LT and Bulgarian case
Research and innovation in Bulgaria

- The Bulgarian research and innovation system:
  - is governed and financed centrally at national level;
  - is designed and the policies are carried out by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Science and the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism and their respective agencies;
- National R&D investment target - 1.5% of the GDP by 2020;
National Strategy of Scientific Research 2020:

- Adopted by the Parliament in 2011;
- sets five priority areas for the development of research in Bulgaria:
  - Energy, energy efficiency and transport. Development of green and eco technologies;
  - Biotechnologies and ecological foods;
  - New materials and technologies;
  - Cultural and historical heritage;
  - Development of fundamental research under programme and competitive principle to the amount of 15% of the public expenses on science.
- The information and communication technologies will be developed as a horizontal topic that affects all spheres of life and economy.
Research and innovation in Bulgaria

- Roadmap for Research Infrastructure;
- Adopted in 2010;
- Should provide support for upgrading the out-dated research and innovation technology base.
public R&D funding instruments:
- National Science Fund (NSF)
- National Innovation Fund (NIF)

**National Science Fund**
- operates with a wide range of schemes, provides support to:
  - individual scientists
  - scientific groups
  - universities
  - Research institutions
  - business enterprises.
- The consortia may also include foreign individuals and teams of researchers.
Research and innovation in Bulgaria

- Bilateral cooperation:
  - with over 10 countries;
  - based on agreements for scientific and technological cooperation;
  - promotes joint scientific projects in cooperation in all scientific areas;
    - the supported areas can vary depending on the partner country
Research and innovation in Bulgaria

Operational programme “Competitiveness”:
- coordinated by the Ministry of economy, energy and tourism

Grant schemes **Launched in 2011**:  
- Development of innovations by start-up companies;  
- Development of new and strengthening of existing technology transfer offices;  
- Development of new and strengthening of existing technological centres;  
- Support for research and development in Bulgarian Enterprises.

Grant schemes to be **launched in 2012**:  
- Development of applied research in research organizations in Bulgaria;  
- Establishment of Science and Technology Park;
First international and national initiatives supporting the Language Technologies for Bulgarian began more than two decades ago.

The EU provided funding for a number of research projects supporting the development of language technologies for Bulgarian:
EU funded research projects

- **LaTeSLav** (Language Processing Technologies for Slavic Languages, 1991–1994) initiative aimed at developing a prototype of grammar checker;
- **BILEDITA** (Bilingual Electronic Dictionaries and Intelligent Text Alignment, 1996–1998) funded the development of bilingual electronic dictionaries;
- **GLOSSER** (Support of Second Language Acquisition and Learning from Aligned Corpora, 1996–1998) aimed at supporting foreign language training;
- **Multext-East** (Multilingual Text Tools and Corpora for Central and Eastern European Languages, 1995–1997);
- **EAGLES** (European Commission’s Expert Advisory Group on Language Engineering Standards) projects provided the Bulgarian language resources in a standardised format with standard mark-up and annotation.

All these resources were later expanded and upgraded in the ELAN (European Language Activity Network, 1998–1999), **TELRI I in II** (TransEuropean Language Resources Infrastructure, 1995–1998 / 1999–2001) and **Concede** (Consortium for Central European Dictionary Encoding, 1998–2000) initiatives.
EU funded research projects

E-learning projects:
- supported by the Bulgarian institutions;
- aim at modernisation of the national educational system;
- introduce e-learning training principles and tools for curricula enhancement;
Projects funded under the ICT Policy Support Programme (ICT-PSP):

- 2009 - 10 projects were funded (app. 1.4 million EUR);
- 2010 - 8 projects were funded (651,510 EUR);
- 2011 - 10 projects were funded (more than 1 million EUR);
In conclusion:

The public funding for language technologies for Bulgarian is still lower than that for comparable projects in Europe.