



Questionnaire on the priorities in the field of Language Resources

Preparatory work within the FLaReNet Thematic Network has identified the need to build an open infrastructure allowing easy sharing of language resources and tools that are made interoperable and work seamlessly together. The infrastructure does not only mean repositories, but addresses a number of related strategic and technical issues (access, copyright, funding and revenue issues, governance, documentation, metadata, standards, interoperability etc.)

In order to structure, resource and prioritize future actions, we need your reasoned opinions on the various dimensions.

For each of the topics below (only the ones you feel strongly about), please state your opinion (by indicating your choice with the appropriate number listed below) on:

Importance	1. <i>top priority</i> ; 2. <i>important</i> ; 3. <i>less important</i>
Urgency	1. <i>needs to be done now</i> ; 2. <i>urgent</i> ; 3. <i>can wait</i>
Size of task	1. <i>complex or resource-intensive</i> ; 2. <i>normal</i> ; 3. <i>easy, small</i>
Funding (<i>who should pay, and which financial instrument / legal form</i>)	e.g. <i>EC, member state, industry, users/grant, loan, procurement, Public-Private Partnership (PPP), European Economic Interest Group (EEIG), direct budget funding...</i>

For each answer, please justify your opinion: *why*? If you can, state the concrete *next steps* and *players* that should be involved.

Logically and analytically justified responses are more likely to have an impact!

This paper questionnaire is mainly distributed for illustrative purposes. We would very much appreciate if you could fill in the web form available at http://www.flarenet.eu/?q=Forum_Questionnaire .

category	RECOMMENDATION	importance	urgency	size of task
Strategy, Policy, Funding	1. Ensure that publicly funded resources are made publicly available at very fair conditions or free of charge for academic R&D activities			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	2. Develop a strategy for LR standard creation , taking into account aspects such as: bottom-up vs. top-down approaches; modular component standards rather than a single monolithic standard. Standards need to co-evolve at high speed together with rapid change in science, technology, commerce			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	3. Organize international (global) cooperation among infrastructural initiatives			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	4. Involve industries in research activities on LR creation, policy, use standardisation, etc., so as to allow a more precise assessment and evaluation of methods for the development of LRs for real-scale applications			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	5. Support transfer of Language Technology from projects to SMEs in order to stimulate the availability of new systems and services and broaden the language coverage			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	6. Give priority to the languages of new EU member states			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			

category	RECOMMENDATION	importance	urgency	size of task
Infrastructure, standards, evaluation, law	7. Sustain initiatives offering legal recommendations/guidelines for the reuse of Language Resources , and investigating appropriate licensing models for re-use and re-distribution. Avoid “home made” licensing by adhering either to licensing practices used by distributional agencies or to open source licensing models (e.g. <i>Creative Commons</i>)			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	8. Establish common and standard Language Technology evaluation procedures			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	9. Promote a permanent framework to take care of language technology evaluation in Europe			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	10. Boost research into other types of metrics and other ways of LT evaluation and LR validation (e.g. by promoting the development of new methodologies for assessing the annotation quality of LRs).			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	11. Put LR standards into use (both existing ones and those under preparation), with a specific view on different user communities – most users should not or do not want to know that they are using standards. Standards should operate in the background and they should be “inherent” to the language technology tools or more generic tools they use			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	12. Promote the adoption of standards and best practices for both data representation and resource documentation, e.g. by supporting the creation and maintenance of repositories of formats, annotations/gold standards, guidelines etc.			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	13. Develop a European Interoperability Framework (EIF) for LRs (cross-domain, cross-purpose, cross-cultural, cross-modal, cross-media, etc.) including an operational ecology of LRs standards - easily accessible, re-usable and effective through a coordinated, community-wide effort that will ensure both comprehensive coverage and widespread acceptance			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			

category	RECOMMENDATION	importance	urgency	size of task
Tactics	14. Prioritize the development of core LRs and core LTs for languages by BLARK-like initiatives ; support them and encourage countries to develop and populate their own BLARKs			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	15. Funding agencies should encourage and enforce the use of best practices or standards in new projects , to facilitate data re-use			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	16. Prevent loss of data along the years, by ensuring (i) appropriate means for data archiving and preservation, (ii) appropriate means for maintenance of LRs, (iii) sustainability of linguistic tools and funded resources, e.g. by requesting accessibility and usability of resources for a given time frame			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	17. Support efforts on automating the production of the large quantity of Language Resources required, and, at the same time, ensuring the necessary quality to get acceptable results in industrial environments			
Technicalities	18. Provide accessible and reliable documentation of the produced resources, covering at least the following aspects: (i) general metadata , such as owner/copyright holder, format and encoding issues of the data and the files, languages(s) covered, domains, intended applications, applications in which the data was used; (ii) quality metadata : basic quality assessment for availability/reliability of the encoded information; (iii) annotation metadata : annotation guidelines and detailed documentation of the annotation procedures			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
	<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>			
	19. Ensure the consistency and interoperability of global information exchange by defining a governance scheme for metadata and data category definition and management			
	<i>Who pays? Which financial instrument?</i>			
<i>Why? Next Steps? Players? Comments?</i>				

