



Multilingual text classification of EUR-Lex documents

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(Multilingual) set of (legal) documents

The image shows three overlapping screenshots of a legal document from the Official Journal of the European Union. The top screenshot is in French (FR), the middle in Polish (PL), and the bottom in English (EN). The document is titled 'DÉCISION DU CONSEIL de 17 novembre 2009 relative à la conclusion de l'accord entre le gouvernement de la Fédération de Russie et l'Union européenne sur la protection des informations classifiées'. The English version is titled 'COUNCIL DECISION of 17 November 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information (2010/348/EC)'. The document contains several articles detailing the agreement on the protection of classified information between the EU and Russia.

Manual assignment of labels/topics to documents

A circular icon containing a person silhouette, with an arrow pointing to the right, indicating manual human intervention in the labeling process.

Correction automatically assigned labels

A circular icon containing a person silhouette, with an arrow pointing upwards, indicating the correction of automatically assigned labels.

Automatic assignment of labels/topics to documents

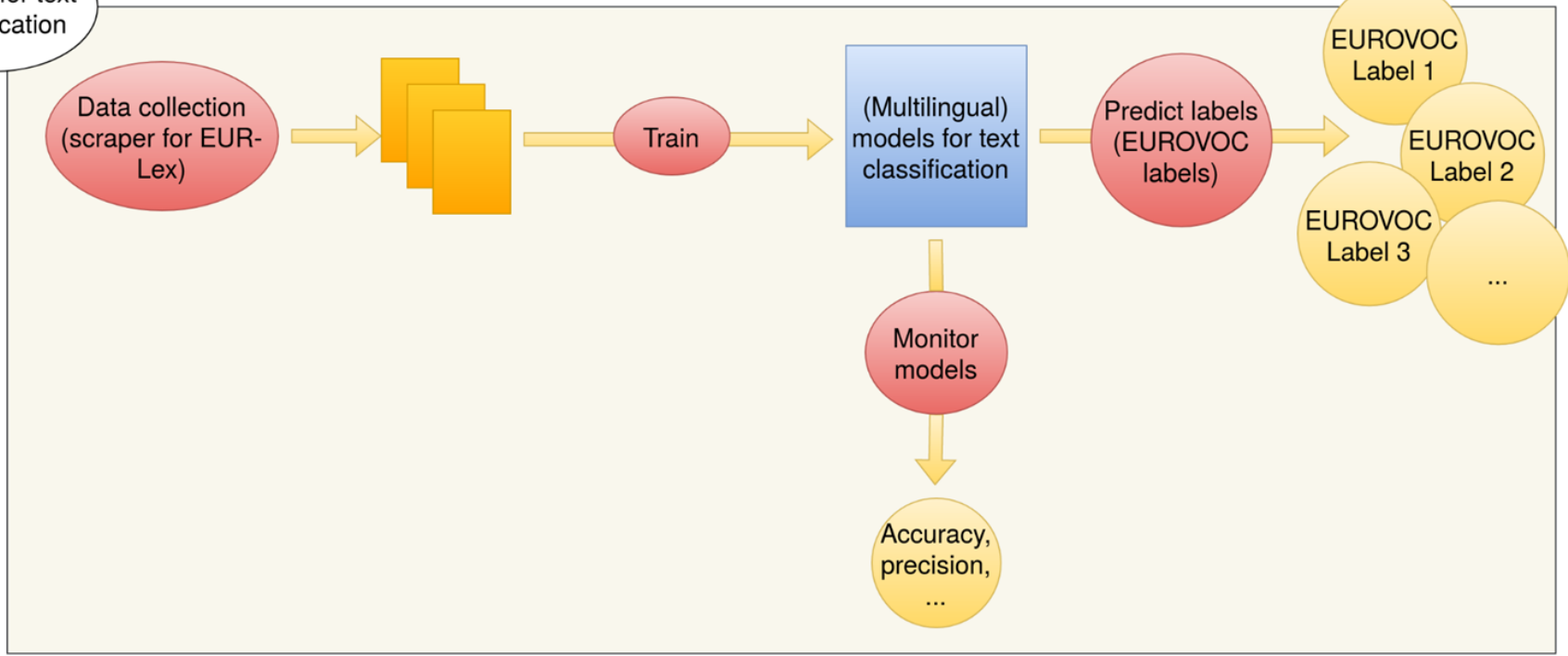
A circular icon containing a person silhouette, with an arrow pointing to the right, indicating the automatic assignment of labels/topics to documents.

