



# **Sustainability strategy and plans beyond the end of the project**

Deliverable D5.5

Version 2.0

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# METANET4U

[www.metanet4u.eu](http://www.metanet4u.eu)

The central objective of the Metanet4u project is to contribute to the establishment of a pan-European digital platform that makes available language resources and services, encompassing both datasets and software tools, for speech and language processing, and supports a new generation of exchange facilities for them.

This central objective is articulated in terms of the following main goals:

**Assessment:** to collect, organize and disseminate information that permits an updated insight into the current status and the potential of language related activities, for each of the national and/or language communities represented in the project. This includes organizing and providing a description of: language usage and its economic dimensions; language technologies and resources, products and services; main actors in different areas, including research, industry, government and society in general; public policies and programs; prevailing standards and practices; current level of development, main drivers and roadblocks; etc.

**Collection:** to assemble and prepare language resources for distribution. This includes collecting languages resources; documenting these language resources; upgrading them to agreed standards and guidelines; linking and cross-lingual aligning them where appropriate.

**Distribution:** to distribute the assembled language resources through exchange facilities that can be used by language researchers, developers and professionals. This includes collaboration with other projects and, where useful, with other relevant multi-national forums or activities. It also includes helping to build and operate broad inter-connected repositories and exchange facilities.

**Dissemination:** to mobilize national and regional actors, public bodies and funding agencies by raising awareness with respect to the activities and results of the project, in particular, and of the whole area of language resources and technology, in general.

METANET4U is a project in the META-NET Network of Excellence, a cluster of projects aiming at fostering the mission of META. META is the Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance, dedicated to building the technological foundations of a multilingual European information society.



## Deliverable D5. 5 Sustainability strategy and plans beyond the end of the project

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and by the participating institutions:



Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon



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University of Manchester



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University of Malta



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**METANET4U**

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## 1 Introduction

Work package WP5 is dedicated to mobilizing national and regional actors, public bodies and funding agencies by raising awareness with respect to the activities and results of the project, in particular, and of the whole area of language resources and technology, in general.

An important aspect of the WP5 is that it covers only the national and regional level dissemination, the dissemination activities carried out by the projects partners at international level being presented in the deliverables of WP4.

The objectives of this WP can be summarized as follows:

- Promote language research, technology, resources and applications in national and regional circles.
- Make the project sustainable beyond the end of the EU-funded phase. Ensure the continuation and coordination of national efforts after the project's end.

In M6, an Action Plan, as set in the Deliverable 5.1, was agreed among partners, focussing on awareness, community mobilisation and dissemination actions to be undertaken in each country / language community covered in the project, with the aim of maximising the project's impact and ensuring its sustainability beyond the EU-supported phase.

In M15-M17, the Action Plan was updated, as presented in deliverable D5.3, by taking into account the dissemination actions executed so far and the adjustments that are in concordance with the comments in the first year review report, resulting from the Annual Review Meeting in Brussels.

This deliverable D5.5 presents the actions undertaken by each partner in order to ensuring the project's sustainability beyond the EU-supported phase.

## 2 META-NET large-scale sustainability plan: The Strategic Research Agenda

**The four projects in the META-NET network, thus including the METANET4U project, have engaged in a large-scale endeavour of drawing the sustainability plan for the whole area of language technology, at the European level, and for a period of 10 years, partially covered by the next framework program H2020.**



The outcome of this endeavour is the **META-NET Strategic Research Agenda**, that can be found here:

[http://www.meta-net.eu/vision/reports/meta-net-sra-version\\_1.0.pdf](http://www.meta-net.eu/vision/reports/meta-net-sra-version_1.0.pdf)

In the present deliverable, we will not be repeating that large-scale exercise, which includes the planning of the sustainability of the overall results achieved in the four META-NET projects, including thus our project METANET4U.

**This deliverable focus in the aspect not covered by that global META-NET sustainability plan** (as expressed in the Strategic Research Agenda), namely the issue concerned with **the sustainability of the META-SHARE nodes implemented by the METANET4U project**. More specifically, we will be concerned with how their operation will be maintained in the next transition period of two years, until the H2020 framework enters in full steam course and to eventually provides instruments that will support the sustainability of the META-SHARE distribution platform, in particular, and of the overall META-NET results in general.

### 3 Sustainability plan outline

The plan for the sustainability of the results of the project was planned to be delivered in M24, as part of the last deliverable of WP5, with the present Deliverable D5.5 specifically aimed at being the vehicle of this plan.

Following the recommendation concerning sustainability issued in the annual review report of the project, but also in the review reports of the sister projects CESAR and META-NORD in the META-NET network, the work towards the definition of such a plan was started since then, involving the four projects in the META-NET network in the common undertaking of seeking for a coordinated first draft of the sustainability plan.

This work was pursued in a number of meetings where the coordinators of the four META-NET projects participated, together with the coordinator of the META-NET network, the responsible for META-SHARE platform, and the ELRA Secretary General.

