Tools and Application LetsMT! cloud platform and ACCURAT tools
Sunday, 25 March 09:00 - 12:00
Le Méridien Beach Plaza, Zephyr Ballroom, 4th Floor
Presenters: Andrejs Vasiļjevs (Tilde), Indra Sāmīte (Tilde), Marko Tadić (University of Zagreb), Raivis Skadiņš (Tilde), Gregor Thurmair (Linguatec), Mateja Verlič (Zemanta), representative of DG Translation, European Commission.

This free workshop is for localization industry practitioners who want to stay on top of developments in the machine translation (MT) field. Learn how to make MT work for you and increase your translation productivity, provide faster service to your customers, and give your company a competitive edge.

You will see innovative technologies focused on empowering MT users and enabling MT for less-resourced languages. These are the results of two large-scale pan-European university and industry collaboration projects LetsMT! and ACCURAT, supported by EU R&D FP7 and ICT-PSP Programs.

Come and learn how to benefit from the self-service "MT factory" in the cloud at letsmt.com where you can build customized MT systems. ACCURAT tools will help you to obtain much-needed parallel data by collecting it from the multilingual web. We will also present specific applications for custom MT, such as sentiment analysis of multilingual newsfeeds, use of SMT systems for authoring tools, enhancing rule-based MT systems with data from comparable corpora, and use of MT in real world localization processes, with a particular focus on under-resourced languages.

You will have the opportunity to meet and learn from top European MT researchers, as well as business practitioners who use MT in translation on a daily basis. More info at the workshop webpage.

Special offer: Register, come and get an exclusive free 2 month trial to make your custom MT system.

You can register for this event when you register for GALA 2012. If you have already registered for the conference, you can simply return to the online store and add this free session to your registration. If you need assistance, please contact Allison Ferch.

Appendix B Text of the first LREC2012 workshop proposal

LREC 2012 Workshop Proposal Submission Form

Workshop Title *[Required]* **:**

Language Resources for Machine Translation in Less-Resourced Languages and Domains

Workshop Description *[Required]* **:**

The general aim of the workshop is to bring together the experts in language resources and machine translation in order to tackle the topic of lack of parallel resources in building the MT systems when it comes to less-resourced languages (LRL) and/or domains (LRD).

Workshop will be jointly organised and supported by two projects: FP7 project ACCURAT and ICT-PSP project LetsMT!, both dealing with this issue from two different angles.

ACCURAT is investigating how to use data from comparable corpora when there are not enough parallel data for LRL or LRD. The results of the project achieved so far will be presented to the wide audience and thoroughly discussed.

LetsMT! is building a platform for building tailor-made SMT systems based on your own parallel data from either general or specialised domains. This platform will also feature open access to SMT systems that are being build on public data. The scientific and technological issues will be presented and discussed.

At the workshop two to three invited speakers are expected, while the rest of the programme will consist of contributions collected through the CFP.

Motivation and Topics of interest *[Required]* **:**

Lack of sufficient language resources for many languages and domains is currently one of the major obstacles in further advancement of machine translation. The main goal of this workshop is to present what has been investigated in this area in two main directions: 1) usage of comparable corpora where there is not enough parallel data (like in less-resourced languages and domains); 2) reaching out for hidden parallel data. These two directions are largely covered by two projects, ACCURAT and LetsMT! that are supported by FP7 and ICT-PSP programmes respectively.

The main goal of the ACCURAT research is to find, analyze and evaluate novel methods how comparable corpora can compensate for this shortage of parallel language resources to improve MT quality significantly for under-resourced languages and narrow domains, such as Latvian, Croatian, Greek and renewable energy domain, medical domain, ICT domain. This novel methodology and fully functional model for exploiting comparable corpora will contribute not only to MT, but also to other tasks in LT such as alignment (sentence, phrase or word level), bi- or multilingual lexicon extraction, multilingual NE detection etc.

