

BUILDING BRIDGES ACROSS LANGUAGES: HUMAN-CENTRED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE EURO-MED INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

BY AS



6 – 7 June 2024

Centre for Excellence in Finance, Ljubljana

The Association EPEKA, Soc. Ent., participates in the conference organised by the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia together with the Anna Lindh Foundation: **Building Bridges Across Languages: Human-Centred Artificial Intelligence for the Euro-Med International Conference**



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS

DRAFT AGENDA

Building Bridges Across Languages: Human-Centred AI for the Euro-Med International Conference

Dates: June 6-7, 2024

Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Venue: Center of Excellence in Finance, Cankarjeva cesta 18, Ljubljana

In June 2016, the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and the Anna Lindh Foundation organised the "Translation for Dialogue" conference, the first of its kind in the Euro-Med region. The conference brought together experts and cultural actors involved in translation to showcase, debate, and advocate for translation as a central tool for intercultural dialogue. The participants pledged an ambitious Euro-Med translation policy to foster cultural diversity and promote shared values.

Since then, translation has been relevant in promoting intercultural dialogue and strengthening a shared identity based on cultural diversity between Euro-Med societies. However, a new player has entered the scene that has the potential to disrupt, for the good or the bad, this pattern. Nowadays, AI can accurately understand and generate human language, leading to impressive translation quality that is expected to improve in the foreseeable future. This change has been facilitated by the convergence of AI's computational capabilities, the availability of more data of better quality, and increasingly sophisticated software.

The evolution of AI-powered translation tools holds the potential to create a more connected and inclusive regional community where language is no longer a barrier to information, services, and cultural exchange. Advances in AI technology can enable translation tools to capture and interpret cultural nuances and idiomatic expressions more effectively, thereby improving the quality of translations or allowing for the automated translation of less-spoken languages and dialects. This can foster deeper intercultural understanding and trust.

This unparalleled technological progress comes with risks for practice and policy. While AI can generate societal benefits, its integration into our daily lives requires a cautious approach, as numerous technical, social, ethical, and political challenges must be addressed to ensure their development and implementation. For example, AI translation systems are susceptible to design, deployment and operation biases. They are at risk of reflecting, perpetuating or amplifying existing inequalities, discriminatory patterns, and stereotypes or even creating new ones, raising ethical concerns. Also, the increasing performance of AI translation raises concerns about the potential displacement of human translators and how to make sure that, as AI continues to advance, the role of humans is not diminishing but instead evolving, enabling them to remain relevant and competitive in the job market.

In this spirit, the Anna Lindh Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia intend to promote a human-centred approach to the role of AI in translation in the Euro-Med region. This is based on a commitment to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in AI access and usage by engaging in Euro-Med multi-stakeholder collaboration. The objective is to contribute to translation policy and practice by creating and sharing knowledge and developing actionable strategies to bring humans and AI together to benefit intercultural dialogue.



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06/06/2024

- 13:00- 14:00 *Registration and welcome coffee*
- 14:00-14:30 *High-level opening remarks*
- 14:30-15:00 *Keynote addresses*
- 15:00-16:30 *AI translation in action: Case studies from the Euro-Mediterranean region*
This panel will feature a series of case presentations by front-runners in AI translation, offering insights into tangible projects that exemplify the integration of AI in language services. The presentations will pave the way for an interactive Q&A, inviting active participation from the audience.
- 16:30-16:45 *Networking break*
- 16:45-18:15 *Ethics and AI: Navigating bias and fairness in multilingual contexts*
An expert panel will delve into the ethical considerations inherent in the design and development of AI translation, discussing bias, fairness, and the ethical implications of AI in multilingual scenarios. The session will culminate in a Q&A, providing a platform for engaging dialogue on maintaining integrity in AI practices.
- 20:00 *Networking reception*

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- 8:30 – 9:00 *Registration and welcome coffee*
- 9:00– 10:30 *Human+AI collaboration: Reskilling and upskilling for the future*
This panel will discuss the symbiotic relationship between human translators and AI, addressing how professionals can adapt and enhance their skills in anticipation of future developments in AI translation. The session will encourage discourse on education and skill development, followed by an audience Q&A.
- 10:30- 10:45 *Networking break*
- 10:45 -12:15 *Championing diversity and inclusion in AI translation*
A panel of activists, scholars, and decision-makers will discuss innovative policy strategies and practices to promote diversity and inclusion in the implementation and use of AI translation technology. The session will end with a Q&A segment and offer solutions to ensure that AI translation tools are accessible and equitable.
- 12:15 -13:15 *Networking lunch*

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- 13:15-14:45 *Overcoming data deficits: A focus on low-resource languages*
This panel will address the challenges of compiling robust datasets for underrepresented languages within AI systems, emphasizing the Euro-Med context. The discussion will engage with the consequences for diversity and access to AI, followed by a Q&A session.
- 14:45-15:00 *Closing remarks*

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