A common position was shared by these participants that support for sustainability shall be sought to secure the results of the network and the continuation of its activities, where possible, by seeking for alternative funding sources, both at national and international levels.

Crucially, it was shared also, as a key common position, that the sustainability plan should consider in the first place less contingent measures for the sustainability of META-SHARE platform, in particular, through the concerted efforts of the project partners.

META-SHARE, the open language resource exchange facility ([www.meta-share.eu](http://www.meta-share.eu)), implemented in the framework of the META-NET Network of Excellence ([www.meta-net.eu](http://www.meta-net.eu)), is devoted to the sustainable sharing and dissemination of language resources (LRs) and aims at increasing access to such resources in a global scale. META-SHARE is implemented as a network of distributed repositories.

The objective of META-SHARE is to provide a multi-layer infrastructure that will

- (a) preserve, maintain and make available LR and metadata and provide services to all META-SHARE members and users;
- (b) promote the use of widely acceptable standards for LR building ensuring the maximum possible interoperability of LR.

In this direction, the following actions are considered:

- for the META-SHARE repositories of LR setup by the project, the partners can continue, on a best effort basis, to host these

repositories and serve as META-SHARE nodes for a period of at least 2 years;

- likewise, and under similar level of possible commitment, on a best effort basis, partners may continue to provide technical and/or user support services, software-based and/or human services for a period of minimum 2 years;
- they can continue to improve the existing tools and resources on the local META-SHARE nodes;
- they can also add new tools and resources to the local META-SHARE nodes for covering the most required services;
- they can connect with the open data community, through platforms such as e.g. Voxforge for speech data, in order to increase the visibility of the published resources and tools outside the META-SHARE network;
- they can include the tools and resources onto a hierarchy of formats that would make possible automatic computation of processing flows (by implementation of the ALPE strategy developed at UAIC, for instance); we envisage also the development of a complete inventory of annotation schemes, by studying the resources harvested by the LREC-2012 resource-map campaign;
- they can establish a network of cooperation relations with mass-media and publishing companies based on bilateral agreements: receive linguistic data and offer services.
- they can approach topics related to interoperability in multilingual contexts within the META-SHARE environment, having experience in modeling interoperable processing workflows dedicated to language processing applications.

As first steps, two lines of actions have been undertaken in parallel. The partners who have responsibility for core tasks of platform development and legal setup, and who have a larger experience in supporting LRT users and distributing LRTs, were asked to gather an estimation of the minimum level of effort and resources required to maintain the platform in operation. Additionally, all partners from the META-NET projects, and all network members in general, were asked to signal their willingness to continue supporting META-SHARE by maintaining their local nodes operational.

In order to find a sensible common ground that permits to work out a meeting of the needs and offering thus elicited, the time horizon put into consideration was a period between 18 and 24 months after the end of the META-NET operations, in January 2013.

While these two lines of development have been undertaken, the pillars of a common sustainability plan were unfolded in a very promising direction. A major outcome of this coordination and planning effort towards the common sustainability of META-SHARE was already announced at METAFORUM, in June 2012, with ELDA disclosing the decision of its Managing Board of adopting and basing its entire operation in the META-SHARE platform

## **4 Sustainability of META-SHARE**

In January 2013, META-NET and META-SHARE end the development and population with data under CESAR, METANET4U, META-NORD and T4ME contracts.

Considering the importance of META-SHARE as a community-based infrastructure for supporting language technology research and development, in July 2012 discussions were initiated on how META-SHARE could remain operational beyond the end of the four funded projects and in particular in the period 2013 and 2014. Being operational entails that the META-SHARE repositories of language resources, the inventories of metadata and the technical, legal and user support services provided, both software-based (including further software development and also bug fixing) and human services, be maintained for this period (2013 and 2014).

META-NET charted the intentions within the four funded consortia with respect to maintaining repositories and services. Partners were asked what contributions they could consider providing at the level of their lab/department/organisation for sustaining the META-SHARE network and its services.

In July 2012, a common plan was set up and META-NET drafted a template of a Letter of Intent, which every partner could use and adjust accordingly. For METANET4U, pledges from partners who expressed their intention to participate in the maintenance and evolution of META-SHARE infrastructure were raised by:

### **University of Lisbon (ULX)**

<http://metashare.metanet4u.eu/>

### **Centre de Tecnologies I Aplicacions del Llenguatge I la Parla (TALP) of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC)**

<http://147.83.50.44/>

**Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence of the Romanian Academy (RACAI)**

<http://ws.racai.ro:9191>

**The Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada (IULA) of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)**

<http://metashare.upf.edu>

**University Alexandru Ioan Cuza of Iasi (UAIC)**

<http://metashare.infoiasi.ro>

**Group of Multimedia Technologies (GTM) of the University of Vigo**

<http://metashare.gts.uvigo.es>

**Aholab Signal Processing Laboratory, University of the Basque Country.**

<http://aholab.ehu.es/metashare/>

**These correspond to the seven META-SHARE nodes implemented by the METANTE4U project that will continue running after its completion.**

Below is the template of the Letter of Intent. The signed letters of support can be found in Annex II below.

