

MC Meeting @ Lisbon, Portugal

Multi3Generation

COST Action 18231

Outline

Overview

- Participation
- Countries
- Agenda
- Status of the Action
- Some Statistics
- Recommendations
- GP2 Report

MoU

Objectives

Deliverables

- Where are we?
- Towards delivering

Where do we want to go?

Financial Reporting

- WBP
- STSM
- Budget

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INESC-ID, Instituto Superior Técnico
Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal

October, 6-8th 2021



Funded by the Horizon 2020 Framework Programme
of the European Union

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1. Welcome to Participants ✓
2. Verification of the presence of 2/3 of the Participating COST Countries ✓
3. Agenda
4. Status of Action
5. Update from the COST Association ✓
 - ▶ COST SC Recommendations
6. Grand Period (GP2) Report
 - ▶ Follow-up of MoU Objectives and Deliverables
7. Action Budget Status
 - ▶ Administrative/Financial Reporting
 - ▶ Action Budget Planning
8. MC Decisions by e-Votes
9. AOB

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- ▶ 90 invitations were sent, which included all MC Members and MC Substitutes from all COST participating Member Countries + some invitees
- ▶ 47 members accepted the invitation to participate either *in situ* or online
- ▶ 24 members declined invitation
- ▶ 19 members did not reply to invitation
- ▶ At least 2/3 of the Participating COST Countries are represented in this MC Meeting

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INESC-ID Multi-task, Multilingual, Multi-modal Language Generation COST Action CA18221

Lisbon MC Meeting
Hybrid - online + in situ meeting
6th-8th October, 2021

Agenda
Current local time in Portugal
UTC/GMT +1 hour



IESI Convention Center
Av. Rovisco Pais, 1, 1049-001 Lisboa

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European Programme of the
European Union

INESC-ID **TECHNO LISBOA** **INESC-ID**

WiFi Access
Access point name: Multiperennation
Password: 06y5q

October 6th

Zoom Room:
<https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>

Chair and GH welcoming

9h00-9h10

- Anabela Barreiro (Action Chair & Organizer)
- Prof. Inés Lynce (INESC-ID, Grant Holder)

Invited talks

9h10-10h00

- Prof. Luiza Coheur – INESC-ID
TITLE: Conversational Agents: Past, Present and Future

10h00-11h00

- Catarina Ferreira – Unbabel
TITLE: Towards better and more accurate MT evaluation with COMET and MT-Telescope

11h00-11h30 – COFFEE BREAK in situ

Invited talks

11h00-11h40

- Prof. Max Silberstein – University Franche-Comté
TITLE: Natural Language Generation using Nool

11h40-12h30

- Thierry Desclercq – DFKI GmbH Saarbrücken (German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence) & Nexus Linguistic CO2T Action
TITLE: About the Linguistic Linked Open Data initiative (online talk)

12h30-14h00

- Prof. Kostas Diamantaras – presenting STSM of Alkis Katsikis
TITLE: how to apply common sense in text summarization with the use of knowledge graphs

13h00-14h00 – LUNCH - <https://www.aminhaqila.pt>

COST Action

14h00-15h00

- COST F. Officer Olga Gorczyca
TITLE: COST relevant information

15h00-16h00

- Anabela Barreiro and Prof. Elena Lloret (Mod-chair)
TITLE: Notes on GP2 and important issues/announcements

October 7th

Zoom Room:
<https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>

Working Group Meetings all day

9h00-15h00

LUNCH BREAK at 13h00-14h00 - <https://www.aminhaqila.pt>
Morning COFFEE BREAK at 11h00 in situ

WG meetings will last until WGs reports are complete.

- WG01
Zoom: <https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>
- WG02
Zoom: <https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>
- WG03
Zoom: <https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>
- WG04
Zoom: <https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>
- WG05
Zoom:

October 8th

Zoom Room:
<https://videoconf.collabroom.us/j/8483318692?pwd=LTZhMDNkZm1jZDZlYkpwQWU0bWZlZWpJZjZkdz09>

Workshop (Tutorial) + Final GP2 Report

9h00-13h00
(COFFEE BREAK - 11h00 in situ)

- Prof. Max Silberstein (Nool tutorial)

