# **European Union Language Resources in Sketch Engine**

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#### Abstract

Several parallel corpora built from European Union language resources are presented here. They were processed by state-of-the-art tools and made available for researchers in the Sketch Engine corpus management system. A completely new resource is introduced: EUR-Lex corpus, being one of the largest parallel corpus available at the moment, containing 840 million tokens of English and having the largest language pair (English-French) with more than 25 million aligned segments (paragraphs).

Keywords: JRC-Acquis, DCEP, DGT-TM, Europarl, EUR-Lex, Sketch Engine, parallel corpus, word sketch, parallel concordance

#### 1. Introduction

The European Union is producing a large amount of valuable multilingual textual data every day. To be able to use it in applications, for text analysis, terminology extraction, full text search etc., it must be downloaded, converted into plain text, processed with suitable tools, aligned on sentence level and finally made available to researchers in some standard format. In this paper we describe our experience with using several resources built from European Union's (EU) multilingual resources, namely DCEP (Hajlaoui et al., 2014), DGT-TM (Steinberger et al., 2013) and Europarl (Koehn, 2005).

We also describe a new multilingual "EUR-Lex corpus" containing more than 840 million tokens of English. To our knowledge, it is currently the largest parallel corpus built from European language resources. The corpus was downloaded from the official website of EUR-Lex<sup>1</sup> which provides an access to up-to-date legal documents published by European Commission, European Parliament, national courts, Council of the European Union and other European institutions. The majority of recently added documents is translated into all official languages of EU making it a huge multilingual language resource.

Corpus	Tokens	Types	L	Format
JRC-Acquis	55,537,910	N/A	22	XML
DCEP	118,046,857	513,000	23	TXT
DGT-TM	74,365,007	342,340	24	TMX
Europarl	60,741,877	139,217	21	XML
EUR-Lex	839,745,466	2,416,841	24	various

Table 1: Comparison of various EU corpora.

All mentioned corpora are available for language researchers through the Sketch Engine corpus management system (Kilgarriff et al., 2014). EUR-Lex corpus is released in the form of gzipped archives containing a) documents with meta information in a flat XML format and b) alignment files for all language pairs. The whole gzipped dataset is over 40 GB.<sup>2</sup>

Table 1 compares the mentioned language resources. JRC-Acquis 3.0 figures<sup>3</sup> are there for comparison. "Tokens" is the number of tokens (words, numbers and punctuation) in the English parts of the corpora. "Types" is the number of unique English word forms, i.e. the size of English lexicons, "L" column contains the number of languages included and "Format" states in which form the source data is available.

Language         Since         ACQ         CEP         DGT         EUR         LEX           Dutch         1958         35         96         63         60         777           French         1958         39         116         47         67         878           German         1958         32         98         58         55         732           Italian         1958         36         103         66         59         807           Danish         1973         31         88         59         56         731           English         1973         35         118         74         61         840           Greek         1981         36         100         64         44         775           Portuguese         1986         37         99         66         61         793           Spanish         1986         39         106         69         61         831           Finnish         1995         25         72         47         41         558           Swedish         1995         29         86         55         52         640           Czech							
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Polish 2004       30       51       58       15       511         Slovak 2004       27       50       56       15       495         Slovenian 2004       28       50       57       15       509         Bulgarian 2007       16       41       33       11       457         Irish 2007       —       2       1       —       37         Romanian 2007       9       42       33       11       462	Lithuanian	2004	27	47	52	14	476
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	•	2007	_	2	1	_	37
Croatian 2013 — 5 — 156	Romanian	2007	9	42	33	11	462
	Croatian	2013	_	_	5	_	156

Table 2: Representation of languages (millions of tokens).

Table 2 contains an overview of language representation in the corpora in millions of tokens per language. The second column states a year when a particular language became an official language of European Union—it usually corresponds to the amount of documents in the particular lan-

<sup>1</sup>http://eur-lex.europa.eu

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>To obtain the data, contact us or follow the instructions at https://www.sketchengine.co.uk/eur-lex

<sup>3</sup>https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/languagetechnologies/jrc-acquis

guage and the table is sorted by this column. ACQ stands for JRC-Acquis 3.0, CEP for The Digital Corpus of the European Parliament, EUR for Europarl and LEX for EUR-Lex corpus.

