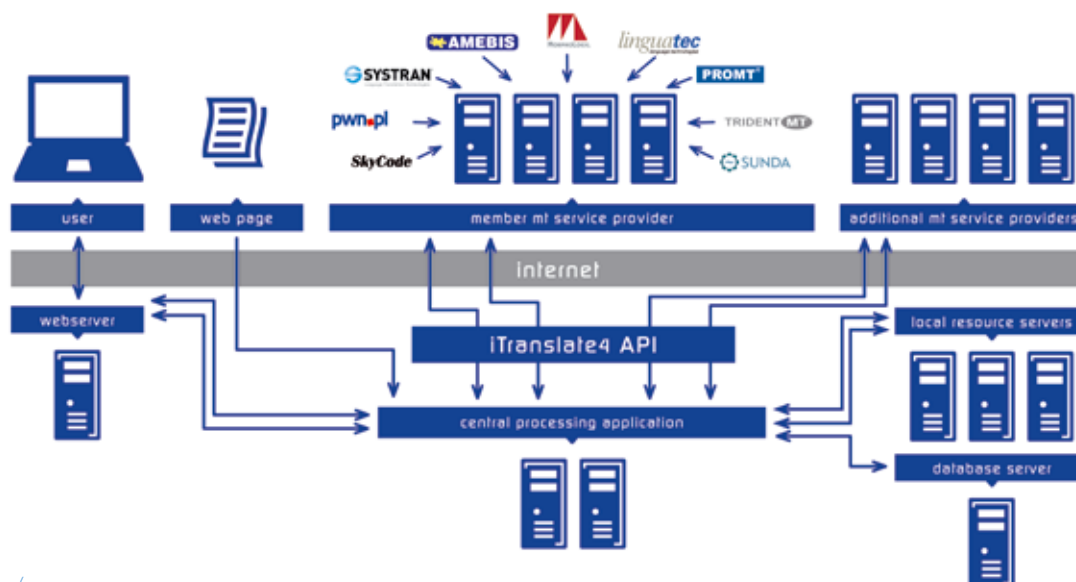


ADDRESSING THE MULTILINGUAL CHALLENGE IN DIGITAL AGENDA THROUGH LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY



iTranslate4.eu



Multilingualism is an inherent characteristic of the European cultural landscape and is also an important issue in the Digital Agenda. Enabling easy access to digital content across language barriers in

an age where the Internet is becoming increasingly multilingual presents a genuine challenge. The iTranslate4 project rises to this challenge by creating an internet portal that will unite all the leading Machine translation systems and will therefore offer the best machine translation services in a single portal free of charge. The portal, recently launched in beta version at <http://www.itranslate4.eu>, delivers free machine translation service from any official EU language to any other, in fact, it covers no more than fifty language pairs.

The two-year ICT-PSP project is carried out by a consortium of nine leading European MT companies each of them qualified as the developer of the best translation system for at least one language pair. The project is coordinated by the Research Institute for Linguistics of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, the single academic partner,

which nevertheless has a solid track record in conducting language technology projects. The portal is based on technology pioneered by László Tihanyi at MorphoLogic Ltd. who is now acting as technical director of the project.

Innovative features of the project include

- Alternative translations displayed in a configurable manner
- Translation service in various modalities such as text input, web page, chat and translated search
- Support for interactive user feedback
- Links to human translation services
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of the translation services
- Focusing translation to particular domains (where available)

The translation services are linked through a common API developed in the project which provides not only cooperation of translation services of the project partners, but makes it an open platform for further MT providers to

join as partners. In fact, since the start of the project four companies have already joined the iTranslate4 website. The translation site offers a range of additional services helping users in exploitation of the service: spell checker, virtual keyboard, domain selection. User activity is encouraged through a user community interface, where users can ask or suggest translations or vote for others translation.

The project offers not only machine translation, but gives an opportunity for participation of professional human translation services which are linked into the translation page.

The project is a genuine example of a long-term collaborative effort by leading European MT companies to develop a common technological platform and provide the best quality translation services to European citizens.

László Tihanyi
technical coordinator of the
iTranslate4 project



From speech recognition and automatic summarisation to text mining and machine translation language technology offers ground-breaking perspectives. All these brilliant tools

and technologies are fuelled by data. The more the better and preferably integrated with linguistic knowledge in the form of annotation. This added value is what turns data into valuable resource – language resource.

The CESAR project aims to contribute to a pan-European digital resource exchange facility by collecting resources and by documenting, linking and upgrading them to agreed standards and guidelines. The project will make available a comprehensive set of language resources and tools covering the Hungarian, Polish, Croatian, Serbian, Bulgarian and Slovak languages. Resources will include interoperable mono- and multilingual spoken and written databases, corpora, dictionaries and wordnets, as well as tools: tokenisers, lemmatisers, taggers, and parsers.

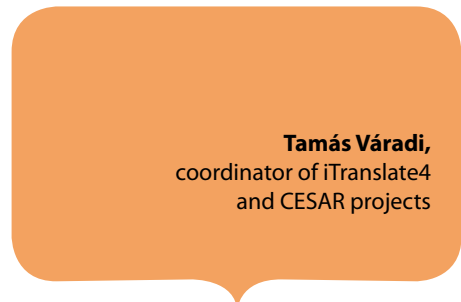
The CESAR project is part of a wider network of excellence called META-NET, a Network of Excellence consisting of 44 research centres from 31 countries, which is dedicated to building the technological foundations of a multilingual European information society. CESAR actively collaborates with other partner projects within META-NET, ensure consistent approaches, practices and standards aimed at ensuring a wider accessibility of and easier access and reuse of quality language resources.

The CESAR project aims to stimulate ICT-based cross-lingual communication, collaboration and participation and thereby contribute to the creation of a pan-European digital single market by stimulating ICT-based cross-lingual communication, collaboration and participation.

Key resources covered by the CESAR project are going to be linked and made interoperable using the facilities of the META-SHARE repository. The target user community of the resources practically embraces all stakeholders at the modern digital market: everyday end-users, professional end-users (business, administration, media, education, libraries, etc.) as well as expertise holders (researchers, industrialists, policy makers, etc). Its concern

is a careful investigation of the needs of various types of users – from individual users to large multinational organisations – from the perspective of the current status as well as from the near future prospects.

The CESAR project will contribute valuable resources to META-SHARE, which eventually will be an important component of a language technology marketplace for HLT researchers and developers, language professionals (translators, interpreters, content and software localisation experts, etc.), as well as for industrial players, especially SMEs, catering for the full development cycle of HLT, from research through to innovative products and services.



Tamás Váradi,
coordinator of iTranslate4
and CESAR projects