

META-NET

A Brief Overview

Hans Uszkoreit

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META-NET is co-funded by the European Commission through the contract T4ME of the Seventh Framework Programme. Grant Agreement No.: 249119

- ◆ Preserving the European cultural and linguistic diversity in the united information and knowledge society
- ◆ Securing at affordable costs the free flow of information and thought across language boundaries in the resulting single information space
- ◆ Providing each language community with the most advanced technologies for communication, information and knowledge management so that maintaining their mother tongue does not turn into a disadvantage

- ◆ Where are we today?
 - Research has made considerable progress in recent years.
 - Successful projects have been funded by the EU and national programs.
 - **But: the pace of progress is not fast enough to meet the three challenges within the next 10-20 years.**
- ◆ Can progress be accelerated?
 - Yes. But only if the relevant stakeholders such as research communities, LT industry, user industries, language communities, funding programs and policy makers team up for a dedicated major push.
- ◆ **We need an alliance of stakeholders dedicated to a large concerted effort.**

One more Question

◆ Q: How do we get such an alliance formed?

A: The remainder of the talk will present our proposals.

As researchers, how can *we* help to create the Alliance?



- ◆ **ARTEMIS** – the European Technology Platform for Advanced Research and Technology for Embedded Intelligence and Systems
- ◆ **AAL** – The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme
- ◆ **EPoSS** – The European Technology Platform on Smart Systems Integration
- ◆ **NEM** – The European Technology Platform on Networked and Electronic Media
- ◆ **NESSI** – The European Technology Platform Networked European Software and Services Initiative

META is dedicated to foster the technological foundations of the European multilingual information society to:

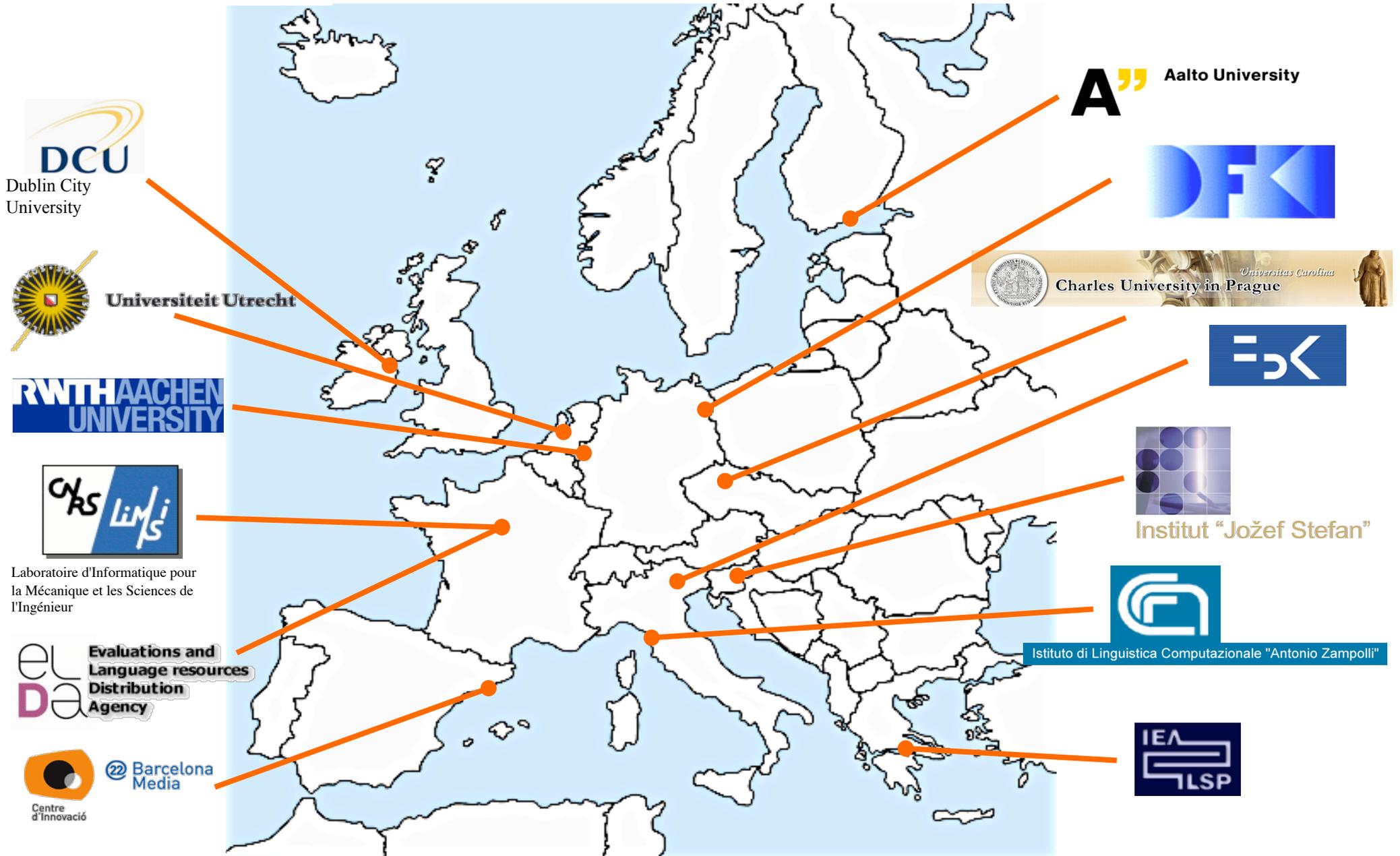
- enable communication and collaboration among people without language boundaries,
- secure users of any language equal access to the information and knowledge society, and
- push forward functionalities of networked information technology.

