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Will the small languages survive?

- Tough language competition
- Some language dies in every two weeks
- Futurologist Alvin Toffler:

  «Future of the smaller languages depends on machine translation» (1996)

Latvian language

- Only 1.6 M native speakers
- Rich in inflections
  about 23 M wordforms in contemporary Latvian
- During the last centuries has faced tough competition from German, Russian, English
- Official Language of European Union
- BLARK (Basic Language Resource Kit) not yet completed

Language Technology Landscape in Latvia

- Localy developed language technology tools widely used
  Tilde software on >500 000 desktop in Baltics
- **Latvian National Corpus** Initiative
- Industry and academia **cluster** on language technologies currently being established
- **Language Shore** initiative

Language Shore

International cooperation structure to integrate the skills of professionals in the **education**, **research** and **industry** sectors

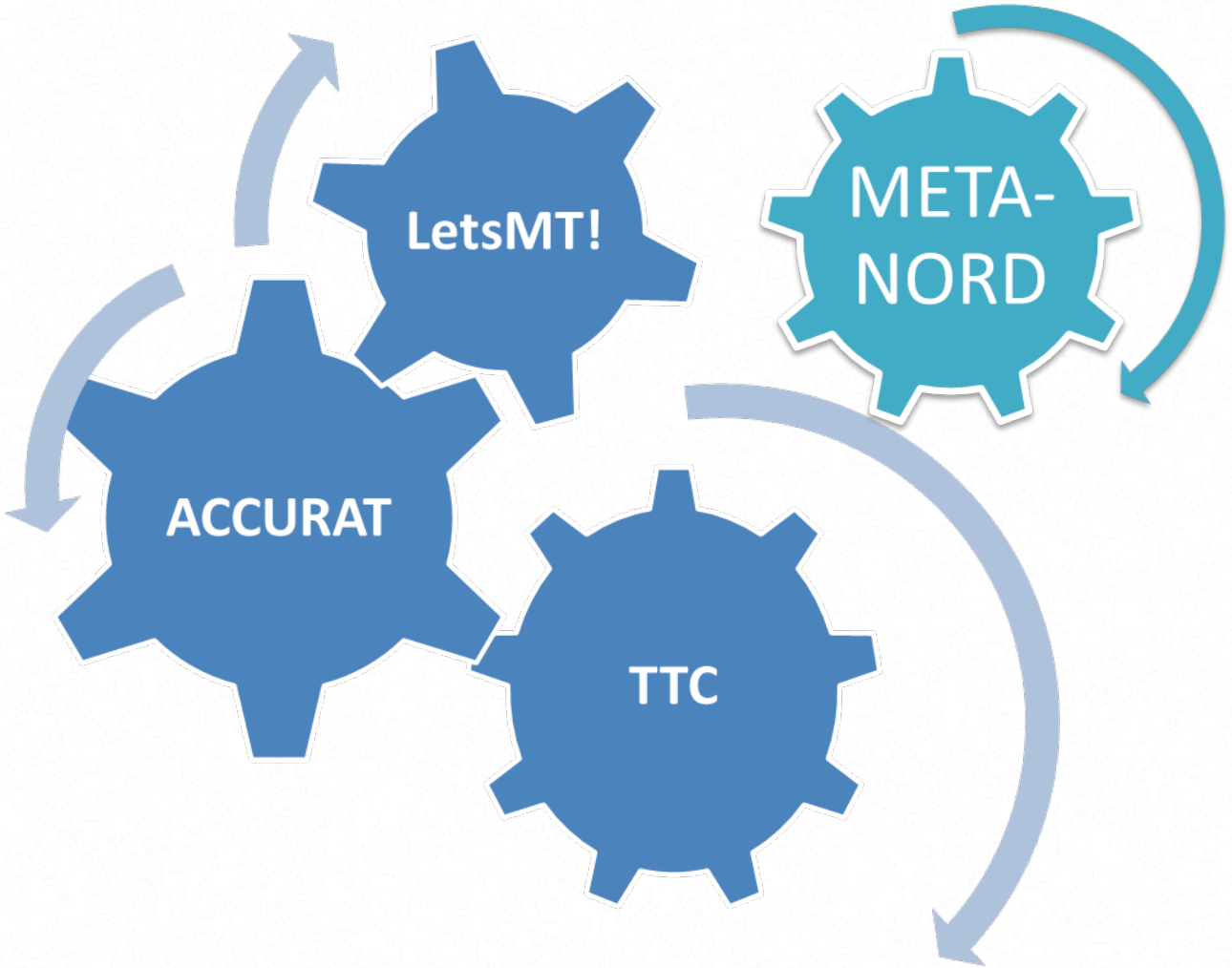
at the Latvian national, Baltic Sea regional and global levels

consolidation of the resources and activities of language technology companies and research institutions

in the EU, post-Soviet countries and beyond

to achieve critical mass for providing efficient R&D in language technologies for smaller languages.

Leveraging Innovation:
EU FP7 and ICT PSP projects



SMALL languages deserve to have BIG technologies!

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