The main challenge of LetsMT! project lie in the fact that SMT systems largely depend on the size of training data. Since the majority of parallel data is in more-resourced languages, SMT systems for these languages are of much better quality compared to systems for less-resourced languages. Current systems are built on data accessible on the web, but it is just a fraction of all parallel texts. Most of them still reside in the local systems of different corporations, public and private institutions, and desktops of individual users. The cost and the know-how required for building custom MT solutions deter many small-to-medium companies from utilizing the power of MT technologies. LetsMT! project is building an innovative online collaborative platform for data sharing and MT building. This platform will support upload of public as well as proprietary MT training data and building of multiple MT

systems, public or proprietary, by combining and prioritizing this data. How it could be done is a challenge of its own regarding the processing of parallel corpora and their further usage.

Topics of interest:

- comparable corpora usage
- comparable corpora processing tools/kits
- parallel corpora usage
- parallel corpora processing tools/platforms
- MT for less-resourced languages
- MT for less-resourced domains
- open source SMT systems (Moses, etc.)
- publicly available SMT
- public MT systems related IPR issues

Summary of the Call :

LREC2012 Workshop: Language Resources for Machine Translation in Less-resourced Languages and Domains

The First Call for Papers

Lack of sufficient language resources for many languages and domains currently is one of the major obstacles in further advancement of machine translation. The main goal of this workshop is to present what has been investigated in this area in two main directions: 1) usage of comparable corpora where there is not enough parallel data (like in less-resourced languages and domains); 2) reaching out for hidden parallel data.

We are inviting new, unpublished contributions that will present the findings, analysis and evaluation of novel methods how comparable corpora can compensate for this shortage of parallel language resources or how a larger quantity and richer parallel data that are not available over web could be collected from hidden sources. The primary aim of usage of these two approaches is to improve MT quality significantly for under-resourced languages and narrow domains, but resources and techniques developed for this purpose could also serve other LT tasks such as multilingual dictionary extraction, multilevel alignment, multilingual NE detection, multilingual information extraction etc.

Topics of interest of the workshop are, but not limited to:

- comparable corpora usage
- comparable corpora processing tools/kits
- parallel corpora usage
- parallel corpora processing tools/platforms
- MT for less-resourced languages
- MT for less-resourced domains
- open source SMT systems (Moses, etc.)
- publicly available SMT
- public MT systems related IPR issues

The papers will be peer reviewed and accepted ones will be included in the LREC2012 proceedings.

Important dates:

Call for papers: 20 December, 2011
Submission of papers: 15 February, 2012

Notification of acceptance: 10 March, 2012
Workshop: May 26, 2012

Estimated Audience *[Required]* **:** 30-40 participants
Duration of the workshop *[Required]* **:** 1 day

Tentative Schedule :
9:00-9:30 Opening, introduction
Session 1
9:30-10:30   keynote speaker 1
10:30-11:00   coffee break
Session 2
11:00-11:20   speaker 1
11:20-11:40   speaker 2
11:40-12:00   speaker 3
12:00-12:20   speaker 4
12:20-12:40   speaker 5
12:40-14:30   lunch break
Session 3
14:30-15:30   keynote speaker 2
15:30-16:00   coffee break
Session 4
16:00-16:20   speaker 6
16:20-16:40   speaker 7
16:40-17:00   speaker 8
17:00-17:20   speaker 9
17:20-17:50   general discussion
17:50-18:00   closing of the workshop

In the case of more applications the contributions could be shortened to 15 min and/or working time could be adapted.

Technical Requirements :
Lecturing room for ca 40 participants
LCD projector
Internet access
Contact Person *[Required]* **:** Aivars Bērziņš
Email Address of the Contact Person *[Required]* **:** aivars.berzins@Tilde.lv

Organizing Committee *[Required]* **:**
Ahmet Aker

Aivars Bērziņš

Andreas Eisele

Rob Gaizauskas

Nikos Glaros

Lene Offersgaard

Serge Sharoff

Inguna Skadiņa

Raivis Skadiņš

Marko Tadić

Jörg Tiedemann

Dan Tufiş

Andrejs Vasiljevs

Oliver Wilson

Appendix C: Text of the LREC2012 workshop proposal merged with the proposal for the 5th BUCC workshop