*Letter of Intent*

*The <Name of Organization>, represented by <Name of Representative> hereby expresses its non-legally binding intent that <Name of Organization> is willing and able to participate in the maintenance and evolution of the META-SHARE infrastructure.*

*We confirm that <Name of Organization> will,*

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- *Set up a META-SHARE repository to host and make available its language resources through the META-SHARE network*
- *Continue to host the repository of LRs and serve as a META-SHARE node for a period of <X months/years (ideally between 18-24 months)>*
- *Continue to provide technical and/or user support services, software-based and/or human services provided for a period of <X months/years (ideally between 18-24 months)>*
- *Start or continue to participate in the META-SHARE software development team (requires Python and Django skills)*

*Date:*

*Name:*

*Signature:*

## **5 Proposing new projects to continue financing META-SHARE**

During the lifetime of the project, one of the dissemination activities considered was to propose national projects aiming at obtaining as much resources and tools in LRT as possible through different methods: from editing houses, blogs, forums, different text or speech providers, etc.

In February 2012, ULX submitted a project proposal, under the acronym, DP4LT to the Portuguese national funding agency FCT, which was approved in December 2012, and is due to start in the first quarter of 2013. This is a project on deep language processing, with a strong component on the curation and development of LRTs in general, and treebanks in particular. This project will support the activities that are necessary to fulfill the commitment of this team to keep the ULX META-SHARE node running for the period at stake.

In January 2013, ULX coordinated a project proposal submitted to ICT Call 10 of FP7. This proposal aims at fostering the progress of quality machine translation by resorting to deep language representations as these can be gathered from multilingual DeepBanks, whose first examples have innovatively proliferated in 2012.

In February 2011, IST submitted a proposal to the Portuguese national funding agency FCT in order to collect speech from elderly people, European Portuguese speakers. This project called "AVoz" was accepted for funding and already began in January 2012 for 2 years. Both read

speech and spontaneous speech are being collected, and the scientific objectives of the project aim at enhancing statistical phone-like acoustic models and language models used in Automatic Speech Recognition for elderly speech, known to be more challenging to transcribe automatically than younger adults' speech. The final elderly speech database is planned to be added to the corpora made available by IST. IST contacted the Microsoft Language Development Centre based in Lisbon in the framework of the Avoz project since MLDC is also doing research in Elderly speech recognition, and took the opportunity to present METANET4U to the Microsoft speech group that showed interest in knowing about the final outcomes of the project and about the corpora that will be available via META-SHARE.

The National Centre for Text Mining (NaCTeM) at UNIMAN submits on average 12 projects proposals per year to national funding agencies, focussing on the development of tools and resources for different sub-domains. A recently started project is *Integrated Social History Environment for Research (ISHER) – Digging into Social Unrest*. The aim of the project is to enhance search over digitised resources for social history, through text mining-based rich semantic metadata extraction for collection indexing, clustering and classification. The project involves collaboration with the Raboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands, using data on social unrest in both Dutch and English, including data from the BBC. Interoperability of the tools developed is a key objective of the project. The ongoing *Argo* project is developing a collaborative, web-based environment for building text-mining workflows. A large and constantly growing number of text mining tools is being integrated within the environment.

UAIC has submitted four national projects in the Ideas and Partnerships calls (May and October 2011). UAIC has proposed a national project, PROLIR - Advanced Technology for Acquiring, Storing and Processing Romanian Linguistic Resources, aiming at developing a platform of services addressing editing houses and other language providers. The services should be, as much as possible, free, as a reward for their offer to donate linguistic data. Examples of such envisaged services are: advertising on books printed by the editing houses, search facilities to browse electronic versions of books, annotation and retrieval of citations, automatic summarisation, authors' indexing, statistics and plots regarding number of accesses, sophisticated types of search criteria, determination of the time moments or intervals mentioned in a book, locations that a book or an article is mentioning, etc. More elaborate demands, addressing cultivated readers, may include: search for exemplification of certain syntactic structures, occurrence of different types of semantic relations, collocations, frequent terms and n-grams in books, search by name entities of public interest, including VIPs, in different sources, automatic generation of genealogical trees of characters featuring in fiction or chronicles, tracing geographical journeys on travelling and historical

books, etc. The projects were unfortunately not accepted for funding by the National Council for Scientific Research. A similar project, Rolling Words, submitted by UAIC at a previous competition for national projects, was also not accepted for funding.

However, a new project, SkyBooks, has been drafted for a FP7 competition, having also ULX as one of the partners.

A similar project is ongoing in Malta. The Maltese Language Resource Server (MLRS) is a project coordinated by the Institute of Linguistics and the Department of Intelligent Computer Systems within the UOM, whose primary aim is to create and make available basic language resources for the Maltese language, as well as to develop natural language processing tools for Maltese.

