

## What is language technology in our time?

Tullio Vardanega

University of Padova, Italy Ada-Europe

1

Ada-Europe 2012



# Why this panel? /1

- A programming language is a view of the world that it aims to represent
- What the language allows you to say exists and what it can't just doesn't
  - Credits to Ludwig Wittgenstein
- I am not interested here in language syntax, but in in what you would call "expressive power"
  - What you can say with the language
  - Not how you do it



# Why this panel? /2

- The language designer is the primary owner of that world view
  - The language technology has to put that into existence
  - In a manner that project the language world view toward the user
- How can this ever be done by language technology?
- What must the language technology include to do so?



# Why this panel? /3

- (Echo) What must the language technology include to do so?
  - Libraries, patterns, frameworks, tutorials ...
  - Perhaps also some other immaterial elements
- All to draw the user into the language world view by force of
  - Ease



Intellectual strength



### Distinguished panellists

- Bertrand Meyer
  - Creator of Eiffel
- Franco Gasperoni
  - Co-founder of AdaCore
- Erhard Ploedereder
  - Educator and researcher in software engineering
- José María Martínez Rodríguez
  - Developer of industrial systems



#### Questions to the panellists

- What is "language technology" in our time?
- Has the view changed over time? If so, what were the drivers of the change?
- How should Ada respond to those changes?
- Does the response depend on the application domain or is it independent of it? In what way should Ada learn from the outside?

University of Padua



## Rules of the game

- 10 to 12 minutes (strict) per panellist to make their initial statement
  - And possibly to answer some of the questions
- 15 minutes for the floor to react and argue with the panellists
- 2 minutes per panellist to make their final statement
- A scribe among us will try to draw some summary out of the discussion