LREC 2012 Workshop Proposal Submission Form

Workshop Title *[Required]* **:**

5th WORKSHOP ON BUILDING AND USING COMPARABLE CORPORA
Special Theme: "Language Resources for Machine Translation in Less-Resourced Languages and Domains"

Workshop Description *[Required]* **:**

Given the positive reception of the four previous editions of the "Workshop on Building and Using Comparable Corpora" which took place at LREC 2008, ACL-IJCNLP 2009, LREC 2010, and ACL-HLT 2011 we would like to propose to continue the series at LREC 2012. As the focus of the workshop is on a particular type of resource, co-locating it with the leading international conference on language resources appears to be a perfect fit.

The workshop aims to bring together language engineers as well as linguists interested in the constitution and use of comparable corpora. Research on comparable corpora is active but used to be scattered among many workshops and conferences. Hence this workshop series bundling this research and giving it a better platform.

As in many cases people feel a need to go beyond easily reachable parallel corpora and as in the past few years considerable progress has been made in the field, many international projects emphasizing work on comparable corpora and usage of "hidden" parallel data have been recently conducted or are still going on, among them ACCURAT, LetsMT!, Panacea, PreseMT, TTC, Kelly, HyghTra, and Monotrans.

At the previous editions of the workshop invited speakers were Kevin Knight, Ken Church, Adam Kilgarriff, and Serge Sharoff, and panellists included Ken Church, Andreas Eisele, Pascale Fung, Hitoshi Isahara, Kyo Kageura, Adam Kilgarriff, Kevin Knight, Franz Och, Uwe Quasthoff, Richard Sproat, and Benjamin Tsou, all confirming the interest in this field at their home institutions and encouraging us to continue with the workshop series. The workshop has been endorsed by ACL SIGWAC and FlareNet, and is intended to be endorsed by META-NET.

Motivation and Topics of interest *[Required]* **:**

In the language engineering and the linguistics communities, research in comparable corpora has been motivated by two main reasons. In language engineering, it is chiefly motivated by the need to use comparable corpora as training data for statistical NLP applications such as statistical machine translation or cross-lingual retrieval. In linguistics, on the other hand, comparable corpora are of interest in themselves by making possible inter-linguistic discoveries and comparisons. It is generally accepted in both communities that comparable corpora are documents in one or several languages that are comparable in content and form in various degrees and dimensions. We believe that the linguistic definitions and observations related to comparable corpora can improve methods to mine such corpora for applications of statistical NLP. As such, it is of great interest to bring together builders and users of such corpora.

Interest in non-parallel forms of comparable corpora in language engineering primarily ensued from the scarcity of parallel corpora. This has motivated research concerning the use of comparable corpora: pairs of monolingual corpora selected according to the same set of criteria, but in different languages or language varieties. Non-parallel yet comparable corpora overcome the two limitations of parallel corpora, since sources for original, monolingual texts are much more abundant than translated texts. However, because of their nature, mining translations in comparable corpora is much more challenging than in parallel corpora. What constitutes a good comparable corpus, for a given task or per se, also requires specific attention: while the definition of a parallel corpus is fairly straightforward, building a non-parallel corpus requires control over the selection of source texts in both languages.

Parallel corpora are a key resource as training data for statistical machine translation, and for building or extending bilingual lexicons and terminologies. However, beyond a few language pairs such as English-French or English-Chinese and a few contexts such as parliamentary debates or legal texts, they remain a scarce resource, despite the creation of automated methods to collect parallel corpora from the Web. To exemplify such issues in a practical setting, this year's special focus will be on "Language Resources for Machine Translation in Less-Resourced Languages and Domains" with the aim of overcoming the shortage of parallel resources when building MT systems for less-resourced languages and domains, particularly by usage of comparable corpora for finding parallel data within and by reaching out for "hidden" parallel data. Lack of sufficient language resources for many language pairs and domains is currently one of the major obstacles in further advancement of machine translation.

