On 23 January 2018, staff from the European Language Resource Coordination (ELRC) network in collaboration with the Spanish Secretary of State for Information Society and Digital Agenda organised a workshop on Madrid, Spain.

The Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) eTranslation Building Block helps European and national public administrations exchange information across language barriers in the EU, by providing machine translation capabilities that will enable trans-European digital infrastructures to be multilingual.

CEF eTranslation builds on the existing machine translation service of the European Commission. The ELRC network manages, maintains and coordinates the relevant language resources in all official languages of the EU and CEF associated countries. These activities help to improve the quality, coverage and performance of automated translation solutions in the context of current and future CEF-financed digital services.

The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness among Spanish stakeholders about the role that automated translation can play to support multilingual administration services, to highlight the importance of sharing data, and to facilitate access to data. Experts from Spanish industry and academia addressed the various aspects of Language Technologies – with a strong focus on automated translation – and Language Resources, with a highlighted coverage of the critical legal aspects attached to sharing and using of data.

- Interested in contributing to the European Language Resource Coordination? Dates and locations of future webinars are available here.
- Interested in learning how CEF eTranslation can help you harness the benefits of multilingualism in digital services? Discover more about the Building Block, including grant funding, here.

Highlights from Workshop Attendees
Pablo de Amil, Jefe de Área de Planificación y Explotación Ministerio de Hacienda y Administraciones Públicas:

PLATA, the Spanish Government MT hub that initially covered Spanish co-official languages (i.e. Catalan, Basque and Galician), is connected since 2017 to MT@EC to give access to more than 600 language combinations.

Iñaki Vicuña, Director del Centro de Documentación Judicial (CENDOJ) Consejo General del Poder Judicial, (eJustice):

The CENDOJ, Spanish Center for Juridical Documentation, is the largest repository of juridical texts in Spanish, and this enormous corpus has been anonymized and enriched with metadata to make it the source of data for providing services, primarily to judges and law professionals, but also to citizens.


The Single Digital Market is a challenge because of different interoperability issues that its creation is raising, among them translating between different languages, however solving the problems is for the benefit of all of us as Europeans.

Nelson Castro, Subdirector General de Coordinación, Calidad y Cooperación en Consumo. AECOSAN, (ODR):

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) is a newborn service and is still unknown for most of the Spanish citizens; moreover the quality of automated translation needs to be of high quality to convince them to use it.

Enrique Maside Business Register Interconnection System (BRIS):

Interoperability problems are making [the] Business Register Interconnection System (BRIS) a challenge, but they are not the only ones for the full deployment of services disseminating register's data at European level. There are also legal problems because each country defines what is sharable information differently. Furthermore, a legal assessment about the liability in case of a wrong translation provided by automated translation service is required before widely using it in official register's services.