(Multilingual) text classifier/topic model

- True labels
- Agreement (EU)
 - Ratification of an agreement
 - Public safety
 - Access to information
 - Data protection
 - Russia
 - Exchange of information
 - Confidentiality

- Predicted labels
- Exchange of information
 - Ratification of an agreement
 - Common foreign and security policy
 - Data protection
 - Agreement (EU)
 - Russia
 - Confidentiality
 - Access to information

Docker for text classification



Overview of the classification task:




- EUR-Lex (text)
- EUROVOC taxonomy (labels)

Search Results



 You can only view pages 1–9,999 of the search results.

Search criteria




Search language: English

 Save to My searches  Create in My alerts (RSS feeds)  Save to My items

Results 1 - 10 of 1059038

Sort by Relevant  


1 2 > >>

 Clear selection  Customise shown information  Export ▾

Refine query


By keyword

- In title
- In text



By year of document

- 2023 (1)
- 2022 (4)
- 2021 (17605)
- 2020 (21857)
- 2019 (23116)

See more... 

By collection

- EU law and case-law (710248)
- Legal acts (217992)
- Consolidated texts (27270)
- Treaties (9810)
- Lawmaking procedures (10526)
- International agreements (11815)
- Preparatory documents (133444)
- Parliamentary questions (197036)
- Case-law (100274)
- ECTA documents (2021)

Around 20 000 EUR-Lex documents published each year.

Legal acts, Treaties, International agreements,...

Directive (EU) 2021/1883 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the conditions of entry and residence of third-country nationals for the purpose of highly qualified employment, and repealing Council Directive 2009/50/EC
PE/40/2021/REV/1

OJ L 382, 28.10.2021, p. 1–38 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, GA, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

 In force

CELEX number: 32021L1883

Author: European Parliament, Council of the European Union

Date of document: 20/10/2021; Date of signature

Regulation (EU) 2021/1873 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 October 2021 on the extension of the term of the

[Expand all](#) [Collapse all](#)**Title and reference**

Council Decision of 17 November 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information









































































OJ L 155, 22.6.2010, p. 56–56 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

Special edition in Croatian: Information about publishing OJ Special Edition not found, P. 309 - 309

 In force

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2010/348/oj>

Languages, formats and link to OJ

	BG	ES	CS	DA	DE	ET	EL	EN	FR	GA	HR	IT	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	FI	SV
HTML																								
PDF																								
Official Journal																								

Most documents available in multiple languages.

Multilingual display

English (en)



Please choose



Please choose



Display

Dates

Date of document: 17/11/2009

Date of effect: 17/11/2009; Entry into force Date of document

Date of effect: 17/11/2009; Takes effect Date of document See Art 3

Date of end of validity: No end date

Classifications

EUROVOC descriptor:

- agreement (EU)
- ratification of an agreement
- public safety
- access to information
- data protection
- Russia
- exchange of information
- confidentiality

Manual assignment of EUROVOC descriptors to (most) documents.

EUROVOC Taxonomy:

- Contains 7390 concepts.
- 8 levels of concepts.
- If a document is assigned a concept, ancestors and descendants of that concept are typically not assigned to the same document.

Example:

Concept scheme

4826 air and space transport

Version: 20210604-0
URI: <http://eurovoc.europa.eu/100241>
Type of dataset: Thesaurus

[Tree view](#) [Table view](#) [List view](#)

48 TRANSPORT

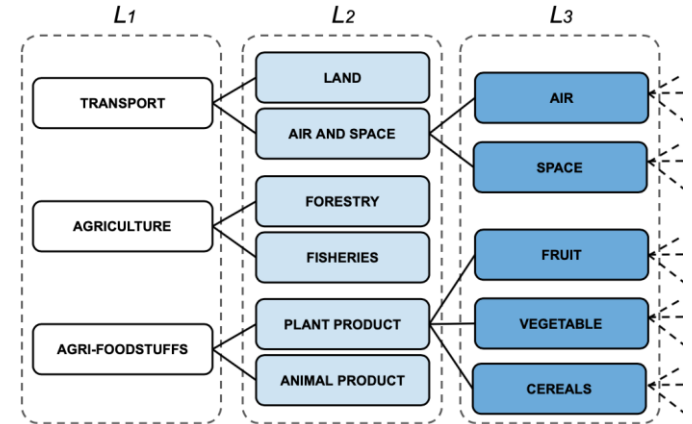
4826 air and space transport

Filter by:

[+ air transport](#)
[+ space transport](#)

Language equivalents

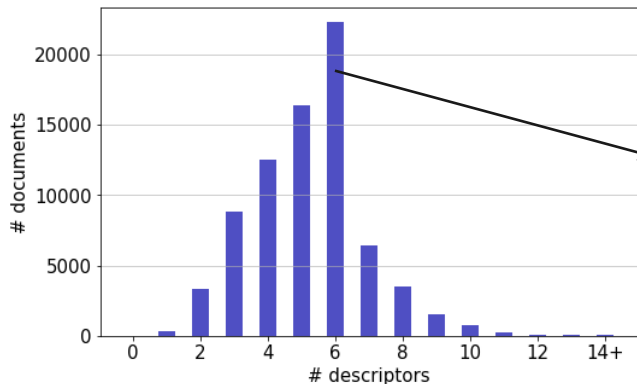
BG	4826 въздушен и космически транспорт
ES	4826 transporte aéreo y espacial
CS	4826 letecká a kosmická doprava
DA	4826 lufttransport og rumfart
DE	4826 Luftverkehr und Raumfahrt
ET	4826 õhu- ja kosmosetransport
EL	4826 εναέριες και διαστημικές μεταφορές
EN	4826 air and space transport



Example from levels L1, L2 and L3 from the EUROVOC taxonomy. Image taken from Chalkidis, I., Fergadiotis, E., Malakasiotis, P. and Androutsopoulos, I. (2021). MultiEURLEX - A multi-lingual and multi-label legal document classification dataset for zero-shot cross lingual transfer.

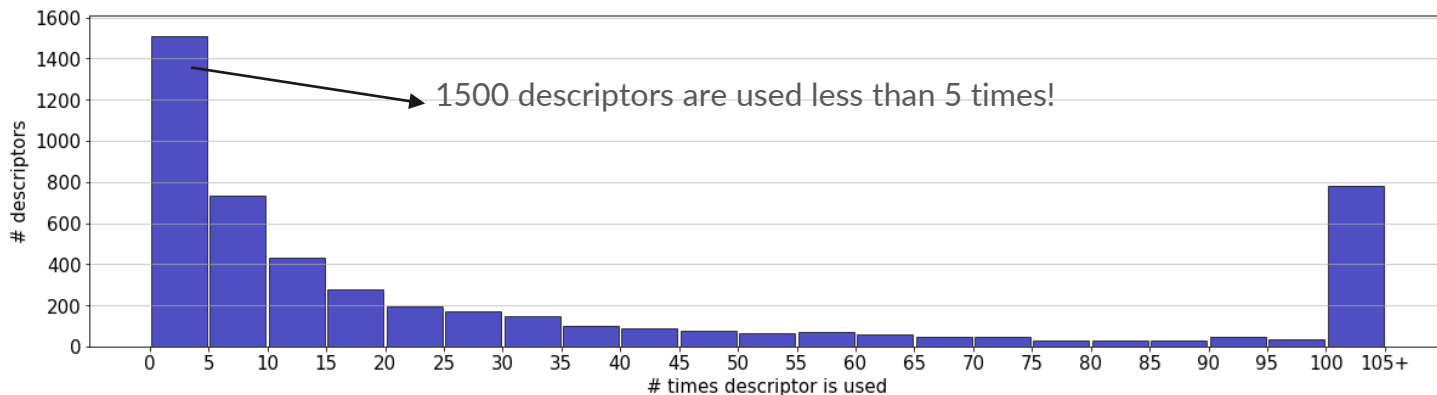
EUROVOC Taxonomy, data distribution:

- Number of descriptors per document (calculated on subset of EUR-Lex corpus, 76k documents):



Average number of EUROVOC descriptors per document is around 5-6.