We plan an invited panel where the coordinators of five major projects will present their work.

We solicit contributions including but not limited to the following topics:

Topics related to the special theme:

* comparable corpora usage
* comparable corpora processing tools/kits
* parallel corpora usage
* parallel corpora processing tools/platforms
* MT for less-resourced languages
* MT for less-resourced domains
* open source SMT systems (Moses, etc.)
* publicly available SMT

Building Comparable Corpora

* Human translations
* Automatic and semi-automatic methods
* Methods to mine parallel and non-parallel corpora from the Web
* Tools and criteria to evaluate the comparability of corpora
* Parallel versus non-parallel corpora, monolingual corpora
* Rare and minority languages

* Across language families
* Multi-media/multi-modal comparable corpora

Applications of Comparable Corpora

* Human translations
* Language learning
* Cross-language information retrieval & document categorization
* Bilingual projections
* Machine translation
* Writing assistance

Mining from Comparable Corpora

* Extraction of parallel segments or paraphrases from comparable corpora
* Extraction of bilingual and multilingual translations of single words and multi-word expressions; proper names, named entities, etc.

Summary of the Call :
(See the final version of Call for Papers in the next section)

Estimated Audience *[Required]* **:**
Participation has been solid with more than 50 registered participants e.g. at LREC 2010 and at ACL-HLT 2011. As this year we expect additional participation from the members of the invited projects, our estimate is that registration numbers will further increase.

Duration of the workshop *[Required]* **:**
1 day (full day)

Tentative Schedule :
09:00 Session 1: Building and using comparable corpora. [5 presentations]
10:40 Coffee break
11:00 Session 2: Comparable Corpora for MT in less-resourced languages and domains [5 presentations]
13:00 Lunch break
14:00 Session 3: Identifying word translations in comparable corpora [5 presentations]
15:10 Coffee break
15:30 Session 4: Collaborative platforms for data sharing and MT system building [5 presentations]
17:30 Session 5: Evaluation of comparable corpora [5 presentations]
18:30 End of the workshop

In the case of more applications the contributions could be shortened to 15 min and/or working time could be adapted.

Technical Requirements :

Lecturing room for ca 40 participants

LCD projector

Internet access

Depending on the room situation, a clipable microphone for the speakers and two handheld microphones for the audience (during discussion) and the panel would be helpful.

Contact Person *[Required]* **:**

Reinhard Rapp (Universities of Leeds and Mainz)

Marko Tadić (University of Zagreb)

Email Address of the Contact Person *[Required]* **:**

reinhardrapp@gmx.de

marko.tadic@ffzg.hr

Organizing Committee *[Required]* **:**

Reinhard Rapp

Marko Tadić

Serge Sharoff

Andrejs Vasiljevs

Pierre Zweigenbaum

Programme Committee *[If available]* **:**

The core of our reviewers has been rather stable over the years, so typically most of the past PC members are willing to serve again. In the following list members who already confirmed for 2012 are marked with an asterisk, other confirmations are pending.

* Srinivas Bangalore (AT&T Labs, USA)

* Caroline Barrière (National Research Council Canada)

* Chris Biemann (Microsoft / Powerset, San Francisco, USA)

* Lynne Bowker (University of Ottawa, Canada)

* Hervé Déjean (Xerox Research Centre Europe, Grenoble, France)

* Kurt Eberle (Lingenio, Heidelberg, Germany)

* Andreas Eisele (DFKI, Saarbrücken, Germany)

* Rob Gaizauskas (University of Sheffield, UK)

* Éric Gaussier (Université Joseph Fourier, Grenoble, France)

* Nikos Glaros (ILSP, Athens, Greece)

* Gregory Grefenstette (Exalead/Dassault Systemes, Paris, France)

* Silvia Hansen-Schirra (University of Mainz, Germany)

* Hitoshi Isahara (NICT, Tokyo, Japan)

