



Gesellschaft für bedrohte
Sprachen e.V.

GBS e.V. • 50923 Köln

Prof. Dr. Erhard Hinrichs
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Letter of support for **TEXT+**

Dear colleagues!

Today, around 7,000 languages are still being spoken in the world. According to current estimates, up to one half of these languages will die out within this century. The *Gesellschaft für bedrohte Sprachen e.V.* (GBS) is a non-profit organization established in 1998 with the aim to promote the use, preservation, and documentation of endangered languages and dialects. Our activities include yearly grants for language documentation and preservation projects and raising awareness of language endangerment, and the importance of studying endangered languages, among the scientific community, the general public, and policy makers. On behalf of the GBS directorate, I am very happy to confirm that we highly welcome the Text+ initiative and hereby confirm our strong support for this initiative.

The planned consortium "Text+: Language- and text-based Research Data Infrastructure" closely ties in with the aims the GBS and we are pleased about your intention to cooperate with us. The proposed consortium Text+ focuses on research data management of text and language data. The planned service portfolio addresses all aspects of the data life cycle. These aspects of linguistic research are particularly important for work with endangered languages as this work heavily relies on collecting primary lexical and textual data in field work, further annotating and processing these data, and archiving and making them accessible in sustainable data formats. The latter is a particular concern when the languages in question are falling out of use in the near future, and we expect that Text+ will make significant progress to ensure data longevity for these purposes.

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We strongly support the science-driven and dynamic organizational structure of Text+ and the intention to establish a governance structure that requires and allows for high level input by members of associations like ours. We are happy to actively participate in and contribute to the work of committees such as the Scientific Coordination Committees (SCC) or the Operations Coordination Committees (OCC). We plan to contribute in particular to the Text+ objectives of establishing data and service portfolios, and we would be delighted to be represented in the governance structure and also participate in working groups.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Himmelmann', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Nikolaus P. Himmelmann
President