



EU and multilingualism

CEF Digital

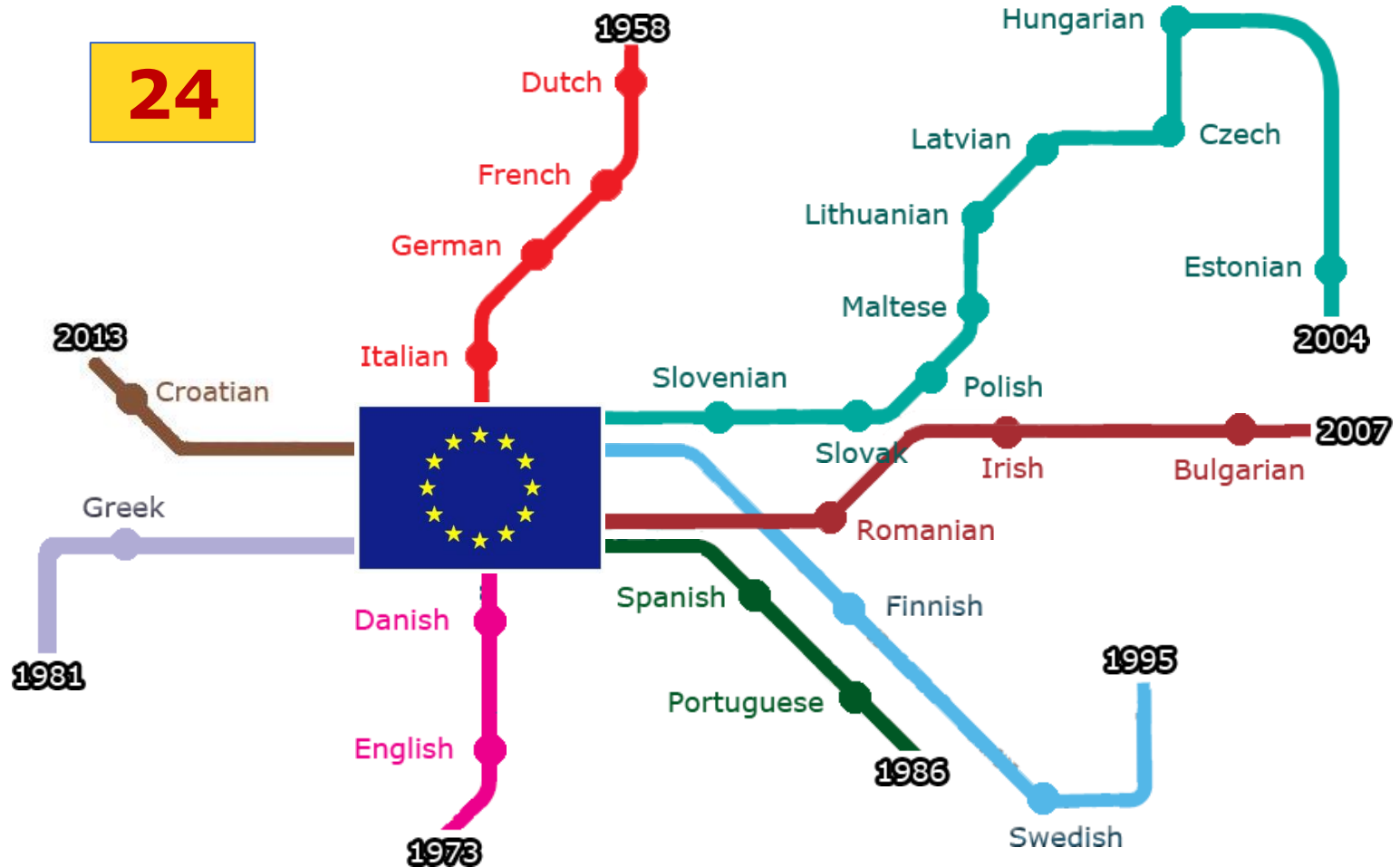
CEF Automated Translation

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EU and multilingualism

- Linguistic diversity in European Union: 24 official EU languages and a total of about 60 major “regional/minority”
- The equality of the EU official languages is enshrined in the European legal basis
- EU is committed to supporting multilingualism
 - **Foreign language learning, exchange programmes...**
 - **Support for language technologies in R&I programmes**
 - **Support for the use of Machine Translation in public administrations (MT@EC)**
 - **deployment of mature language technologies through the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Programme**

EU official languages over time



Digital Single Market strategy

- A Digital Single Market can create up to €340 billion in additional growth, hundreds of thousands of new jobs, and a vibrant knowledge-based society
- European Digital Market is multilingual
 - **90% of European consumers prefer to browse websites in their own language;**
 - **82% of the 4000+ web shops are mono-lingual;**
 - **42% of multilingual internet users never purchase online products and services in languages other than their own.**
- Language barriers affect private and public services
- Digital public sector is part of the DSM strategy

Multilingual challenge of pan-European public services

- The European Digital Single Market is **multilingual**
- Pan-European public services address the whole EU
- No lingua franca among public administrations in Europe
- 90% of EU web users prefer to use their own language in online services
- **Human translation is too expensive** and **too slow** with the intended text volumes
- Human translation is **not a solution** in all use scenarios
- Available online translators have **gaps in language coverage** and are **not secure**

→ multilingual support is needed



EU support for multilingualism in Digital Europe

- Over 200 MEUR invested since 2007 – this has led to advancement in language technologies
- important results of EC funding programmes: Machine translation toolkit Moses, META-SHARE language resources, MT domain adaptation pilots, standards and workflows for language processing, tools for terminology work ...
- Language technologies can deliver **effective multilingual support to public online services** to complement the valuable work of translators
- Now it is time to put language technologies into use for public services!

What is CEF Digital?

- established by [REGULATION \(EU\) No 1316/2013](#)
- CEF Digital = pan-European Digital Service Infrastructures, for example, cross-border
 - **eJustice**
 - **eProcurement**
 - **eHealth**
 - **Europeana**
 - **Open Data Portal**
- CEF is a *deployment* programme – using mature technologies

What is CEF Digital?

- *enabler of the public services pillar of the DSM strategy*
- *multilingual e-services for citizens, businesses and public administrations*

Why CEF Digital?

- *improve the competitiveness of the European economy*
- *promote the interconnection and interoperability of national, regional and local networks*
- *promote access to such networks, thus supporting the development of a Digital Single Market*

Part of the solution is: CEF Automated Translation platform

CEF AT will make European public online services multilingual

...by deploying mature language technologies (such as **MT@EC**) in a secure platform

Goal

- *To make public digital services equally usable by all EU users, irrespective of their working language and language skills*
- *To facilitate cross-border information exchange in public administration*

The role of Member States

- CEF AT helps to create accessible and multilingual **pan-European** online public services
- Technology underlying CEF.AT needs linguistic data (**language resources**) in EU languages
- Member States should **take ownership** of their own language and make sure their language is adequately supported in CEF AT
- Member States' involvement and help are essential for CEF AT efforts to succeed!
- **European Language Resource Coordination** (ELRC) is a project, funded through CEF Digital, that facilitates this process

Advantages of CEF AT for Member States

- It provides an automated translation service free of charge¹ for MS administrations
- You can use it to translate documents, messages, snippets of text
- It enables sharing of information, better understanding
- It will make pan-European public services more accessible to your citizens and administrators by reducing the language barrier
 - **Companies in your country can participate in calls for tenders in other EU countries**
 - **Your citizens can find out about their rights in the EU, file complaints, access legal documents, use health services in the EU -- using their own language**

¹ for the duration of the CEF programme

Thank you!