



PARIS, February 2nd 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

The European Commission is about to launch a new type of infrastructure dedicated to supporting the industry: the European Digital Infrastructure Consortiums (EDICs). One of them is focused on language technologies (Language EDIC), leading to the creation of a European Centre of Excellence on Language Technologies. France's project of Language Technology Reference Centre, supported by the French government is a credible candidate for this Language EDIC project.

The APIL, the Hub France IA and Le Voice Lab are here joined and writing in support of France's candidacy.

We are convinced that the forecast EDIC in Natural Language processing will be efficient and relevant leverage for the European Language Industrial sector. Ensuring the proper diffusion of Natural languages resources including language data, models, tools and service, will reduce market access costs and create opportunities to market new services.

This project will rely on a unique French ecosystem: APIL, Le Voice Lab and Hub France IA federate NLP industrial actors and are prone to contributing and supporting a European Language Resources marketplace. In addition, through the PIA (Programme d'Investissements d'Avenir), the French Prime Minister has funded the project of creating several digital platforms for data mutualisation in AI (Plateformes numériques et mutualisation de données pour les filières) as part of its national strategy for AI. This led to the 4.7M€ funding of Le Voice Lab to build an open voice data common and a marketplace as well as to provide voice and speech technologies as APIs, software and services to companies and research labs.

We are actively working on extending such a marketplace platform approach to the full Language ecosystem (NLP, translation, LLM...). We believe that the creation of the EDIC is a great opportunity to extend this approach to all the European players in the field of Language technologies and to European Languages and consequently pave the way for its technological and industrial sovereignty. This would fit into the current European strategy of transforming the ELG (European Language Grid) into the LDS (European Language Space) by making it more Industry focused. Moreover, promoting openness is a unique European value that we all share.

We strongly believe that the French government and its partners are an exceptional candidate for this opportunity because they represent and protect the interests of the European Ecosystem of Voice & Language Technologies.

For these reasons, we strongly support selecting France for this opportunity. If you have any further questions, please feel free to get in touch.

Sincerely,

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APIL:

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Hub France IA:

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LE VOICE LAB:

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