UPC jointly the University of Vigo (UVIGO) and the University of the Basque Country (EHU) will start, during the first quarter of 2013, a research project named SpeechTech4All supported by the Spanish 'Plan Nacional'. SpeechTech4All is a three years project focused on advanced research in all core speech technologies (speech recognition, automatic translation and text to speech conversion) for all the official languages of Spain. It is also aimed at the recognition of the speaker's emotional state and the building of multimodal (speech and face) and multilingual (Spanish, Galician, Catalan and Basque) experimental work-frames that allow showing the work developed. The multimodal and multilingual resources generated in this project will be uploaded into the UPC, UVIGO and EHU META-SHARE nodes. This project will help to support the three META-SHARE nodes running for the next three years period.

## **6 META-SHARE Memorandum of Understanding**

The partners in the METANET consortium have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (tversion 2 can be found in Appendix 1), in order to establish the organization and governance of the META-SHARE network after the end of the financed projects.

## **7 Final remarks**

This deliverable presented the first steps undertaken by the METANET4U project partners in order to make the project's objectives sustainable beyond the end of the EU-funded phase. We focused in the aspect not covered by that sustainability plan (as expressed in the Strategic Research Agenda), namely the issue concerned with the sustainability of the META-SHARE nodes implemented by the METANET4U project.

META-SHARE is an effective schema for sharing resources such as data, computational language models and generic base technologies. It is imperative to maintain and further to develop META-SHARE, in order to achieve the goal of having a true multilingual Europe. Broad participation of the whole language technology community is essential in maintaining and extending the infrastructure so that acceptance is ensured. By maintaining the META-SHARE nodes, the partners agree to help make META-SHARE the key instrument to make language resources available, visible and accessible, to facilitate their sharing and exchange.

There is a strong trend towards open data, i. e., data that are easily obtainable and that can be used with few, if any, restrictions. Platforms such as META-SHARE could represent an optimal intermediate solution to respond to the needs for data variety, ease of retrieval, better data description and community-wide access, while at the same time assisting in clearing the intricate issues associated with intellectual property rights.

## **Annex I META-SHARE Memorandum of Understanding**

# META-SHARE Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) v.2.0

## 1. Preamble

META-SHARE, the open language resource exchange facility ([www.meta-share.eu](http://www.meta-share.eu)), implemented in the framework of the META-NET Network of Excellence ([www.meta-net.eu](http://www.meta-net.eu)), is devoted to the sustainable sharing and dissemination of language resources (LRs) and aims at increasing access to such resources in a global scale. META-SHARE is implemented as a network of distributed repositories.

The objective of META-SHARE is to provide a multi-layer infrastructure that will

- (a) preserve, maintain and make available LRs and metadata and provide services to all META-SHARE members and users;
- (b) promote the use of widely acceptable standards for LR building ensuring the maximum possible interoperability of LRs.

## 2. Structure and Membership

Members of META-SHARE enter the META-SHARE network with the aim to share LRs and in general promote the LR sharing principle to the language communities at large.

### 2.1. META-SHARE Members Types

The META-SHARE network is organised on the basis of the level of obligations that the various members choose to undertake.

**META-SHARE Network Nodes** are META-SHARE Network Members who set up and maintain LRs repositories (**META-SHARE Repositories**), acting as Repository Service Providers.

**META-SHARE Managing Nodes** are META-SHARE Network Members that provide core services to all META-SHARE Network Members, acting as Core Service and User Support Service Providers.

**META-SHARE Depositors** are META-SHARE Members who do not wish to set up their own LR repository; they deposit their LRs to META-SHARE Repositories maintained by other META-SHARE Network Nodes, who undertake to host and/or be responsible for those LRs (hosting repositories).

**Associate META-SHARE members** are able to use some of the Core Services, such as viewing, and make their metadata available for harvesting.

META-SHARE MEMBER TYPES			
META-SHARE Network Nodes	META-SHARE Managing Nodes	META-SHARE Depositors	Associate META-SHARE Members
Set up local or hosting repositories	Provide Core & User Support Services	Document and deposit LRs in META-SHARE hosting repositories	Provide harvestable metadata
Provide repository services	Maintain central inventory of LRs		

**Third Parties** are able to use the viewing services and acquire LRs from the META-SHARE network.

## 2.2. Obligations and rights of META-SHARE Members

All organisations wishing to become META-SHARE members of any type undertake the following obligations:

- to clear all rights before conferring LRs to the META-SHARE network;
- to adhere to the META-SHARE metadata schema, as defined in the META-SHARE Metadata specifications document (<http://www.meta-net.eu/meta-share/metadata-schema/>);
- to store the LRs and metadata in their repositories or use one of the META-SHARE hosting repositories in accordance to the META-SHARE specifications;
- to maintain an inventory (a local inventory) with all the metadata records of their LRs or use for that purpose one of the META-SHARE hosting Repositories in accordance to the META-SHARE specifications;
- to export and allow harvesting of the metadata records of their LRs using the META-SHARE metadata schema;
- to adhere to the META-SHARE Notice and Take Down policy, cf. Appendix IV;
- to communicate and enforce the terms of this MoU to their staff, members or other users they may have.

