



EU and multilingualism

CEF Digital

CEF Automated Translation

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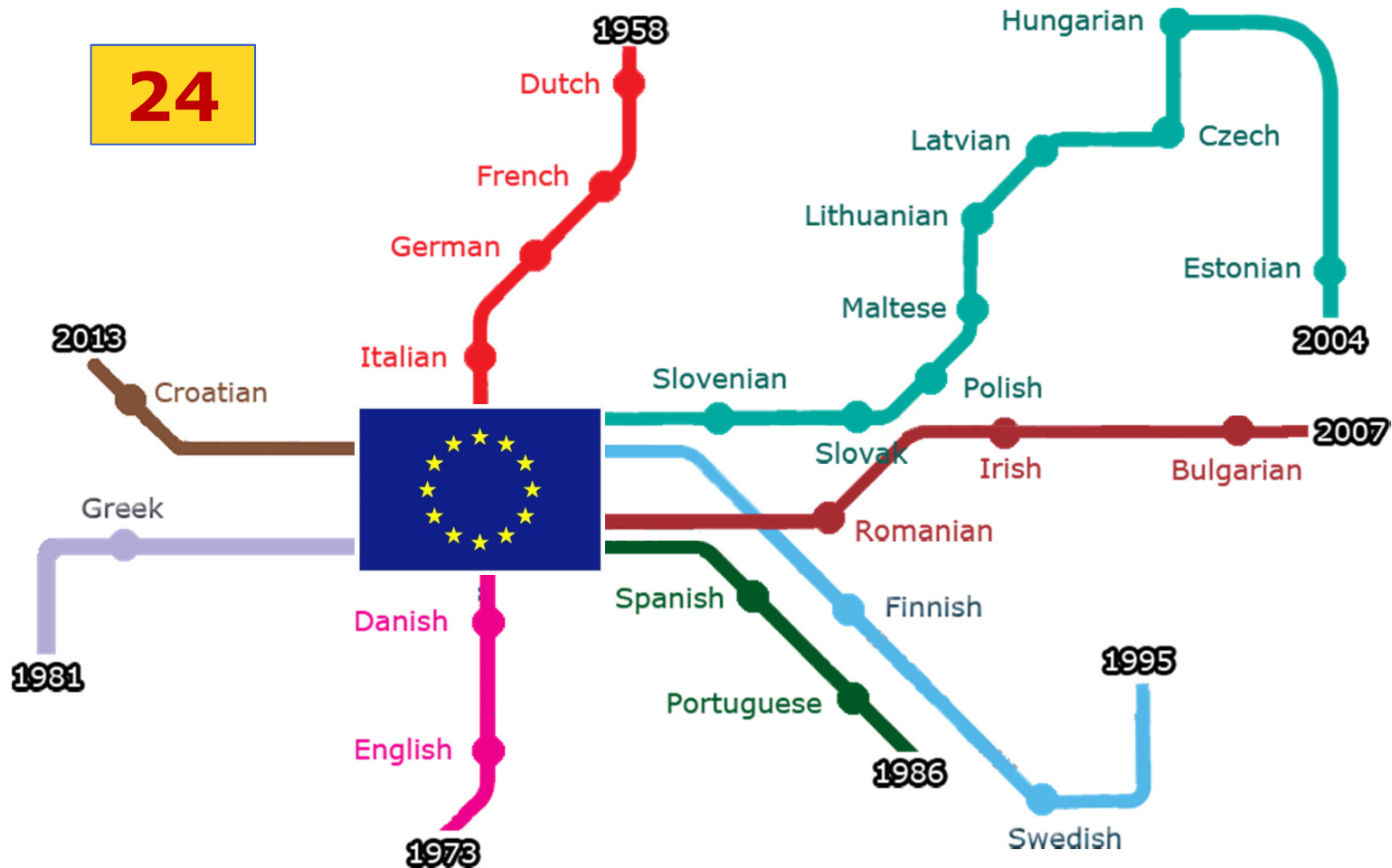
EU and multilingualism

- Linguistic diversity in European Union
 - 24 official EU languages
 - about 60 major “regional/minority” languages
- The equality of the EU official languages is enshrined in the European legal basis
- EU is committed to supporting multilingualism
 - 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





Connecting Europe Facility – CEF

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





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





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 languages and make sure their languages are 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





European
Commission

Thank you!

