



STRATEGIC IMPACTS OF META-NET

A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT

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META-NET

- **European network of excellence for language technology**

- 60 centers; 34 countries



- **Language White Paper series**

- status of preparation for the digital age
- 30 languages; 200+ experts
- dissemination, assessment, recommendation

- **Portuguese language**

- 10 coauthors; Portugal and Brazil



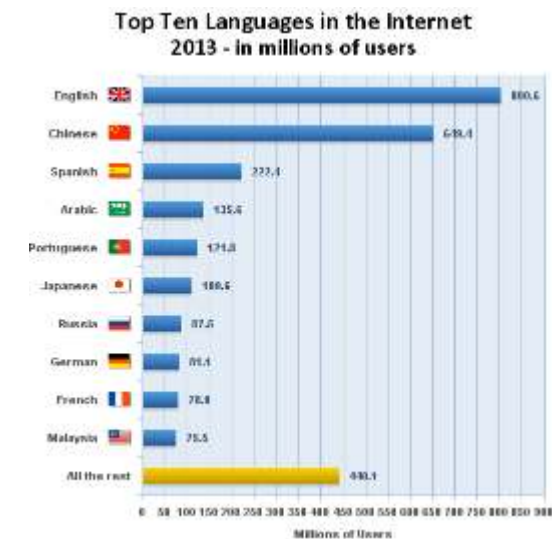
A. Impacting public opinion

- mass email distribution of eBook version
- news articles on the white paper
- interviews
- op-ed articles
- overview articles on language technology (Dec 2014)



Key message (1/2) ...

- A global language (# speakers):
 - **6th language in the world**
 - 260 million in 4 continents
 - 3rd European language in the world
 - **5th language in the internet**
 - 120 million users
- Internet penetration:
 - **39% in the world population**
 - **47% in the 8 Portuguese speaking countries**
 - 65% in Portugal
- **Speakers are getting ready for the digital age...**
- 31/12/2013, internet world stats



B. Impacting business

- 11/2011 stand in major ICT fair
- 11/2012 launching workshop
- “New Technologies and the Future of Languages”
- 11/2012 stand in major ICT fair



C. Impacting decision makers

- **Presenting White Paper results:**

- At invited hearing

- parliament

- At proposed meetings

- European Parliament member
- directors of departments
- presidents of agencies and institutes
- secretaries of state
- minister



D. Impacting language policy

- 4/2012 **Colloquium on the Portuguese Language in the Internet and the Digital World, Brazil**
 - CPLP, Community of Portuguese Language Countries
 - IILP, International Institute for the Portuguese Language
 - **Charter of recommendations:**
 - “[...] to foster R&D programs for language technology and the computational processing of Portuguese.” (p.5)
- 11/2013 **2nd conference on the Portuguese Language in the World System, Lisbon**
- **CPLP Ministers Council Resolution**
February 2014



E. Impacting R&I policy... (1/3)

... in the “Portugal 2020” master plan

- *Partnership Agreement 2014-2020*
 - July 2014

[...] The application of **language technology** to the Portuguese language will induce a wide range of impacts, with deep economic importance, as a factor of enhanced innovation and competitiveness in the **global digital market** [...] The innovative exploration of **business opportunities** on the basis of the **computational processing of the Portuguese language** are important opportunities [to foster].” (p. 17)



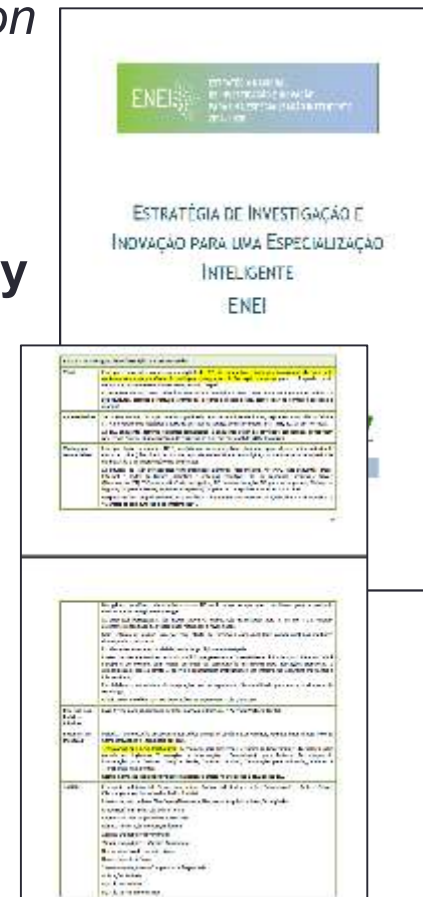
E. Impacting R&I policy... (2/3)

... in the smart specialization strategy plan

- *Research and Innovation Strategy for a Smart Specialization*
 - November 2014, pp.32-33
- Strategic priorities (15 priorities):
- **Priority 2 – Information and Communication Technology**
 - **Vision (3 sentences)**

“[...] ICT is a cross-sector strategic asset of the contemporary society for the projection of the Portuguese language in the world[...].”
 - **Topics of innovation potential (8 topics)**

“[...] **Language Technology for Portuguese** [...]”



E. Impacting R&I policy... (3/3)

... in the roadmap of strategic infrastructures

- December 2014
- **Strategic Research Infrastructure for Science and Technology of the Portuguese Language**
 - 21 research centers (including from Brazil)
 - Computation, Linguistics, Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Psychology, Humanities
- node of European CLARIN infrastructure



Virtuous circle closing... (1/2)

- Conference “**Languages: Translating the Future**”

- September 2014
- Parliament, Language Institute “Camões”, Portuguese Dep. DGT-EC



- **Recommendations:**

“[...] **MT@EC**, an application for machine translation, proposed by DGT-EC, **should be made available** not only to the translators of public administration, but **in a generalized way for all civil servants.**

The **Agency for Administrative Modernization** should play a driving role, for this solution to be available at all public services.” (p.2)



... virtuous circle closing: (2/2)

- **Active national support** for an enhanced European policy for **multilingual European digital single market** and language technology
- **2016 Summit in Lisbon**



Strategic impacts of META-NET



Thank you

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