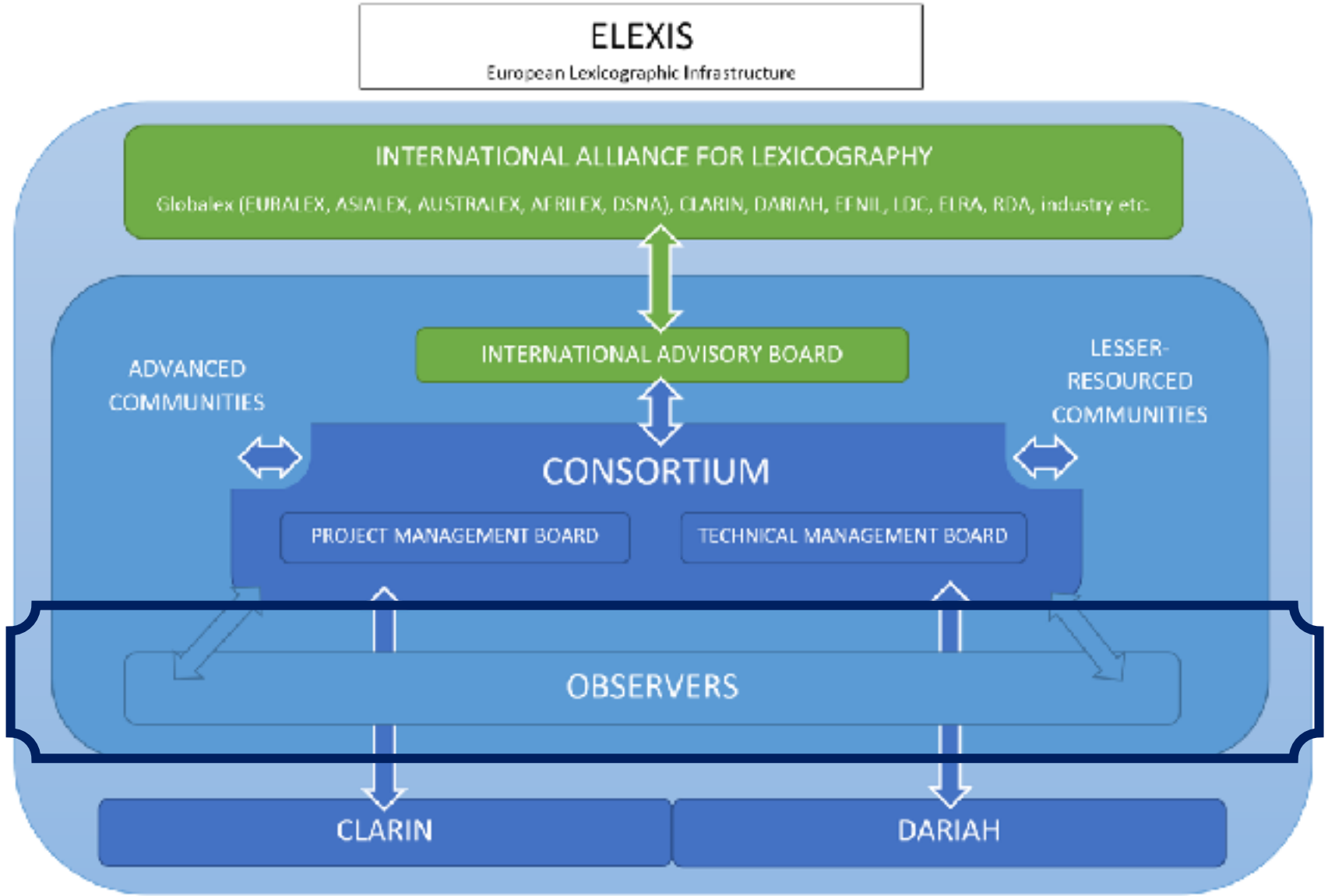
ELEXIS Observers (Session 5)

Simon Krek (Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia)

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 731015.