Members are able to:

- search the inventory of LRs using multifaceted search facilities;
- access the actual resources for browsing and downloading them in accordance to the relevant licensing terms and conditions;
- get information and statistics (e.g. number of downloads) about the usage of LRs, their relation (e.g. compatibility, suitability, etc.) to other resources as well as recommendations.

## 2.3. META-SHARE Network Nodes

META-SHARE Network Nodes set up, operate and maintain META-SHARE Repositories, acting as META-SHARE Repository Service Providers for that purpose. META-SHARE Network Nodes can be local or hosting repositories.

Local repositories are set up and maintained by organisations participating in the META-SHARE network, storing their own resources.

Hosting repositories are also set up and maintained by organisations participating in the META-SHARE network, acting as storage and documentation facilities for resources either developed in organisations not wishing to set up their own repository, or donated or orphan resources. A hosting repository also stores its own resources.

Every LR in META-SHARE has to be primarily assigned to one of the network's repositories, with the member maintaining that repository undertaking the curation of the resource.

META-SHARE Network Nodes maintaining repositories are responsible for providing to the Managing Nodes all the information necessary for them to fulfil their mission.

If a Network Node ceases to exist or terminates its data-archiving activities, it shall attempt to transfer the LRs it hosts to another META-SHARE Network Node that will undertake all the obligations described in this Agreement.

## 2.4. META-SHARE Managing Nodes: Core Service and User Support Service Providers

A number of members undertake the role of META-SHARE Managing Nodes acting as Core Service and User Support Service Providers, with the obligation to provide one or more of the Core and User Support Services, in the area of their competence. META-SHARE Managing Nodes harvest and store metadata records from the META-SHARE Nodes of the entire META-SHARE Network, share

metadata, host and maintain a central inventory which includes metadata of all LRs available in the distributed network. Each META-SHARE Managing Node hosts a copy of the central inventory.

The Core Services are defined in Appendix II of this MoU but may be amended in the future if there is a unanimous agreement between the META-SHARE Managing Nodes. META-SHARE Managing Nodes may decide to delegate specific services to specific Nodes in accordance to the procedures described in this MoU (section 4).

The META-SHARE Members initially assuming the role of META-SHARE Managing Node and acting as Core Service and User Support Service Providers are presented in Appendix I.

META-SHARE Members willing to provide Core Services and User Support Services can be introduced as new Managing Nodes, in accordance to the procedures described in this MoU (section 4). New Managing Nodes have to consent to the Agreed Service Level for the META-SHARE Core Services and META-SHARE Repositories presented in Appendix III.

If a META-SHARE Managing Node ceases to exist or terminates its data-archiving activities, the META-SHARE Managing Nodes shall attempt to transfer the Core Services and User Support Services to another META-SHARE Managing Node or another META-SHARE Member that will undertake all the obligations described in Appendix II of this MoU.

META-SHARE Managing Nodes do not have any additional privileges with respect to access to LRs.

## **2.5. Associate Members**

Organisations or individuals wishing to make their metadata catalogue available to the META-SHARE network but do not wish to follow the META-SHARE specifications with respect to the LRs, nor to use the META-SHARE Core Services or follow the META-SHARE guidelines regarding sharing and distribution of LRs and metadata as prescribed in the Language Resources Sharing Charter, the META-SHARE specifications and this MoU, can participate to the network as Associate Members.

Associate Members:

- make their metadata schema available for mapping with the META-SHARE metadata schema;
- export and allow harvesting of their metadata;
- may make use of the META-SHARE services, identify the owner and acquire LRs in accordance to the relevant licensing terms.

## **2.6. Third parties**

Any third party may make use of the META-SHARE services, identify the owner and acquire LRs in accordance to the relevant licensing terms.

## **3. LRs Sharing within the META-SHARE network**

All META-SHARE members have full access to the META-SHARE services and the META-SHARE Commons licensed LRs, as well as to all other LRs in accordance to the relevant licensing terms, for as long as they retain their membership status.

META-SHARE metadata are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution Unported (CC-BY) version 3.0 or higher, or the EU Open Metadata Licence. All META-SHARE Members are obliged to allow the harvesting of their meta-data.

META-SHARE members are encouraged, when they publish or distribute any Derivative of an LR, to redeposit the Derivative work in the META-SHARE network.

LRs available under a licence allowing redistribution may be replicated and shared in the META-SHARE network, according to the terms and conditions specified in the respective licence.

Members that offer LRs under a Share-Alike licence have to take all appropriate measures to ensure that derivative works are identified.

Members maintaining repositories are responsible for all LRs entering the META-SHARE Network through their repositories, in what concerns their licensing through META-SHARE. META-SHARE encourages the use of one of the licences recommended by META-SHARE, i.e. a CC, or a CC-compatible, licence, or a META-SHARE Commons, or a META-SHARE No Redistribution licence, or an Open Source Software licence.

