



## António Branco President of ELRA

[António Branco](#), Professor at the [Department of Informatics](#), from the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon (Ciências ULisboa), is the new President of the [ELRA-European Language Resources Association](#).

ELRA is the leading European scientific association for speech and natural language processing and one of the most important associations worldwide in this subarea of Artificial Intelligence, with more than 1000 individual members and 50 institutional members. Established in 1995 with its headquarters in Paris, it provides the largest collection of data sets for the languages of Europe, and also for languages from the rest of the world, many of them originating from the mandatory deposit



made by research projects funded by the European Commission. António Branco was unanimously elected at the end of October 2018. The new president of ELRA for the next two years considers the ELRA data repository an asset of utmost importance to support start-ups that develop and exploit innovative natural language technologies for interaction both with humans and with robots and other artificial agents.

“Through its activities, ELRA provides crucial support for the technological preparation of natural languages for the digital age, thus fostering the citizenship of its speakers in the information society”, says António Branco, who besides acting as professor in Ciências ULisboa, coordinates there the [NLX Group - Natural Language and Speech Group](#), is the Director General of the PORTULAN CLARIN - Infrastructure for the Science and Technology of Language, and is a member of the Executive Board of [META-NET](#), the European network of excellence for Language Technology.

António Branco works in the areas of Artificial Intelligence and Cognitive Science, with a special focus on the Science and Technology of Language. During 2015-2016, he was Executive Director of the Mind-Brain Doctoral College of ULisboa. In the period 2016-2018, he was the Chair of the Steering Committee of PROPOR, the international Network for the Computational Processing of the Portuguese Language. He has more than 180 publications, with more than 80 co-authors, and participated in more than 25 research projects, having coordinated ten of them, including two European consortia.

**Further information:**

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Photographs of António Branco and the ELRA Board of Directors after the elections available in the [dropbox](#).