13h00-14h00 – LUNCH - <https://www.aminhaqila.pt>

14h00-15h30

- GP2 Final Report

15h30-16h00

- CLOSING

Figure: Agenda

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Core group members

PT	Anabela	Barreiro	Action Chair	University of Lisbon
ES	Elena	Lloret	Action Vice Chair	Universidad de Alicante
SE	Mehul	Bhatt	WG 1 – Grounded multi-modal reasoning and generation	Örebro University
TR	Aykut	Erdem	WG 2 – Efficient Machine Learning algorithms, methods, and applications to language generation	Hacettepe University
PT	Helena	Moniz	WG 3 – Dialogue, interaction and conversational language generation applications	University of Lisbon
IT	Irene	Russo	WG 4 – Exploiting large knowledge bases and graphs	ILC CNR
PT	Fabio	Kepler	WG 5 – Industry and End-User Liaison	Unbabel
PT	Anabela	Barreiro	Grant Holder Scientific Representative	University of Lisbon
PL	Marcin	Paprzycki	Science Communication Manager	Polish Academy of Sciences
NL	Iacer	Calixto	STSM Coordinator	University of Amsterdam
FR	François	Portet	ITC Conference Manager	University of Grenoble

Figure: Core Group Members

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- 52 COST MC members - 32 countries
- 15 COST MC substitutes - 10 countries
- 5 COST MC observers - 4 countries
4 COST Near Neighbour Country (NNC)
1 COST International Partner Country (IPC)

Management Committee Observers

KR	Matthias	Gallé	COST International Partner Country	Naver Labs Inc.
KV	Sejdi	Sejdiu	COST Near Neighbour Country	University "Ukshin Hoti" Prizren
UA	Oleksii	Turuta	COST Near Neighbour Country	Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics
UA	Andrii	Babil	COST Near Neighbour Country	Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics
BY	Boris	Assanovich	COST Near Neighbour Country	YK Sate University of Grodno

Figure: MC Members, MC Substitutes, Observers, NNCs, and IPCs

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COST Near Neighbour Countries

Institution Name	MC Observer	Country
Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics (NURE)	Dr Oleksii Turuta ▼	Ukraine
Kharkiv National University of Radio Electronics (NURE)	Dr Andrii Babii ▼	Ukraine
Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (YKSUG)	Prof Boris Assanovich ▼	Belarus
University of Prizren	Dr Sejdi Sejdiu ▼	Kosovo*
University for Business and Technology in Prishtina	Dr Krenare Pireva Nuci ▼	Kosovo*

COST International Partner Countries

Institution Name	MC Observer	Country
Huawei, Noah's Ark Lab	Dr Qun Liu	China
Naver Labs	Dr Matthias Gallé	South Korea

Figure: NNCs, and IPCs

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Main Contacts



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Implementation of COST policies on Gender Balance and ECIS as well as Excellence and Inclusiveness

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% in Multi3Generation	Participating countries	MC Members	Leadership roles	Relative representation in leadership roles
Female	-	42	50	109
ECIs	-	25	30	120
ITCs	56	55	50	91

% in all actions	Participating countries	MC Members	Leadership roles	Relative representation in leadership roles
Female	-	43	46	107
ECIs	-	18	16	89
ITCs	52	50	29	58

Figure: Policies

Implementation of COST policies on Gender Balance and ECIS as well as Excellence and Inclusiveness

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- Multi3Generation meets the requirements and is above the average compared to other actions in terms of Gender Balance, ECIs and ITCs
 - Members from ITCs, ECIs and women are encouraged to keep an active participation in the project by taking leadership positions, also keeping a balance with more experienced researchers.
 - Keep the figures as they are, and try to improve the participation of women to reach an actual balance between male/female participation in case there is any change or new addition regarding the MC members.

Figure: Policies

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Comply with the **COST Excellence and Inclusiveness Policy**, in the implementation of the M3G Action:

- ▶ The level of **involvement of Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITCs)** should be maintained and a plan should be developed and implemented to ensure the full involvement of ITC representatives in all aspects of M3G's implementation
- ▶ The level of **involvement of Early Career Investigators (ECRs)** should be maintained and the plans described in the proposal for ensuring ECR involvement should be implemented
- ▶ The **gender balance should be maintained** and the plans described in the proposal for ensuring gender balance should be implemented

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- ▶ This MC meeting will serve to **finalise the GP2 WBP report** documenting progress on the achievement of the Multi3Generation **MoU objectives and deliverables** that need to be submitted to COST (October 2021).
- ▶ Review M3G **leadership**.

