Masakhane — A Grassroots, Participatory Research Community Building Language Technology for African Languages

Digital Inclusion · Good practice · South Africa

Quality score: 96/100

Evidence strength: Strong

Summary

Pan-African volunteer NLP community (2019) using participatory research so native speakers co-build translation tools; its peer-reviewed study set MT benchmarks for 30+ African languages, a third human-evaluated.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Innovation level	4/5
Sustainability (ongoing)	1/1
Evaluation evidence	1/1
Demonstrated reach	1/1
Documented learning	1/1

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-11-17

Masakhane — accessed 2026-11-17

Nekoto et al. (2020), Findings of EMNLP — arXiv — accessed 2026-11-17

Ars Electronica — Masakhane, 'We build together' — accessed 2026-11-17

Daily Maverick (2021) — AI could make African languages more accessible — accessed 2026-11-17

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