EDITORIAL

Foreword from the president of the European Association for Machine Translation

As president of the European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT), it is a great pleasure for me to write the foreword to this special issue of the Prague Bulletin of Mathematical Linguistics, which also serves as the proceedings of the research track of the 20th annual conference of the EAMT in Prague, the Czech Republic.

The EAMT started organizing annual workshops in 1996; later, these workshops became annual conferences, and were hosted all around Europe. Years ago, the venue was steadily moving from west to east: from Barcelona (2009) to Saint-Raphaël (2010) to Leuven (2011) to Trento (2012) to Dubrovnik (2014) —after skipping one year to host the successful world-wide MT Summit 2013 in Nice— , but recently turned around to go west again at Antalya (2015), to go to Riga (2016) and now Prague (2017). Again, you have guessed: EAMT 2018, our 21th annual conference, will surely be west from Prague. It will be announced at EAMT 2017 shortly after I am writing these lines. Those who miss our conference, will find out by visiting our Association's website, EAMT.org.

By the way, if you have not done so yet, please consider joining the EAMT. Our membership rates are low, particularly for students, and have not increased since the EAMT's inception. You will benefit from discounts when attending not only our conferences, but also the conferences held by our partner associations the Asia-Pacific Association for Machine Translation (AAMT) and the Association for Machine Translation in the Americas (AMTA). You will also have an exclusive chance to benefit from funding for your activities related to machine translation. And perhaps you can get even more involved and participate in serving the European machine translation community by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the EAMT.

But let me go back to EAMT 2017. As in previous conferences, it is great to see the strong programme put together by our programme chairs: Alexander Fraser, research track chair, and Kim Harris, user track chair. As in previous editions, there will also be a projects and products session which showcases the advance of machine translation in Europe. And, last but not least, I also feel very fortunate to have João Graça from Unbabel as our invited speaker.

EAMT 2017 would have never been possible without the generous offer to host and the hard work subsequently done by the local organizing committee at the well-known machine translation group of Charles University, headed by Jan Hajič and Ondřej Bojar. I warmly thank them all, also because they have made it possible for the research papers of our conference to become a special issue in an open-access journal which is well-known to the machine translation community; I'm sure this will multiply the impact of the research presented in our conference.

It is also with great pleasure that I thank our sponsors: Memsource (gold sponsor), Star Group (silver sponsor), text&form (bronze sponsor), and Prompsit and Apertium (supporting sponsors).

Finally, I would like to thank EAMT 2017 attendees for coming to Prague. I hope the conference leads to new friendships and fruitful collaboration.

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EAMT President

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Preface from the Program Chair (Research Track)

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 20th annual conference of the European Association for Machine Translation (EAMT) to be held in Prague, Czech Republic. I have really enjoyed serving as a program chair for this edition of the conference. The EAMT conference has become the most important event in Europe in the area of machine translation for researchers, users, professional translators, etc. As in previous editions, the conference is organised around three different tracks: research, user and projects/products. The research track concerns novel and significant research results in any aspect of machine translation and related areas while the user track reports users' experiences with machine translation, in industry, government, NGOs, etc. Finally, the project and product track offers projects and products the opportunity to be presented to the wide audience of the conference. This year we have received 49 submissions to the research track, 15 submissions to the user track and 25 descriptions of projects and products. Overall, submissions come from 35 different countries. Each submission to the research and user tracks was peer-reviewed by at least three independent members of the Programme Committee. In the research track 29 papers out of 49 (59%) were accepted for publication.

Aside from regular papers from the three tracks, the program includes an invited talk by João Graça, CTO and co-founder of Unbabel on the hot topic of using AI techniques for end-to-end translation. We will also have a presentation by the winner of the EAMT Best Thesis Award.

We would like to thank the Program Committee members and additional reviewers, whose names are listed above, for their high quality reviews and recommendations. These have been very useful for the Program Chairs to make decisions. We would also like to thank all the authors for trying their best to incorporate the reviewers' suggestions when preparing the camera ready papers. For those papers that were not accepted, we hope that the reviewers' comments will be useful to improve them. Special thanks to Kim Harris, user track, Mikel L. Forcada, projects and products track, and also to Lucia Specia and Ondřej Bojar for helping out in many ways. And finally, thanks to Dušan Variš, for his hard work in putting together this special issue of PBML.

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