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**EDITORIAL**

**Special Issue on Open Source Machine Translation Tools**

For the second time, we are able to present a special issue on open source tools in machine translation. As part of the Machine Translation Marathon, held on 25–30 January 2010 in Dublin, an Open Source Convention brought together a diverse group of researchers who made practical implementations of building blocks for machine translation systems available as open source software. This software is described in the following papers.

Annually since 2007, the Machine Translation Marathon events have been organized by the EuroMatrix and EuroMatrixPlus projects, which are funded by the European Commission (Framework Programme 6 and 7). The events attract around 50–100 attendees. In its fourth installment, it consists of a winter school, research talks, and the open source convention that is reflected in this special issue.

In part, this special issue builds on the success of the MT Marathon held in the previous year in Prague, where a similar event attracted nine papers. This year we received 19 submissions which were reviewed by a program committee. 16 papers were accepted for presentation at the Marathon and publication in this special issue.

In a larger part, however, this special issue is a testament to the new world of interconnected research that goes beyond the confinements of individual labs, and enables global collaboration — thanks to the technological advances of computer networks and due to the willingness to freely share the fruits of the hard work. Researchers in the field increasingly recognize the advantages of their methods being used (and their work being cited), and the shared benefits of collaborative research.

Phillipp Koehn  
Co-editor of the special issue  
pkoehn@inf. ed. ac. uk