## **4. Governance**

The META-NET Executive Board is the advisory body on core issues of direction of META-SHARE.

In order to ensure the smooth operation of META-SHARE and the collaboration between all META-SHARE Members:

- Each META-SHARE Network Node will appoint a Repository Manager responsible for maintaining the inventory and ensuring that uploaded LRs are in conformance with IPR and Data Protection rules and regulations as well as any policies the respective organization has in place.
- Each META-SHARE Managing Node acting as Core Service and User Support Service provider will appoint a META-SHARE Managing Node Representative who will be responsible for communicating and coordinating with the Representatives of the rest of the META-SHARE Managing Nodes.
- Coordination of META-SHARE operations is assumed by the META-SHARE Coordinating Committee, which consists of 5 members, nominated and appointed by simple majority among the META-SHARE Repository Managers and META-SHARE Managing Node Representatives. The term of the Coordinating Committee is one year. The Coordinating Committee as a whole, or any of its members, can be re-appointed without restrictions. The current Coordinating Committee comprises one representative from each of the following members: ATH, CNR, DFKI, ELDA, FBK.

The META-SHARE Coordinating Committee decides by simple majority on operational and technical issues, including:

- introduction of new META-SHARE Members to act as META-SHARE Repository Service Providers and of new META-SHARE Managing Nodes to act as META-SHARE Core Service and User Support Service Providers;
- delegation of the provision of specific services to a META-SHARE Member;
- modifications on the technical and licensing setup of the META-SHARE Network;
- issues arising from breach of the Agreed Service Level for the META-SHARE Core services and the META-SHARE repositories.

The Coordinating Committee appoints one of its Managing Node Representatives as its Chair. The term of the Chair is one year and can be renewed to a maximum of three terms.

## **5. Termination**

This MoU remains in force until the dissolution of the META-SHARE Network.

## Appendix I

### META-SHARE Members

The following organisations are the initial META-SHARE Members (META-SHARE Network Nodes, META-SHARE Managing Nodes, META-SHARE Depositors):

1. Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Künstliche Intelligenz, represented by Hans Uszkoreit (Coordinator) and Georg Rehm (Network Manager), DFKI, Germany (Managing Node)
2. Consiglio Nazionale Ricerche – Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale “Antonio Zampolli”, represented by Nicoletta Calzolari, CNR, Italy (Managing Node)
3. Institute for Language and Speech Processing, R.C. “Athena”, represented by Stelios Piperidis, ILSP, Greece (Managing Node)
4. Fondazione Bruno Kessler, represented by Bernardo Magnini, FBK, Italy (Managing Node)
5. Evaluations and Language Resources Distribution Agency, represented by Khalid Choukri, ELDA, France (Managing Node)
6. Charles University in Prague, represented by Jan Hajic, CUNI, Czech Republic
7. Dublin City University, represented by Josef van Genabith, DCU, Ireland
8. Research Institute for Linguistics, Hungarian Academy of Sciences (RILHAS), represented by Tamás Váradi, Hungary
9. Department of Telecommunications and Media Informatics, Budapest Technical University (TMIT), represented by Géza Németh and Gábor Olaszy, Hungary
10. Institute of Computer Science, Polish Academy of Sciences (IIPAN), represented by Adam Przepiórkowski and Maciej Ogrodniczuk, Poland
11. University of Lodz (ULodz), represented by Barbara Lewandowska-Tomaszczyk and Piotr Pezik, Poland
12. Institute of Linguistics, Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, University of Zagreb, represented by Marko Tadic, Croatia
13. Faculty of Mathematics, Belgrade University (UBG), represented by Dusko Vitas, Cvetana Krstev and Ivan Obradovic, Serbia
14. Ludovit Stur Institute of Linguistics, Slovak Academy of Sciences, represented by Radovan Garabik, Slovakia
15. Institute for Bulgarian Language (IBL), Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, represented by Svetla Koeva, Bulgaria
16. Tilde, represented by Andrejs Vasiljevs, Latvia (Managing Node)
17. Department of General Linguistics, University of Helsinki, represented by Kimmo Koskeniemi and Krister Linden, Finland
18. Department of Swedish Language, University of Gothenburg, represented by Lars Borin, Sweden
19. Department of Linguistic, University of Bergen, represented by Koenraad De Smedt, Norway
20. Centre for Language Technology, University of Copenhagen, represented by Bolette Sandford Pedersen, Denmark
21. Institute of Computer Science, University of Tartu, represented by Tiit Roosmaa, Estonia
22. School of Humanities, University of Iceland, represented by Eiríkur Rögnvaldsson, Iceland
23. Institute of the Lithuanian Language, represented by Jolanta Zabarskaite, Lithuania
24. Department of Informatics, University of Lisbon (ULX), represented by Antonio Branco, Portugal
25. Spoken Language Systems Lab, Institute for Systems Engineering and Computers (INESC-ID), represented by Isabel Trancoso, Portugal
26. Department Intelligent Computer Systems, University of Malta, represented by Mike Rosner, Malta
27. Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence, Romanian Academy of Sciences (RACAI), represented by Dan Tufis, Romania
28. Faculty of Computer Science, University Alexandru Ioan Cuza (UAIC), represented by Dan Cristea, Romania