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Observers

- “The central group of institutions that fall under the observer category are those **producing quality lexicographic data** and resources, filtered by the criteria of inclusion in the **European Dictionary Portal** developed by the European Network of e-Lexicography COST action.
  - Typically, but not exclusively, these institutions include (European) national language institutes, large dictionary publishers and other prominent producers of lexicographic data”
- As of 30 January 2019, **52 institutions** from **24 countries** applied for observer status in ELEXIS through an online form

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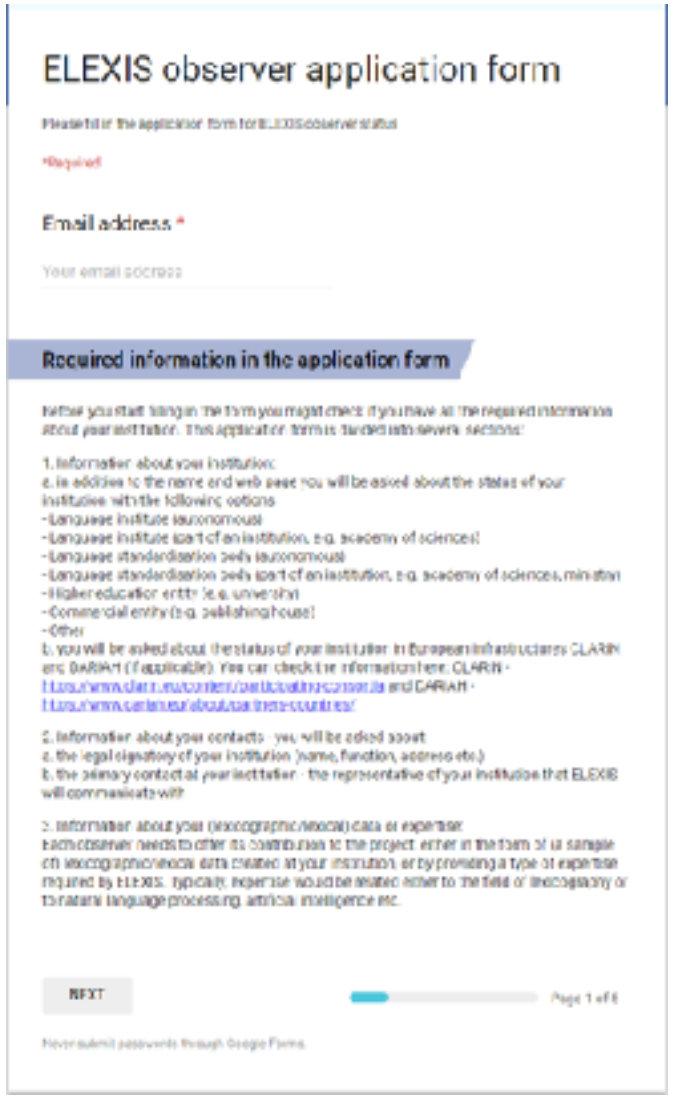
Online application form

- Observer status can be granted to research institutions or other legal entities that are
  - involved in **lexicography** or
  - are active in the fields connected with the goals defined in ELEXIS project – **natural language processing**, **artificial intelligence** etc.
- Institutions wishing to become ELEXIS observers can use **online form** to request observer status
- Available on the ELEXIS web page


ELEXIS observer application form

Email address *

Required information in the application form

NEXT

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Observer Agreement

- Rights and obligations
- FAQ on web page
  - Observer Agreement
  - Formal Request Letter
  - https://elex.is/join-as-observer/faq/
- Duration
  - <<organisation>> declares itself willing to commit itself for Observer status in ELEXIS for the duration of the project, until **31th January 2022**

Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

ELEXIS Observer Agreement

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Observer rights and obligations

- Rights
  - Inclusion in all ELEXIS activities (without direct funding)
  - Inclusion in communication channels
  - Access to (open) data and tools (for research purposes)
  - Active promotion of participation in trans-national access calls
  - Opportunity to participate in the ELEXIS post-project developments
- Obligations
  - Providing lexicographic data or offering expertise needed in ELEXIS
  - Providing feedback on lexicographic practices, workflows and tools

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Inclusion in ELEXIS activities - invitations

- In the course of the project, observers will be offered different types of direct involvement in ELEXIS activities.
- Typically, such activities will include work with data, tools or services either provided by observers and enhanced or upgraded by ELEXIS infrastructure, or developed within ELEXIS for particular languages that are interesting for observers.
- Opportunities for such activities will be announced through internal communication channels for observers
  - ➢**AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> will receive priority invitations to newly developed ELEXIS tools and services;**

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Inclusion in ELEXIS activities – data

- AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> will be able to
- **request** customized lexicographic **data** or
- have their existing data **enriched** and **expanded** with monolingual and multilingual information;
- the extent of this service shall be subject to **further specification** detailed in **annexes** to this agreement;

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Inclusion in communication channels

- ELEXIS will develop various communication channels, both external (accessible to general public) and internal (dedicated to discussion about different ELEXIS activities).
- Observers will be informed about the possibilities and will be able to choose which types of information they would like to receive on a regular basis.
  - ➢**AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> will be granted access to external and internal ELEXIS communication channels to be able to follow latest developments, which includes invitations to ELEXIS grant calls;**
- ELEXIS mailing list: elexis@ijs.si (closed list)

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Access to (open) data and tools

- ELEXIS infrastructure will set up its own cloud infrastructure with lexicographic and other types of data, and tools developed by ELEXIS partners or as part of the ELEXIS infrastructure.
- Observers will be able to access parts of the cloud with data and tools that their owners will make available to the consortium partners and observers, together will open-access or open-source data and tools.
  - ➢**AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> will gain access to open-access and open-source resources, as well as to resources in the observers' area of the ELEXIS cloud, in accordance with project Intellectual Property Rights rules;**
  - ELEXIS cloud: https://cloud.elex.is/login (authentication)

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Active promotion of participation in trans-national access calls

- ELEXIS will organise several calls for grants to visit ELEXIS partners with lexicographic data and expertise.
- Observers will be notified about the calls offering the possibility to work on the data together with experts from other countries and lexicographic communities.
- Trans-national visit grants are especially suitable for observers that work on under-resourced languages.
  - ➢**AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> will be granted access to external and internal ELEXIS communication channels to be able to follow latest developments, which includes invitations to ELEXIS grant calls;**

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Opportunity to participate in the ELEXIS post-project developments

- In the four years of the EU-funded ELEXIS project, the consortium aims to create a sustainable infrastructure that will serve lexicographic community also after the end of the project.
- One of the tasks in ELEXIS project is dedicated to finding a solution for long-term sustainability, together with the existing CLARIN and DARIAH infrastructures. Observers will be included in this task and will be able to participate actively in the discussion.
  - ➢**AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> will be able to participate actively in the post-project ELEXIS infrastructure development through designated ELEXIS channels**

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Obligations: Providing lexicographic data or offering expertise needed in ELEXIS

- Observers are expected to offer their contribution to ELEXIS project and infrastructure, either in the form of (a sample of) lexicographic/lexical data created at the observer institution, or by providing a type of expertise required by ELEXIS.
- Expertise would be related either to the field of lexicography or to natural language processing, artificial intelligence etc.

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Lexicographic data or expertise (agreement)

- AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> commits itself to contribute the following (lexicographic) data or (lexicographic) expertise to ELEXIS infrastructure:
- <<description of lexicographic data (including explicit declaration of license) or (lexicographic) expertise>>
- Minimal requirement includes the **availability of the lemma list** (headwords included in the contributed data) **under open-access license**, as part of ELEXIS Dictionary Matrix.

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Obligations: Providing feedback on lexicographic practices, workflows and tools

- Observers are expected to participate in ELEXIS project activities dedicated to collecting information about lexicographic practices, workflows and tools.
- These activities include filling in survey questionnaires, or providing other kind of feedback about lexicographic work.
  - ➢**AGREEMENT: <<organisation>> commits itself to participate in ELEXIS activities (such as surveys, interviews etc.) designed to collect information about lexicographic projects, workflows and infrastructures.**

    - (e.g. A Survey of Lexicographers' Needs for Institutions)

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Application - Google form (status)

- “Before you start filling in the form you might check if you have all the required information about your institution. This application form is divided into several sections:”
- 1. Information about your institution:
- a. in addition to the name and web page you will be asked about the **status of your institution** with the following options
    - Language institute (autonomous)
    - Language institute (part of an institution, e.g. academy of sciences)
    - Language standardisation body (autonomous)
    - Language standardisation body (part of an institution, e.g. academy of sciences, ministry)
    - Higher education entity (e.g. university)
    - Commercial entity (e.g. publishing house)
    - Other

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Application – Google form (CLARIN / DARIAH)

- b. you will be asked about the status of your institution in European infrastructures **CLARIN** and **DARIAH** (if applicable). You can check the information here:
  - CLARIN - https://www.clarin.eu/content/participating-consortia
  - and DARIAH - https://www.dariah.eu/about/partners-countries/

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Application – Google form (contacts and data)

- 2. Information about your contacts - you will be asked about:
  - a. the **legal signatory** of your institution (name, function, address etc.)
  - b. the **primary contact** at your institution - the representative of your institution that ELEXIS will communicate with
- 3. Information about your (lexicographic/lexical) data or expertise:
  - Each observer needs to offer its contribution to the project, either in the form of (a sample of) **lexicographic/lexical data** created at your institution, or by providing a type of **expertise** required by ELEXIS. Typically, expertise would be related either to the field of lexicography or to natural language processing, artificial intelligence etc.

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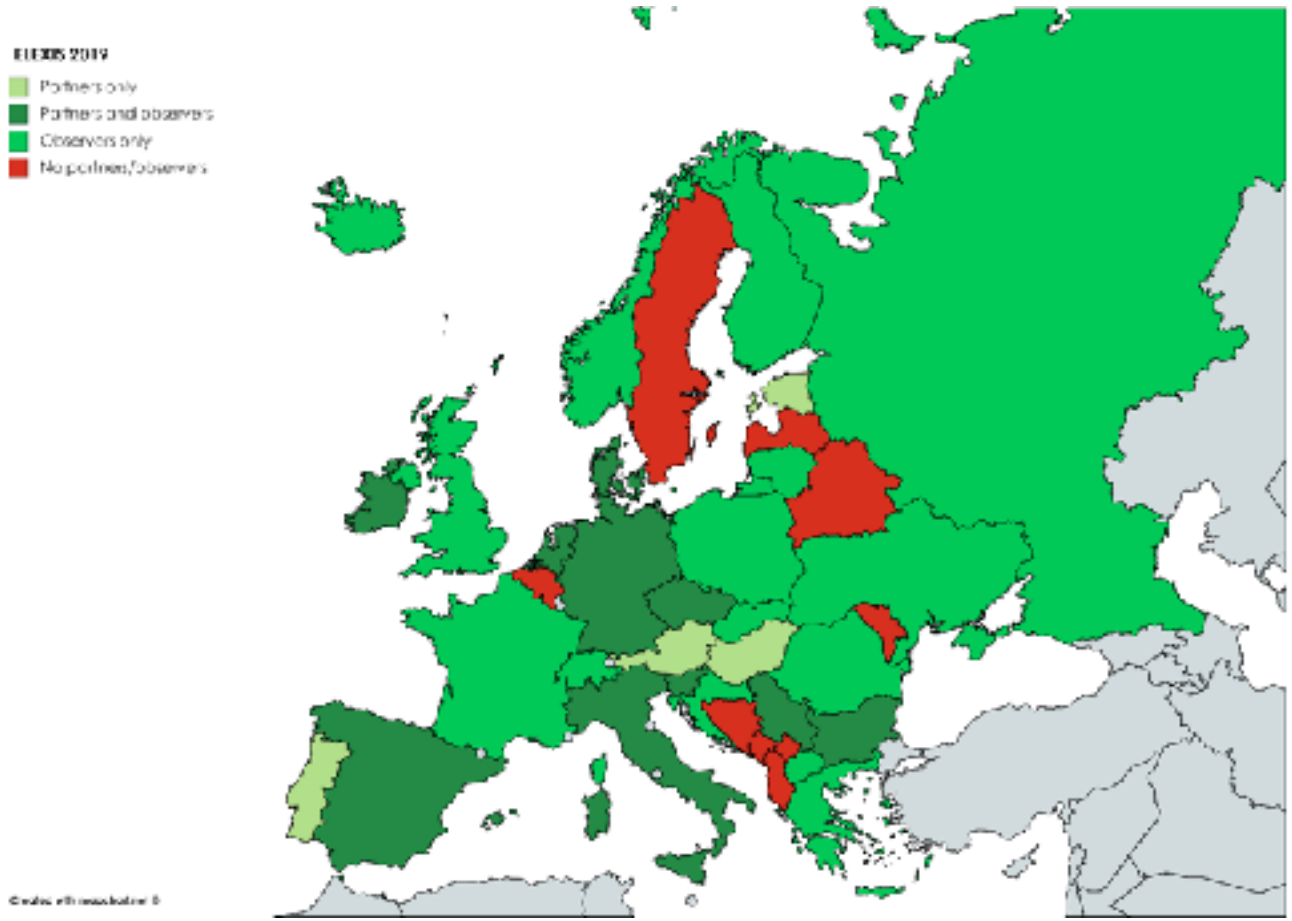
Coverage by country (in Europe)



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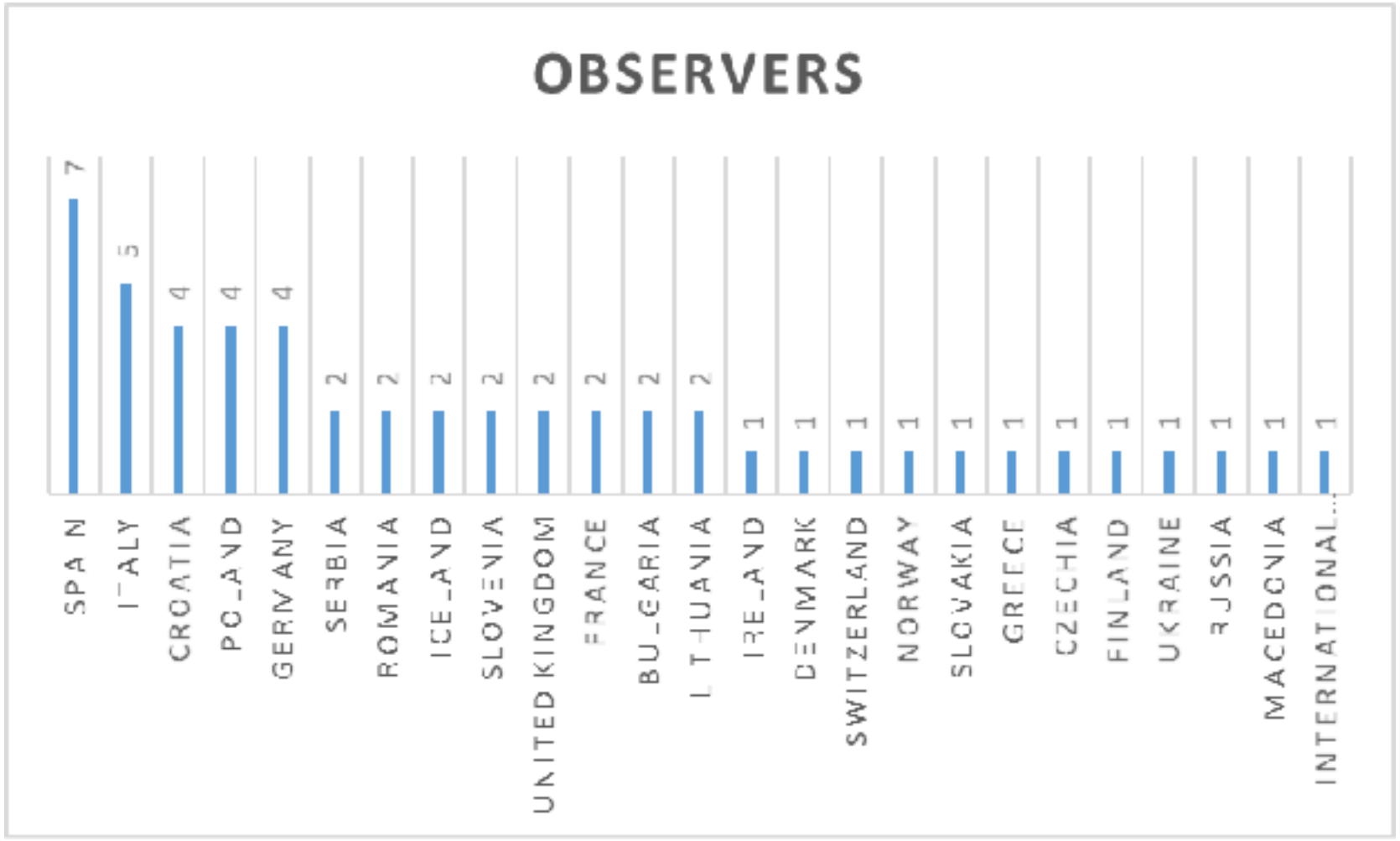
Institutions by country