- Histogram of number of times a descriptor is used:



Classification task:

- Manual assignment of EUROVOC labels to EUR-Lex documents is **time consuming**.
- Manual assignment of EUROVOC labels is **complex** (>7K EUROVOC descriptors) and requires domain knowledge.
- Can we build a text classification model that can predict EUROVOC labels given an EUR-Lex document with **good accuracy**?

Pipeline for building a model for Text Classification:

- Data collection (scraping)
- Preprocessing (extraction of text)
- Training the model

Development of scrapers for EUR-Lex website (scraping of text and EUROVOC labels + extraction of text from html):

Development of 'scrapers' for data collection.

```
scrapy crawl eurlex \
-s FEED_URI='../../DATA/eurlex_012021.jsonl' \
-s FEED_FORMAT=jsonlines \
-a year='2021' \
-a month='01'
```

Scraper runs in docker container.

The screenshot shows the EUR-Lex website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the EUR-Lex logo and 'Access to European Union law'. A search bar is visible with the text 'QUICK SEARCH'. Below the search bar, there are search filters and a list of search results. The search criteria are: Domain: All, Date of document: 01/2021, Search language: English, Exclude consolidated versions: True. The search results show 10 results out of 1434. The first result is 'Regulation (EU) 2021/56 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 January 2021 laying down management, conservation and control measures applicable in the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Convention area and amending Council Regulation (EC) No 520/2007'. The second result is 'P9_TA(2021)0015 FEAD: specific measures to address the COVID-19 crisis'. The 'Refine query' sidebar on the left shows filters for 'By keyword', 'By collection', and 'By type of act'. Red arrows point from the text boxes to the search results and the 'Refine query' sidebar.

Development of data preprocessing scripts for extraction and cleaning of text:

Extraction of EUROVOC labels:

Document 32010D0348

▼ Title and reference

Council Decision of 17 November 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information

OJ L 155, 22.6.2010, p. 56–56 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)
Special edition in Croatian: Information about publishing OJ Special Edition not found, P. 309 - 309

● In force
ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2010/348/oj>

▼ Languages, formats and link to OJ

	BG	ES	CS	DA	DE	ET	EL	EN	FR	GA	HR	IT	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	FI	SV
HTML																								
PDF																								
Official Journal																								

▼ Multilingual display

English (en) Please choose Please choose Display

▼ Text

22.6.2010 EN Official Journal of the European Union L 155/56

COUNCIL DECISION
of 17 November 2009
concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information
(2010/348/EC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,
Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 24 and 38 thereof,
Having regard to the recommendation from the Presidency,
Whereas:

(1) At its meeting on 27 and 28 November 2003, the Council decided to authorise the Presidency, assisted by the Secretary-General/High Representative ("SG/HR"), to open negotiations in accordance with Articles 24 and 38 of the Treaty on European Union with certain third States in order for the European Union to conclude with each of them an Agreement on security procedures for the exchange of classified information.

Extraction of the title

Extraction of the text

Document 32010D0348

▼ Title and reference

Council Decision of 17 November 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the European Union on the protection of classified information

OJ L 155, 22.6.2010, p. 56–56 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)
Special edition in Croatian: Information about publishing OJ Special Edition not found, P. 309 - 309

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▼ Languages, formats and link to OJ

	BG	ES	CS	DA	DE	ET	EL	EN	FR	GA	HR	IT	LV	LT	HU	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SK	SL	FI	SV
HTML																								
PDF																								
Official Journal																								

▼ Multilingual display

English (en) Please choose Please choose Display

▼ Dates

Date of document: 17/11/2009
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- confidentiality

Extraction of labels

Supported architectures

JEX

pros:

- Lightweight and fast.
- Training takes only a couple of minutes.

cons:

- No state of the art performance.
- Monolingual architecture.

fastText

pros:

- Lightweight and fast.
- Strong baseline in wide variety of classification tasks.
- Training takes 1-2 hours.

cons:

- No state of the art performance.
- Monolingual architecture

BERT language model + classification layer

pros:

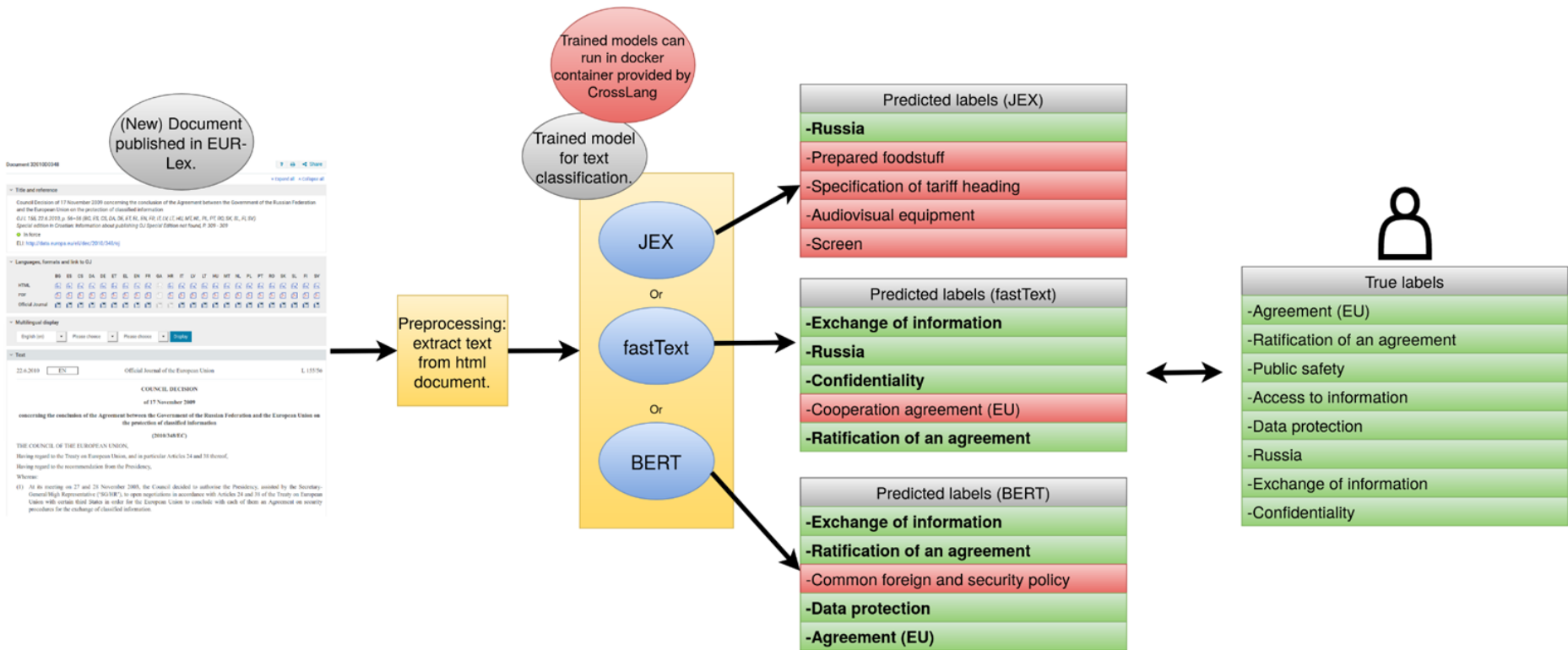
- State of the art performance on classification tasks.
- Multilingual classification.

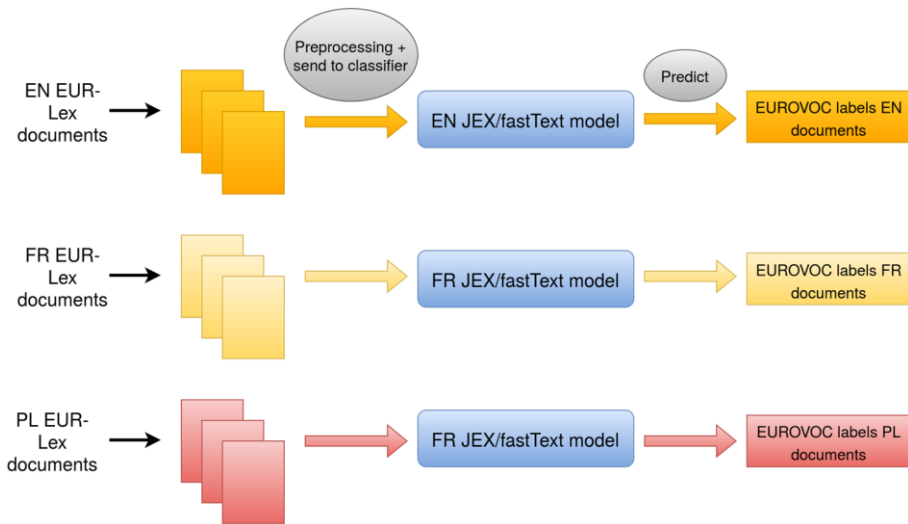
cons:

- Requires GPU for training.
- Training can take up to 40 hours.