29. Center for Language and Speech Technologies and Applications (TALP), Technical University of Catalonia (UPC), represented by Asunción Moreno, Spain
30. Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada, University Pompeu Fabra (UPF), represented by Núria Bel, Spain
31. School of Computer Science, University of Manchester (UNIMAN), represented by Sophia Ananiadou, United Kingdom
32. Department of Signal Processing and Communications, University of Vigo, represented by Carmen García Mateo, Spain

## Appendix II

### **META-SHARE Core Services**

The following services are considered as Core Services for the purposes of this MoU:

- Metadata and other data harvesting and synchronisation
- User and repository registration, authentication and authorisation
- Search, browsing and viewing
- Uploading and downloading of language resources
- Documentation of language resources
- Reporting on the use of language resources
- Recommendation services
- (Electronic) Licensing of language resources
- Billing and payment (available in the future)

### **META-SHARE User Support Services**

The following services are considered as User Support Services for the purposes of this MoU:

- META-SHARE User Forum, enabling META-SHARE Members to ask questions and get and view answers to questions;
- META-SHARE Knowledge Base, providing information about the use of META-SHARE and its components and services in a structured way;
- Legal issues help desk, enabling META-SHARE Members to ask questions concerning the use of licences, rights of use, IPR issues, etc. - [helpdesk-legal@meta-share.eu](mailto:helpdesk-legal@meta-share.eu);
- Technical helpdesk, enabling META-SHARE Members to ask questions concerning the META-SHARE software platform installation and use - [helpdesk-technical@meta-share.eu](mailto:helpdesk-technical@meta-share.eu);
- Metadata helpdesk, enabling META-SHARE Members to ask questions concerning the META-SHARE metadata based LR documentation - [helpdesk-metadata@meta-share.eu](mailto:helpdesk-metadata@meta-share.eu).

## Appendix III

### **Agreed Service Level for the META-SHARE Core services and the META-SHARE Repositories**

The META-SHARE Core Services and User Support Services are offered by the META-SHARE Managing Nodes to all META-SHARE members as well as to organisations and individuals wishing to become members of the META-SHARE Network.

The **META-SHARE Managing Nodes** agree that

- their servers will be in operation 99.99% of the time, excluding scheduled maintenance;
- they take all reasonable steps to ensure that the quality of the META-SHARE metadata is kept at the highest level at all times;
- when harvesting, they will check the quality and compliance of metadata with the META-SHARE specifications;
- they will verify that the META-SHARE Managing Nodes are synchronized at all times;
- they will keep META-SHARE software documentation up to date.

**META-SHARE Managing Nodes**, in their acting as **User Support Service Providers** agree that

- they will consider bug reports received by META-SHARE Members and decide on their priority;
- they will issue bug fixing releases of the META-SHARE software according to the priorities above.

In addition, the **META-SHARE Managing Nodes supporting the META-SHARE helpdesks** agree that

- they will answer technical questions posed to the User Forum or to the technical helpdesk;
- they will answer metadata related questions posed to the User Forum or to the metadata helpdesk;
- they will answer legal questions posed to the User Forum or to the legal helpdesk;

according to the following response times:

- Critical – Urgent questions in 24 hours;
- Major questions in 72 hours;
- Minor questions in 120 hours.

**META-SHARE Network Nodes** agree that

- their servers will be in operation 99.99% of the time, excluding scheduled maintenance;
- they will take all reasonable steps in order for the metadata to be kept in accordance to the META-SHARE specifications;
- they will take all reasonable steps for their LRs to be accessible according to their relevant licensing terms;

- they will take all reasonable steps so that the LRs they store are appropriately identified and the metadata may be harvested by the META-SHARE Managing Nodes.

**META-SHARE Depositors** depositing their LRs to a META-SHARE hosting repository agree that they will take all reasonable steps so that the META-SHARE Managing Nodes and repositories are able to perform their respective tasks and obligations.

## Appendix IV

### Notice and Take Down policy

If a rights holder is concerned that s/he has found Language Resources (LRs) on one of the META-SHARE repositories, for which s/he has not given permission, granted a licence or is not covered by a limitation or exception in national law, such rights holder is asked to contact META-SHARE through the META-SHARE Legal Helpdesk at [helpdesk-legal@meta-share.eu](mailto:helpdesk-legal@meta-share.eu) in writing stating the following:

1. His/Her contact details;
2. The full bibliographic details of the LR;
3. The exact and full URL where s/he found the LR;
4. Proof that s/he is the rights holder and a statement that, under penalty of perjury, s/he is the rights holder or an authorised representative.