... a Network of Excellence with three major objectives

- ◆ Prepare the grounds for a large scale concerted effort by building a Strategic Alliance of national and international research programmes, corporate users and commercial technology providers and language communities.
- ◆ Strengthen the European research community through networking of research and by creating new schemes and structures for sharing resources and efforts.
- ◆ Build bridges by approaching open problems in collaboration with other research fields such as machine learning, social computing, cognitive systems, knowledge technologies and multimedia content.

- ◆ First META-NET project - **T4ME NET**
 - Funded under FP 7
 - Area: Language-based interaction
 - Total cost: 7.62 M EURO (EU contribution: 6 M EURU)
 - Execution: From 2010-02-01 to 2013-01-31
 - Duration: 36 months
- ◆ Three other META-NET projects are in the making
- ◆ Cooperation with many more projects has been established

META³NET *Founding Members*



Three Lines of Action

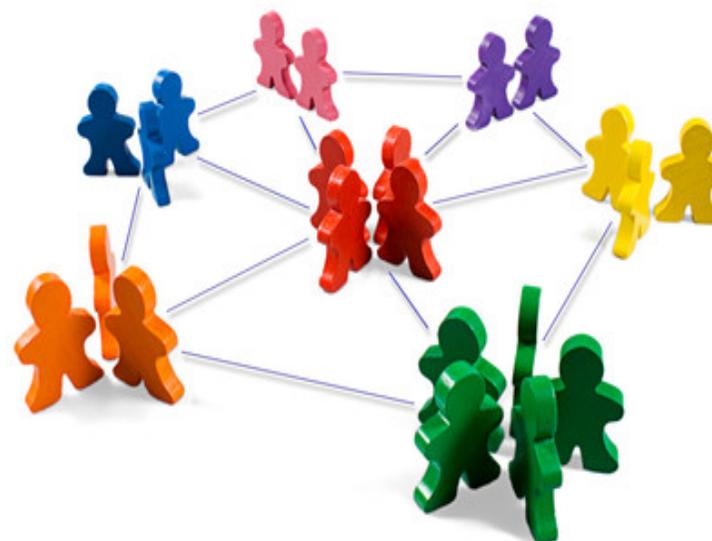
- ◆ The META-NET objectives translate into three lines of action:

Building a community with a shared vision and strategic research agenda

Building META[≡]SHARE
Open Resource Exchange

Building bridges to
neighbouring technology fields

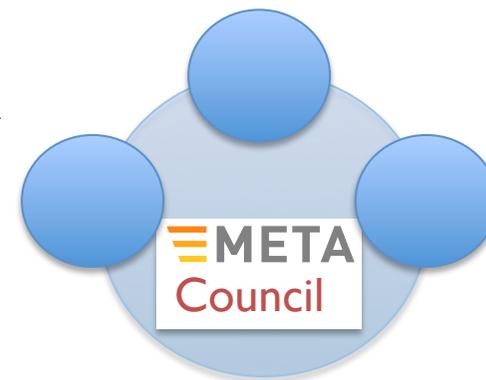
- ◆ **Goal:** Mobilize researchers, enablers, providers, (potential) users of technologies, R&D programmes for cooperation in **META**
- ◆ **Actions:**
 - **Survey** the field
 - Create a **shared vision** that feeds into a **Strategic Research Agenda**
 - **Build a multiplayer community** via external liaisons, promotion, etc.
 - **Spread knowledge** in training events



- **A META Survey** will investigate to what degree the languages of Europe are supported by applications, technologies, resources and what their current status is the digital world is. (**23+ concise Language Reports**)
- **Vision Groups** will bring together researchers, developers, integrators and (actual or potential, corporate or professional) users of LT-based products, services and applications.
- **A Technology Council** will prepare a vision paper “European Multilingual Information Society 2020”, a comprehensive Roadmap including individual roadmaps for key socio-economic sectors, light-tower application visions.
- Finally, a **Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)** will be presented by the Council.