Pipeline for text classification (inference)

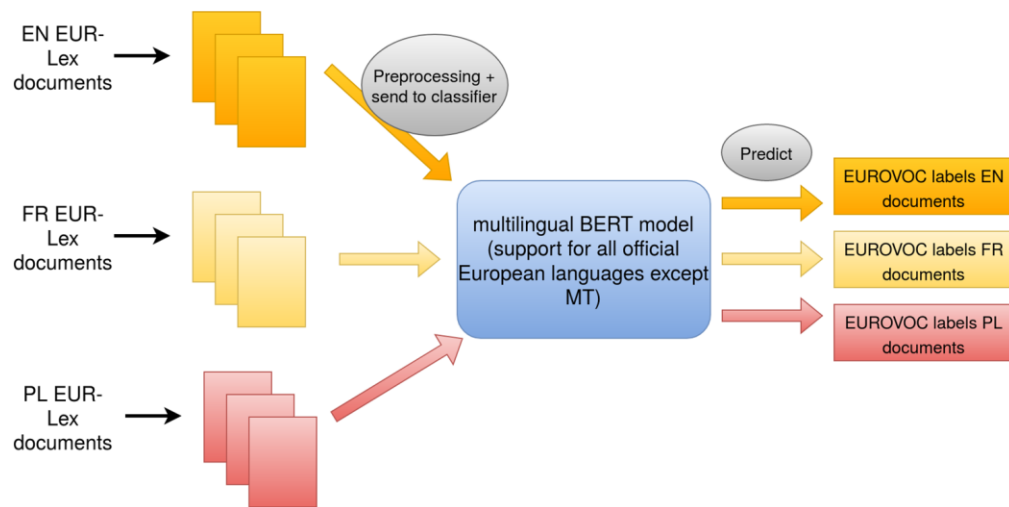
Pipeline for inference (given an html document, predict EUROVOC labels):





Monolingual architectures (JEX/fastText) require a separate classifier for each language....

...while an architecture with multilingual support (multilingual BERT), only requires one model for all official European languages (except for Maltese).
This facilitates the deployment of the classification system.



Evaluation of predicted labels:

- Automatic procedure
- Human assessment

- **Automatic evaluation:** comparison of predicted labels with ground truth EUROVOC labels.

Results (automatic evaluation on held out test set)				
Score Model	JEX	fastText	(multilingual) BERT	State-of-the-art (Shaheen et al. 2020) ¹
Micro F1 score	0.46	0.72	0.76	0.75
mean R-precision	0.54	0.72	0.76	-

- **Human assessment:** evaluation of precision of predicted EUROVOC labels.

Results (human evaluation on subset of held out test set)			
Score Model	JEX	fastText	(multilingual) BERT
Human annotator 1 (mean R-precision)	0.82	0.83	0.86
Human annotator 2 (mean R-precision)	0.78	0.80	0.83

Inter annotator agreement of 84%

1. Shaheen, Z., Wohlgenannt, G., and Filtz, E. (2020) Large Scale Legal Text Classification Using Transformer Models.

⌵ Expand all ⏴ Collapse all

⌵ Title and reference

Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2015/204 of 6 February 2015 amending Annex II to Decision 2007/777/EC as regards the entry for Canada in the list of third countries or parts thereof from which the introduction of meat products and treated stomachs, bladders and intestines into the Union is authorised in relation to highly pathogenic avian influenza (notified under document C(2015) 554) Text with EEA relevance

OJ L 33, 10.2.2015, p. 45–47 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, HR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● No longer in force, Date of end of validity: 20/04/2021; Implicitly repealed by [32020R0692](#)