L1 term	L2 term	L1-L2	L1	L2
social protection	protección social	320	337	321
object type	tipo de objeto	<u>546</u>	<u>554</u>	<u>569</u>
medical certificate	certificado médico	221	230	225
common safety method	método común de seguridad	<u>51</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>53</u>
emission factor	factor de emisión	<u>134</u>	<u>141</u>	<u>135</u>
prosperity	prosperidad	117	118	<u>123</u>
neutrality	neutralidad	297	311	301
kidnapping	secuestro	<u>66</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>68</u>
using sugar	productos lácteos del producto	<u>33</u>	34	34
consumption	consumo	<u>15846</u>	<u>16455</u>	<u>16200</u>
chemical safety	seguridad química	<u>158</u>	<u>160</u>	<u>166</u>
plan	plan	17222	17812	17749
serum neutralisation	prueba de seroneutralización	77	<u>81</u>	<u>78</u>
policy holder	tomador	<u>61</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>62</u>
russian passport	pasaporte ruso	<u>76</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>78</u>
didecyldimethylammonium chloride	cloruro de didecildimetilamonio	<u>44</u>	<u>45</u>	<u>46</u>

Figure 1: Bilingual terminology candidates extracted from DGT-TM English-Spanish.

### 2. DCEP

The Digital Corpus of the European Parliament (DCEP) (Hajlaoui et al., 2014) is a collection of documents published on the European Parliament's official website<sup>4</sup>. This corpus includes a variety of document types, from press release to session and legislative documents related to European Parliament's activities and bodies. The latest version contains documents produced in 2001–2012. Since the original alignments contained a lot of errors and the sentences were wrongly segmented, we created a new alignment. Instead of HunAlign (Varga et al., 2007) aligner we used GaChalign<sup>5</sup> algorithm (implementation of Gale-Church sentence aligner (Gale and Church, 1993)).

The data has been processed automatically by Sketch Engine: plain text data has been tokenized with unitok (Michelfeit et al., 2014) and tagged with various tools: TreeTagger (Schmid, 1995), Hunpos (Halácsy et al., 2007), Freeling (Carreras et al., 2004). Further processing involved collocation pattern extraction, terminology extraction, distributional thesaurus computation and other specific processing which is available in Sketch Engine for many languages (Kilgarriff et al., 2014).

## 3. DGT-TM

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, in cooperation with the European Commission's Joint Research Centre, have created a freely available translation memory DGT-TM (Steinberger et al., 2013). The DGT-TM is stored in TMX files with segments aligned in 231 language pairs.

We have processed DGT-TM with Sketch Engine: it supports TMX import, we just merged all the original TMX files and let Sketch Engine extract the aligned segments, tokenize and PoS tag the texts. See Figure 2 for an example of parallel collocation functionality in Sketch Engine.

## 4. Europarl

The Europarl parallel corpus is a well-known resource (Koehn, 2005). It is a collection of sentence-aligned texts in 21 languages extracted from the proceedings of the European Parliament. It stands out among the other corpora provided by the EU, which contain mostly legal documents. Its primary goal is to aid statistical machine translation systems. The authors of the corpus have detected sentence boundaries in the raw transcripts and aligned the sentences using a tool based on the Church and Gale algorithm. (Gale and Church, 1993).

The Europarl corpus has been also incorporated into the OPUS project, a collection of publicly available parallel corpora (Tiedemann, 2009). Thanks to this, the sentence alignment data is available from the OPUS website in XCES format, which can be easily translated into the format used internally by Sketch Engine (pairs of structure IDs, here sentence IDs). See Figure 3 for an example of full text parallel search in Sketch Engine using Europarl corpus. All the text for each of the 21 languages was processed by the most up-to-date (at the time of compilation) processing chain for each respective language—including tokenization (Michelfeit et al., 2014), PoS tagging where available, but excluding sentence boundary detection, which was taken directly from Europarl data. Each of the resulting 21 corpora is therefore compatible for use as a reference corpus for other corpora in Sketch Engine (including usercreated corpora) of the same language. The same holds for DCEP and DGT corpora. A reference corpus is used for comparison with a focus corpus for extraction of keywords and terminology. Bilingual terminology (Baisa et al., 2015) can be also extracted, see Figure 1.