Upon receipt of notification the ‘Notice and Takedown’ procedure is then invoked as follows:

1. META-SHARE will acknowledge receipt of the complaint by email or letter and will make an initial assessment of the validity and plausibility of the complaint.
2. Upon receipt of a valid complaint, the LR will be temporarily removed from the META-SHARE catalogue pending an agreed solution.
3. META-SHARE will contact the member who deposited the material. The META-SHARE member will be notified that the material is subject to a complaint, under what allegations, and will be encouraged to assuage the complaints concerned.
4. The complainant and the META-SHARE member will be encouraged to resolve the issue swiftly and amicably and to the satisfaction of both parties, with the following possible outcomes:
  - a. The LR is replaced on the META-SHARE inventory unchanged.
  - b. The LR is replaced on the META-SHARE inventory with changes.
  - c. The LR is permanently removed from the META-SHARE inventory.
5. If the META-SHARE member and the complainant are unable to agree to a solution, the LR will remain unavailable through the META-SHARE inventory until a time when a resolution has been reached.

## **Appendix V**

### **Changelog**

- Version 2.0 – (edited by Stelios Piperidis)

### **META-SHARE Membership Form**

Please print, sign and scan this form and send the scan as a PDF document to the META-SHARE Coordinating Committee (email).

Organisation	.....
Institute/Centre	.....
Name of representative	.....
Position	.....
Street and house number	.....
ZIP code	.....
City	.....
Country	.....
Phone	.....
Fax	.....
E-mail	.....
City, Date	.....
Signature	.....

This membership form applies to Version 2.0 of the META-SHARE MoU (**DAY, MONTH, 2013**).

## **Annex II Letters of Support**



FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS | UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA  
DEPARTAMENTO DE INFORMÁTICA  
Prof. António Horta Branco

## Letter of Intent

The University of Lisbon (ULX), represented by António Branco, hereby expresses its non legally binding intent that the ULX is willing and able to participate in the maintenance and evolution of the META-SHARE infrastructure.

We confirm that the ULX will continue to host the repository of LRs and serve as a META-SHARE node for a period of 24 months. The ULX is also willing to participate in the testing of the infrastrutre middleware proposed by META-SHARE and to use it for its own resources at least for the period 2013-2014.

Date: June 14th, 2012

Name: António Branco

Signature :

## Letter of Intent

The Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence of the Romanian Academy, represented by Academician Dan Tufiș, Director, hereby expresses its non legally binding intent that the Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence of the Romanian Academy is willing and able to participate in the maintenance and evolution of the META-SHARE infrastructure, by continuing to host the META-SHARE repository of language resources and tools and serve as a META-SHARE node for a period of 24 months after the end of the project MetaNet4U. The Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence of the Romanian Academy will continue to provide technical and/or user support services, software-based and/or human services provided for a period of 24 months after the end of the project MetaNet4U.

26 June, 2012

Prof. Dr Dan Tufiș,  
Member of the Romanian Academy  
Director of Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence

  




**Centre de Tecnologies i Aplicacions del Llenguatge i la Parla**  
UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA

Dra. Asunción Moreno

Address; Jordi Girona, 1-3 Edifici D-5  
08034 Barcelona-Spain  
Tel: +34-93-401 64 37  
Fax: +34-93-401 64 47  
Email: [asuncion.moreno@upc.edu](mailto:asuncion.moreno@upc.edu)

**Letter of Intent**

The Centre de Tecnologies i Aplicacions del Llenguatge i la Parla (TALP) of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya represented by Asunción Moreno hereby expresses its non legally binding intent that TALP is willing and able to participate in the maintenance and evolution of the META-SHARE infrastructure.

We confirm that TALP will continue to host the repository of LRs and serve as a META-SHARE node for a period of 24 months.

Date: June 18<sup>th</sup> 2012

Name: Asunción Moreno

Signature :

## Letter of Intent

The Institut Universitari de Lingüística Aplicada (IULA) of the Universitat Pompeu Fabra, represented by Núria Bel, hereby expresses its non legally binding intent that IULA is willing and able to contribute to the maintenance and evolution of the META-SHARE infrastructure.

We confirm that, in particular, IULA will continue to host and make available its language resources through the META-SHARE network. IULA is also willing to participate in the testing of the infrastructure middleware proposed by META-SHARE and to use it for its own resources at least for the period 2013-2014.

Date, 28 June 2012

Name: Núria Bel Rafecas

Signature:



## Letter of intent

The the Group of Multimedia Technologies (GTM) of the University of Vigo, represented by Prof. Carmen Garcia-Mateo hereby expresses its non legally binding intent that GTM is willing and able to participate in the maintenance and evolution of the META-SHARE infrastructure.

We confirm that University of Vigo will continue to host the repository of LRs and serve as a META-SHARE node for a period of 24 months.

Date: 27/June/2012

Name: Carmen Garcia Mateo

Signature:

