Capacity development for underrepresented communities

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Speakers
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Which underrepresented communities?

1) speakers of endangered minority languages
   a) Aromanian community
   b) Romani community
2) users of sign languages
   a) Macedonian Sign Language
Challenges

1) Community building for underrepresented communities
2) Identifying resources in underrepresented languages
3) Experimenting with new methods of community engagement
Development of the project

1 June 2022

Research ✓

30 August 2022

Implementation ✓

31 December 2022

Evaluation ✓

31 January 2023
Research phase

Research phase is consisted of:

1. a survey distributed to members of the community
2. an interview with experts about the community
Implementation phase

In the implementation phase we conducted following activities:

1. Workshops
2. Editing contests
3. Seminar
4. Recording sessions
Evaluation phase

During this phase we summarised the learning and assessed the impact of the project.

We learnt 10 lessons.
Communities require thorough research to get familiar with their needs and expectations
Every community is different with specific needs and expectations
Fluent speakers of endangered languages are difficult to find and more difficult to motivate.
Availability of reference works on topics related to the communities may be scarce
Communities may prefer generating content about their culture in other languages.
Hybrid events can help to significantly increase reach
Collaboration with a sign language interpreter is a must
Sign language users are generally not fluent in the native language spoken within their family.
Working with a sign language community requires innovating in free knowledge
L'important c'est de participer

(“The important thing is to participate”)
Ongoing and future plans

- Aromanian-speaking community
  - Further integration into CEE Region (CEE Spring and representative on the CEE Meeting) ✓

- Romani-speaking community
  - Collaboration with their NGOs for writing article about Romani people, but on Macedonian Wikipedia ❌

- Macedonian Sign Language community
  - Producing videos documenting scientific terminology ...
Questions?