All of the Europarl corpora are aligned to each other, giving us a total of 210 language pairs. Each pair of corpora can be exploited to extract a statistical dictionary of words and lemmas (where available), or even term candidates. Due to the nature of the texts, the vocabulary used is relatively broad, while the quality of the data is far better than other bigger, web-based corpora. This makes Europarl an invaluable resource for the creation of statistical dictionaries and building translation models for statistical machine translation systems.

## 5. EUR-Lex corpus

EUR-Lex is an official on-line resource providing access to 1) the Official Journal of the European Union, 2) EU law (EU treaties, directives, regulations, decisions, consolidated legislation, etc.), 3) preparatory acts (legislative proposals, reports, green and white papers, etc.), 4) EU case-law (judgements, orders, etc.), 5) international agreements, 6) EFTA documents and 7) other public documents dating back to 1950s in 24 official EU languages. The EUR-Lex website allows querying its database in which each document has meta data ranging from unique IDs (cellar and CELEX<sup>6</sup> numbering), dates of documents, official publication and revision dates, Eurovoc<sup>7</sup> terms, authors (an agent, a state) of a document, type of a document etc.

<sup>4</sup>http://www.europarl.europa.eu/

<sup>5</sup>https://github.com/alvations/gachalign

<sup>6</sup>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/help/ faq/intro.html#help10

http://eurovoc.europa.eu/

Figure 2: Parallel collocation candidates for English "Commission" and Czech equivalent "komise" derived from DGT-English and DGT-Czech corpora in Sketch Engine. The joint grey and green columns correspond to a grammar relation (object\_of, modifier and coordination) in which the collocation candidates occur in data. The collocates in green columns are usually translation equivalents of the collocates in joint grey columns. E.g. inform—informovat, Electoral—volební, Presidency—předsednictví, etc.

týkající

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DGT, English	DGT, French	DGT, German
the proposal from the Commission , Having regard to	la proposition de la Commission , vu l' avis du Parlement	, auf Vorschlag der Kommission , nach Stellungnahme
communication from the Commission to the Council , the	communication de la Commission au Conseil , au Parlement	einer Mitteilung der Kommission an den Rat , das Europäische
their application the Commission confirms their qualification	après leur demande , la Commission confirme , le 15 décembre	werden . Falls die Kommission auf ihren Antrag hin
December 2005 . The Commission should monitor the	critères en question . La Commission devrait surveiller	gewährt werden . Die Kommission sollte die tatsächliche
thereto , laid down in Commission Regulation ( EEC )	) no 2454 / 93 de la Commission du 2 juillet 1993 fixant	) Nr . 2454 / 93 der Kommission vom 2 . Juli 1993 mit
powers conferred on the Commission [5], HAS ADOPTED	exécution conférées à la Commission [5], A ARRÊTÉ LE	die Ausübung der der Kommission übertragenen Durchführung
countries in Annex I. The Commission shall notify a beneficiary	figurant à l' annexe I. La Commission notifie au pays bénéfi	I gestrichen . Die Kommission unterrichtet das begünstigte
the end of 2006, the Commission shall report to the	Avant fin 2006, la Commission fait rapport au Conseil	zu ratifizieren . Die Kommission erstattet dem Rat vor
abovementioned report , the Commission shall propose to the	rapport précité , la Commission propose au Conseil	hinaus gewährt wird . Die Kommission schlägt dem Rat auf
consecutive years . The Commission shall keep under review	années consécutives . La Commission suit l' évolution de	folgenden Jahren . Die Kommission überwacht den Status
next Regulation , the Commission shall present to the	règlement suivant , la Commission présente un rapport	Verordnung legt die Kommission dem Rat einen Bericht
submit its request to the Commission in writing and shall	soumet sa demande à la Commission par écrit et fournit	Antrag schriftlich an die Kommission und macht umfassende
31 October 2005 . The Commission shall assess the request	2005 au plus tard . La Commission évalue les demandes	Absätzen 1 und 2 . Die Kommission prüft die Anträge gemäß
Article 11 Where the Commission receives a request	article 11 . Lorsque la Commission reçoit une demande	Artikel 11 Erhält die Kommission einen Antrag mit den
in Article 10 , the Commission shall examine the request	article 11 . Lorsque la Commission reçoit une demande	Artikel 11 Erhält die Kommission einen Antrag mit den
relevant sources . The Commission shall decide , in accordance	source concernée . La Commission décide , conformément	Stellen wenden . Die Kommission beschließt ausgehend
1 January 2006 . The Commission shall notify a requesting	er janvier 2006 . La Commission communique au pays	gewährt wird . Die Kommission teilt dem antragstellenden
enters into force . The Commission shall by 15 December	entre en vigueur . La Commission , au plus tard le 15	tritt , mitgeteilt . Die Kommission veröffentlicht im Amtsblatt
incentive arrangement , the Commission shall explain the reasons	d' encouragement , la Commission motive sa décision	gewährt, so legt die Kommission auf Antrag dieses Landes
country so requests . The Commission shall conduct all relations	fait la demande . La Commission mène tous les contacts	Land verfährt die Kommission, soweit es um den

Figure 3: Parallel search in Sketch Engine for English Commission, French Commission and German Kommission, DGT.

To get all documents we first had to query EUR-Lex for meta data year by year as the list of all documents in EUR-Lex is not available. From the meta data, a list of all available documents with CELEX numbers was retrieved (with all its language variants) and then all the documents were downloaded: only documents in HTML format have been downloaded, yielding almost 7 million documents in 26 languages. According to the statistics there are more PDF documents than HTML documents but we decided to download only HTML in the first phase as HTML files are easier for further processing.

authorise

přijmout

10 2.64

We have exploited the fact that EUR-Lex database contains HTML documents split into fine-grained paragraphs and these paragraphs mostly correspond to each other in different languages. This can be seen in the parallel view on the EUR-Lex website. 10 Sometimes, the count of paragraphs is inconsistent in some language mutations, so we have corrected these using a modified Gale-Church algorithm.<sup>5</sup>

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30 5.34

The resulting corpus has 3.9 million documents. Figure 4 shows size of aligned documents. The largest language pair English-French has 25,211,093 aligned paragraphs. All data from JRC Acquis corpus (Steinberger et al., 2006) should be included in EUR-Lex corpus.

According to the copyright notice<sup>11</sup> on EUR-Lex website: "Except where otherwise stated, reuse of the EUR-Lex data for commercial or non-commercial purposes is authorised provided the source is acknowledged © European Union, http://eur-lex.europa.eu/, 1998-2015". This allows us to provide the downloaded data to researchers.2 Fully processed data (tokenized, PoS-tagged) is not available due to taggers' copyright reasons but available in Sketch Engine.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Norwegian and Icelandic languages are represented in EUR-Lex, but we have omitted them from the final data set due to the negligible number of documents.

http://eur-lex.europa.eu/statistics/eulaw-statistics.html

 $<sup>^{10} \</sup>verb|http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/$ EN-ES-FR/TXT/?qid=1445777763012&uri=CELEX: 32013R1303&from=EN

<sup>11</sup>http://eur-lex.europa.eu/content/legalnotice/legal-notice.html

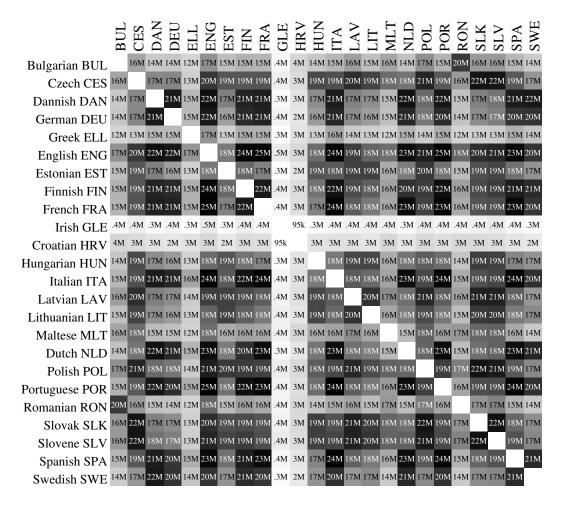


Figure 4: Aligned paragraph counts in EUR-Lex corpus. Millions (M) and thousands (k), darker means larger alignment.

Since EUR-Lex documents contain rich meta data, various aspect can be studied in Sketch Engine. E.g. one can study the trends in keywords and translations in last 60 years, discover language characteristics per EU body, extract domain terminologies using EuroVoc thesaurus etc. We will leave the enumerating of all the possibilities for the reader.

#### 6. Conclusion

We have described a few European multilingual resources and how we made them available in the corpus manager Sketch Engine for lexicographers, linguists and language researchers in general. This allows them to search the full text data using a rich query language which is more suitable for linguistically motivated searches than the full text search engine used on EUR-Lex official web page. Users can also use various statistics derived from the data, e.g. distributional thesaurus, automatic collocations, keyword and terminology candidates, bilingual terminology candidates, parallel collocates and much more.

We have also described a new resource—EUR-Lex corpus—which is to our knowledge the largest resource built from EU data at the moment. Thanks to the permissive data policy of EU we can provide the full data to researchers.<sup>2</sup>

In the future, we plan to download and process EUR-Lex documents also in other formats (PDF, DOCX). This should yield even more parallel data. Another way of getting more

parallel data is just to repeat the whole processing once every few months since the EU Publication Office adds new documents to EUR-Lex every day.

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December	David day	D E W	D V D
Document type	Docs Author	Docs EuroVoc	Docs Year Docs
Written question	156,744 European Commission	150,545 State aid	18,239 2013 24,978
Regulation	59,758 European Parliament	104,323 European Commission	
judicial information	36,964 Provisional data	53,230 information transfer	15,778 2012 22,879
Decision	20,400 Council of the EU	31,453 control of State aid	14,096 2010 22,266
Question at Question Time	19,027 Court of Justice	22,397 import	14,074 2007 20,216
Communication	16,384 Court of Justice of the E	J 14,637 econ. concentration	12,620 2008 19,238
Consolidated text	16,060 Court of First Instance	12,201 merger control	12,558 2009 18,088
decision w/out addressee	13,718 General Court	9,056 originating product	11,896 2006 17,822
Judgment	13,709 EES Committee	4,524 Italy	11,831 2003 16,587
Proposal for a regulation	8,608 United Kingdom	3,995 Spain	10,882 2005 16,407
Opinion	7,774 EEA Joint Committee	2,880 annul. of EC decis.	10,698 2000 16,248
National exec. measures	7,745 Civil Service Tribunal	2,830 EU Member State	10,562 2001 16,044
Information	7,314 Malta	2,184 Germany	10,274 1996 15,293
Notice	7,306 The Member States	1,978 interpr. of the law	10,030 2004 14,974
Adv. General's Opinion	7,155 Ireland	1,729 EU programme	9,760 1998 14,946
Treaty	5,808 National Courts	1,674 export refund	9,337 1997 14,929
Own-initiative resolution	5,460 Committee of the Region	is 1,364 award of contract	9,258 2014 14,868
Report	4,454 European Court of Audit		9,210 2002 14,868
Implementing regulation	4,205 The 12 Member States	1,182 trademark law	9,110 1995 14,319
proposal for a decision	4,066 EFTA Surveillance Auth	ority 985 European trademark	8,912 1999 12,667
Info	4,066 European Central Bank	847 environ. protection	8,693 1992 10,768
Directive	3,795 KOSTOPOULOS	807 EU financing	8,212 1993 9,693
Order	3,407 Others	686 import (EU)	8,060 1986 9,265
Own-initiative report	3,054 Gov. representatives	639 EU aid	8,015 1990 9,259
Opinion proposing amend.	3,039 The 6 Member States	622 France	7,980 1985 9,224

Table 3: Example of meta data in English part of EUR-Lex corpus, sorted by document frequency.

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