* Kyo Kageura (University of Tokyo, Japan)
* Adam Kilgarriff (Lexical Computing Ltd, UK)
* Natalie Kübler (Université Paris Diderot, France)
* Philippe Langlais (Université de Montréal, Canada)
* Tony McEnery (Lancaster University, UK)
* Emmanuel Morin (Université de Nantes, France)
* Dragos Stefan Munteanu (Language Weaver Inc., USA)
* Lene Offersgaard (University of Copenhagen, Denmark)
* Reinhard Rapp (University of Tarragona, Spain)
* Sujith Ravi (Yahoo! Research, USA)
* Serge Sharoff (University of Leeds, UK)
* Michel Simard (National Research Council Canada)
* Inguna Skadiņa (Tilde, Riga, Latvia)
* Jörg Tiedemann (University of Uppsala, Sweden)
* Dan Tufis (Romanian Academy, Bucharest, Romania)
* Oliver Wilson (University of Edinburgh, UK)
* Michael Zock (LIF, CNRS Marseille, France)
* Pierre Zweigenbaum (LIMSI-CNRS, Orsay, France)

Appendix D: The final Call for Papers of the merged LREC2012 workshop

The final CfP was issued on 2011-12-23 to the following mailing lists:

- corpora@uib.no
- bionlp@lists.ccs.neu.edu
- lr_egroup@mail.iiit.ac.in
- nodali@helsinki.fi
- acl@aclweb.org
- sentproc@lists.qc.cuny.edu
- sigsemitic@cs.um.edu.mt
- sigann@cs.vassar.edu
- ln-request@cines.fr
- researchers@pascal-network.org
- slavicorp@chopin.ipipan.waw.pl
- slavicling@utlists.utexas.edu

The text of the Cfp follows:

Apologies for multiple postings
Please distribute to colleagues

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  5th WORKSHOP ON BUILDING AND USING COMPARABLE CORPORA

  Language Resources for Machine Translation
  in Less-Resourced Languages and Domains

  Co-located with LREC 2012
  Lütfi Kirdar Istanbul Exhibition and Congress Centre
  Saturday, 26 May 2012

  DEADLINE FOR PAPERS: 15 February 2012

  http://hnk.ffzg.hr/5bucc2012

  Endorsed by
   * ACL SIGWAC (Special Interest Group on Web as Corpus)
   * FLaReNet (Fostering Language Resources Network)

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MOTIVATION

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the two limitations of parallel corpora, since sources for original,
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However, because of their nature, mining translations in comparable
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with the aim of overcoming the shortage of parallel resources
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TOPICS

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  corpora
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  words and multi-word expressions; proper names, named entities,
  etc.

IMPORTANT DATES (TENTATIVE)

15 February 2012   Deadline for submission of full papers
  10 March 2012   Notification of acceptance
  20 March 2012   Camera-ready papers due
  26 May 2012   Workshop date

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Papers should follow the LREC main conference formatting details (to be
announced on the conference website http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2012/)
and should be submitted as a PDF-file of no more than ten pages via the
START workshop manager: https://www.softconf.com/lrec2012/BUCC2012/
Reviewing will be double blind, so the papers should not reveal the
authors' identity. Accepted papers will be published in the workshop
proceedings.

Double submission policy: Parallel submission to other meetings or
publications are possible but must be immediately notified to the
workshop organizers.

When submitting a paper through the START page, authors will be asked
to provide information about the resources that have been used for the work
described in their paper or are an outcome of their research. For details on
this initiative, please refer to
http://www.lrec-conf.org/lrec2012/?LRE-Map-2012.
Authors will also be asked to contribute to the Language Library, the new
initiative of LREC 2012.

For further information, please contact
  Reinhard Rapp reinhardrapp (at) gmx (dot) de

or Marko Tadic marko.tadic (at) ffzg (dot) hr

ORGANISERS

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 Andrejs Vasiljevs, Tilde SIA, Riga, Latvia
 Pierre Zweigenbaum, LIMSI, CNRS, Orsay, and ERTIM, INALCO, Paris (France)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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