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Types of institutions

Higher education entity (e.g. university)	20
Language institute (part of an institution, e.g. academy of sciences)	14
Language institute (autonomous)	12
Research institute	2
Language institute (part of an institution) and language standardisation body	1
Foundation	1
Commercial and research enterprise ICT	1
Institute working on language resources and technology	1

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FAQ 1

- **1. Where are the templates of ELEXIS Observer Agreement and the Formal Request Letter?**
- **Answer**: The templates were sent to you by email after we received your application. You can also download them here: (1) ELEXIS Observer Agreement template (**MS Word**, **PDF**), (2) Template for the Formal Request Letter to become an observer (**MS Word**, **PDF**).

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FAQ 2

- **2. Is there a set deadline for sending the observer documentation (Observer Agreement, Formal Request Letter)?**
- **Answer**: No, there is no deadline; however, it is advisable to send the documents as soon as possible. The sooner we receive them, the sooner your request can be considered by the ELEXIS **Project Management Board** and access to the ELEXIS network and services can be granted.

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FAQ 3 & 4

- **3. Our institution's project has been modified since the time of application. This affects the type of data that could be provided. Is it possible to apply with an updated project?**
- **Answer**: Of course. Just specify the type of data/expertise you would like to contribute in the Agreement.
- **4. Is there a length limitation to the project description?**
- **Answer**: No, we have not limited the project description.

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FAQ 5

- **5. Can I join ELEXIS as an individual?**
- **Answer**: Unfortunately, it is not possible to join ELEXIS as an individual. However, if you are a member of an institution, you can ask them to apply for free observer status.
- Additionally, you can use your institutional account to log in to **Sketch Engine**. Free access is funded by ELEXIS. Similarly, you can log in to the **Lexonomy** dictionary writing system. More tools and resources will become available later and will be published under **Tools and Services**.

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FAQ 6

- **6. Does ELEXIS offer financial support to researchers and do I have to be an observer to qualify?**
- **Answer**: We do offer travel grants and your institution does not need to be an observer for you to qualify. You can apply for research grants to visit one of the institutions listed **here**. Your research stay will be funded by ELEXIS. Please follow us on **Facebook**/**Twitter**or join the **mailing list** to get notified about future calls for travel grants.

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Questions?

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