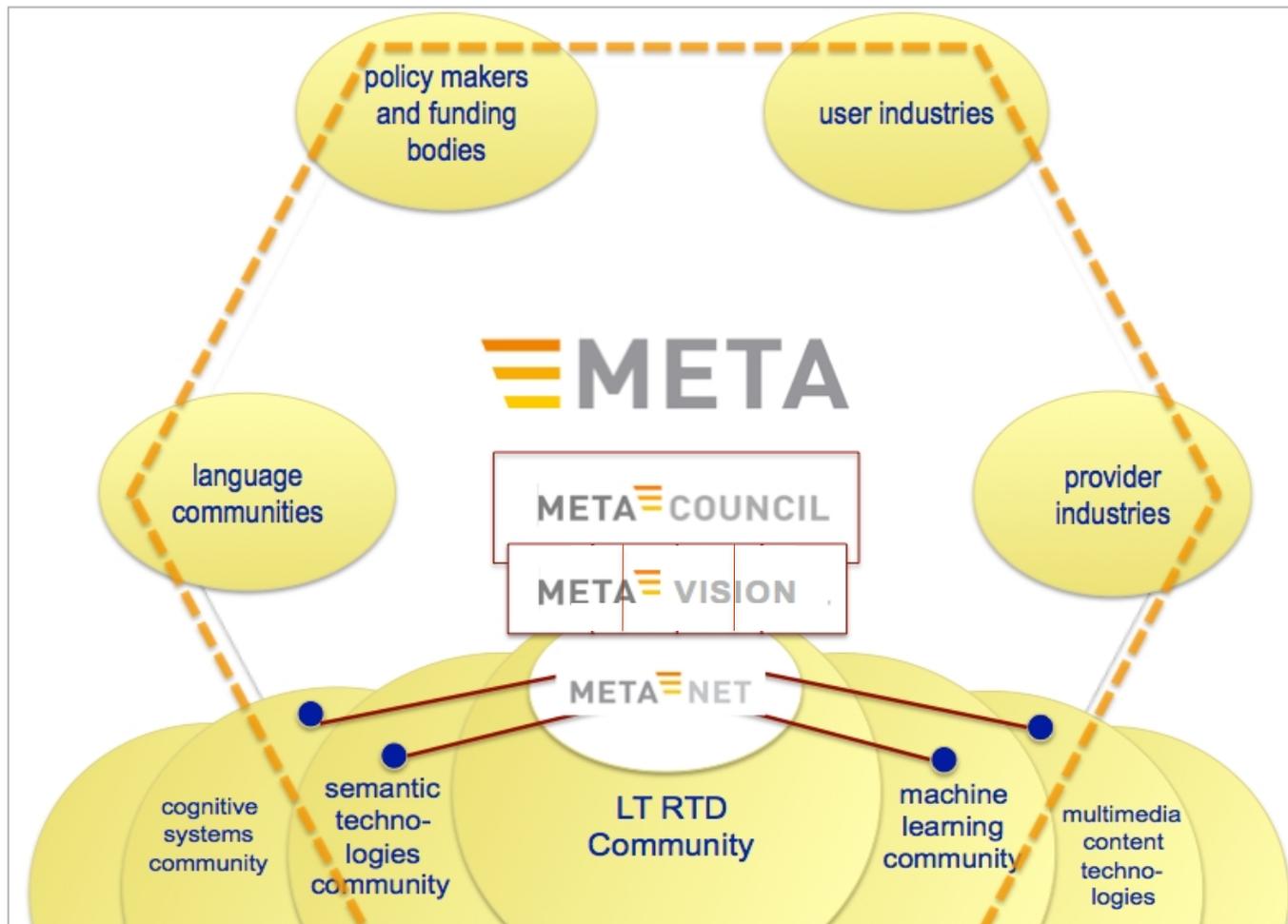
Planned Vision Groups

- 1. Translation and localisation** (technical doc consumer info., UI localisation, official bulletins, services, ...)
 - target stakeholders: large users of translation services, translation companies, localization industry
- 2. Media and information services** (audiovisual sector, news, digital libraries, portals, search engines, ...)
 - target stakeholders: media industries, web and search engine providers, archives
- 3. Interactive systems** (mobile assistance, dialogue transl., call centres, ...)
 - target stakeholders: mobile software and service providers, telecom industry, call centres