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec_impl/2015/204/oj

Predicted labels (JEX)
-Avian influenza
-Poultry
-Veterinary inspection
-Health certificate
-Bird

Predicted labels (BERT)
-Veterinary inspection
-Import (EU)
-Poultry
-Animal product
-Avian influenza

True labels
-Veterinary inspection
-Animal product
-Import (EU)
-Import restriction
-Poultry
-Canada
-Avian influenza

Example: FR document

Document 32008R0493

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▼ Title and reference

Commission Regulation (EC) No 493/2008 of 2 June 2008 establishing a prohibition of fishing for cod in Norwegian waters of I and II by vessels flying the flag of Portugal

OJ L 144, 4.6.2008, p. 31–32 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● No longer in force, Date of end of validity: 31/12/2008

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/493/oj>

Document 32008R0493

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▼ Expand all ▲ Collapse all

▼ Title and reference

Règlement (CE) n° 493/2008 de la Commission du 2 juin 2008 interdisant la pêche du cabillaud dans les eaux norvégiennes des zones CIEM I et II par les navires battant pavillon du Portugal

OJ L 144, 4.6.2008, p. 31–32 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

● No longer in force, Date of end of validity: 31/12/2008

ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2008/493/oj>

Predicted labels (JEX)
-Pavillion de navire (Ship's flag)
-Droit de pêche (Fishing rights)
-Quota de pêche (catch quota)
-Poisson de mer (Sea fish)
-Zone de pêche (Fishing area)

Predicted labels (BERT)
-Poisson de mer (Sea fish)
-Portugal
-Pavillion de navire (Ship's flag)
-Quota de pêche (catch quota)
-Norvège (Norway)

True labels
-Pavillion de navire (Ship's flag)
-Poisson de mer (Sea fish)
-Portugal
-Quota de pêche (catch quota)
-Réglementation de la pêche (fishing regulations)
-Droit de pêche (Fishing rights)
-Eaux de l'UE (EU waters)

Example: PL document

Document 32011R0815

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▼ Title and reference

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No 815/2011 of 12 August 2011 amending the representative prices and additional import duties for certain products in the sugar sector fixed by Regulation (EU) No 867/2010 for the 2010/11 marketing year

OJ L 208, 13.8.2011, p. 82–83 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2011/815/oj

Document 32011R0815

? 🖨️ ➦ Share

▼ Expand all ▲ Collapse all

▼ Title and reference

Rozporządzenie wykonawcze Komisji (UE) nr 815/2011 z dnia 12 sierpnia 2011 r. zmieniające ceny reprezentatywne oraz kwoty dodatkowych należności przywozowych w odniesieniu do niektórych produktów w sektorze cukru, ustalone rozporządzeniem (UE) nr 867/2010 na rok gospodarczy 2010/2011

OJ L 208, 13.8.2011, p. 82–83 (BG, ES, CS, DA, DE, ET, EL, EN, FR, IT, LV, LT, HU, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SK, SL, FI, SV)

ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2011/815/oj

Predicted labels (JEX)
-Cukier buraczany (Beet sugar)
-Produkt cukrowy (Sugar product)
-Cena reprezentatywna (Representative price)
-cło handlowe (CCT duties)
-Cukier biały (White sugar)

Predicted labels (BERT)
-Przywóz (UE) (Import (EU))
-cło handlowe (CCT duties)
-Cena importowa (Import price)
-Produkt cukrowy (Sugar product)
-Cukier (Sugar)

True labels
-Cena importowa (Import price)
-Produkt cukrowy (Sugar product)
-Przywóz (UE) (Import (EU))
-cło handlowe (CCT duties)

Takeaways:

- Labels predicted by JEX/fastText/BERT architectures can be considered relevant for the document in most cases (precision around +/-80%).
- (multilingual) BERT architecture learns to predict labels that are both **relevant** according to human evaluation and **consistent** with labeling efforts of human annotators.
- Only **one** (multilingual) BERT model needed for classification of documents in 22 official languages of the EU (MT not supported). Using JEX/fastText would require 22+1 separate models.
- Predicting using one multilingual model has the advantage that the result will be **more consistent** across languages, compared to the use of separate models for each language.
- Both data collection (scraping), (multilingual) model training and inference can be done inside the docker container provided by CrossLang.