- ◆ Work in **Vision Groups**
 - ◆ **Provide input** via a web-based discussion forum, will be on the META-
WEB site
 - ◆ Contribute to **language reports**
 - ◆ Participate in the **Annual Conference**, etc. (the first one planned for
Nov. 2010)
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Building a community with a shared vision and strategic research agenda



- ◆ Data have become a key factor in LT research and development indicators:
 - size and importance of LREC
 - corpora list
 - citation ranks of publications on resources
- ◆ Language research and language technology belong to “**Data Intensive Science**”
- ◆ As in other sciences, expensive data become valuable through sharing
- ◆ **HOWEVER:** the long demanded and well-contemplated instruments for managing and sharing are *still* missing

META-SHARE is an

- open,
 - integrated,
 - secured,
 - and interoperable
 - language data and tools exchange infrastructure for the HLT
(Human Language Technologies) domain and other applicative domains
(e.g., digital libraries, cognitive systems, robotics, etc)
-

Selected areas for building bridges and opening new avenues

- ◆ Bringing more semantics into translation
- ◆ Optimising division of labour in Hybrid MT
- ◆ Exploiting the “context” for translation
- ◆ Broaden the empirical base for machine translation

The Virtual Information Center (VIC)



Language Technology World

accessibility site map contact about update database

	INFORMATION & KNOWLEDGE	PLAYERS & TEAMS	SYSTEMS & RESOURCES	COMMUNICATION & IPR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Sources Technologies Abbreviations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People Projects Organizations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R & D - Systems Products Repositories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News Conferences Patents
	home			



Information & Knowledge	Players & Teams	LT Resources & Tools	IPR & Products	Communication & Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Sources Technologies Glossary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People Organisations Projects Programmes Funding Agencies Pubic R&D Administration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data Resources R&D Tools The LT Matrix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patents Products Commercial Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> News European LT Blog(s) LT Event Calendar

- ◆ Centers of Excellence in language technology research will be involved as additional nodes of META-NET to strengthen its competencies and its geographic and linguistic coverage.
- ◆ For researchers, technologists, professionals, users and administrators developing, providing or using language technologies, META offers a unique platform to participate in discussions, working groups and planning activities thus shaping the linguistic future of Europe. They contribute ideas, become advocates for specific languages, technologies and applications or stay informed.
- ◆ Research and technology development projects can provide and use shared resources and become part of META-SHARE. They help to plan and validate META services.

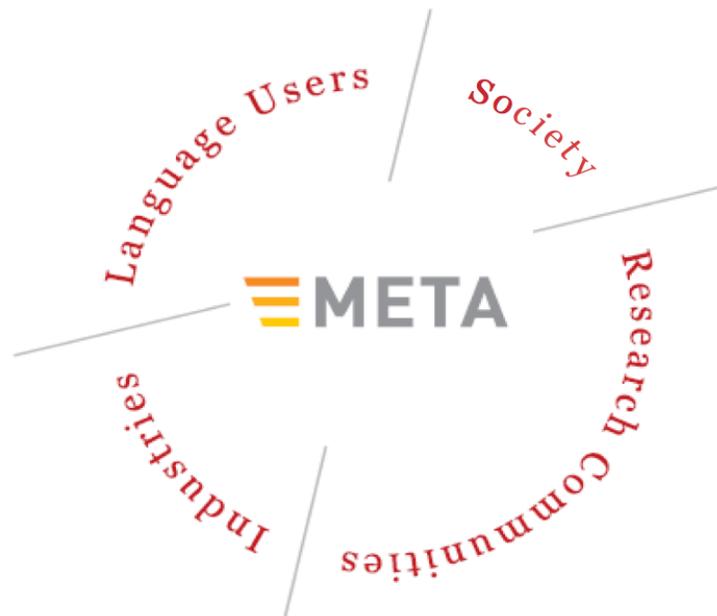
How can YOU participate (2)

- ◆ Commercial enterprises are welcome to contribute their visions on products and services, participate in the planning process and use META for building profitable partnerships.
- ◆ Educators, schools, journalists, media, politicians, public administrations and organisations participate in the public discussions on the visions and the steps towards a truly multilingual information society.

Why should YOU participate

- ◆ YOUR VOICE IS IMPORTANT, as is your language! But not only...
- ◆ Europe's language industry including language technology is considered worth 8.4 billion EUR, with an estimate of doubling this figure by 2015. Globalisation (of business), mobility (of persons) and immigration add to the increased need for multilingual services and solutions. **In participating in META, you will shape the future of Europe's linguistic landscape.** and
- ◆ With the appropriate plans and mobilization, we will be able to boost LT support significantly. **In participating in META you will shape Europe's LT landscape.**

Where to Start



Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance

<http://www.meta-net.eu>

office@meta-net.eu