- ▶ **Challenge** – Foster an **interdisciplinary network of research groups** working on different aspects of Natural Language Generation (NLG), focusing on 4 themes: grounded multi-modal reasoning and generation; efficient machine learning algorithms, methods, and applications to NLG; dialogue, interaction and conversational LG applications; and exploiting large knowledge bases and graphs
- ▶ **Research Coordination 1** – Foster **knowledge exchange** by sharing of resources including semantic annotation guidelines, benchmarking corpora, machine learning and alignment tools.
- ▶ **Research Coordination 2** – Create **multimodal and multilingual benchmarks for NLG** involves experimenting with automatic mapping between existing resources, crawling of Web data, definition of annotation guidelines and launching of crowdsourcing campaigns for bigger datasets (also as games-with-a-purpose).

- ▶ **Research Coordination 3** – Facilitate **interactions, collaborations, knowledge building and dissemination** between M3G participants via online tools, as website, blogs, downloadable publications.
- ▶ **Research Coordination 4** – Promote the **generation of novel ideas** and introduce the new joint M3G discipline to other researchers.
- ▶ **Research Coordination 5** – Provide opportunities for **joint research projects** by M3G members on multi-task, multilingual and multi-modal processing during exchange visits of ECRs, and other activities that **encourage young researchers to establish links with industry** and more senior academics.
- ▶ **Research Coordination 6** – Disseminate the results of M3G through **conferences, scientific and industrial gatherings**, which will have substantial impact in the participating countries and beyond.

- ▶ **Research Coordination 7** – Create synergies between M3G participants via **joint publications** in books, journals and conferences; **reports** from working group meetings and **training materials** from training schools.
- ▶ **Capacity Building 1** – Strengthen the European **research on theory, methodology and real-world technology in NLG** particularly in the four M3G focus research themes.
- ▶ **Capacity Building 2** – Facilitate **international collaboration, networking and interdisciplinary community** fostering joint activities.
- ▶ **Capacity Building 3** – Drive scientific progress by **liaising extensively with industry and end-users**, and by **increasing joint collaboration and knowledge transfer** by the end of M3G.

MoU Deliverables for GP2

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1. In-depth analysis and review of methods for **incorporating structured knowledge bases into NLG models**
2. Literature review and state-of-the-art on linguistic **theories combining linguistic and perceptual information in semantic representations**
3. **Cross-topic research roadmap** identifying where research effort is most needed and the research challenges that need to be addressed
4. Repository of **open source software for processing language and visual content**, including a directory of sources of materials or components
5. Courseware of **training and summer schools**, including a short course on topics **on ML for NLG** for M3G members, and courses for the wider community
6. Reports on requirement **surveys from end users** as a shared resource for the community
7. **System application demos** available via the M3G website as education and training resources

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- ▶ Deliverables addressed/accomplished
- ▶ Outputs reached within M3G (partially) considered an achieved deliverable
- ▶ Tasks considered part of the deliverables
- ▶ Concrete next steps to have deliverables accomplished on time

Where are we?

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1. Participation in INGL 2020 – general view on M3G presented by WG1 leader

2. Paper accepted – **Language Resources and Evaluation** journal

- ▶ **Anabela Barreiro**, Cristina Mota, Jorge Baptista, Lucília Chacoto, Paula Carvalho

Linguistic Resources for Paraphrase Generation in Portuguese - A Lexicon-Grammar Approach

3. Papers under review – **Language Resources and Evaluation** journal

- ▶ **Anabela Barreiro**, Ida Rebelo-Arnold, Fernando Batista
Parafrasário: A Paraphrasary of Expressions, Multiword and Phrasal Units in Portuguese

- ▶ Verena Lyding; Lionel Nicolas; Claudia Borg; Lavinia Aparaschivei; **Anabela Barreiro**; Jaka Čibej; Gülşen Eryiğit; Corina Forascu; Karën Fort; Johannes Graën; Umair ul Hassan; Špela Arhar Holdt; Anisia Katinskaia; Alexander König; Iztok Kosem; Alice Millour; Johanna Monti; Christos Rodosthenous; Federico Sangati; Katerina Zdravkova; Yaakov HaCohen-Kerner
Approaching Language Resource Curation by Crowdsourcing on Language Learners

Where do we want to go?

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- ▶ **Reading Taskforce** – Survey and reading taskforce to tackle every important aspect of NLG
 - ▶ State of the Art NLG
 - ▶ Publications on International Events (Conferences, workshops, etc.)
 - ▶ Book on Past, Present and Future NLG
 - ▶ Other Publications
- ▶ **Webinars**
 - ▶ Where, how, and when do we want to disseminate thought webinars?
 - ▶ Do we have any candidates for invited talks?
- ▶ **Topic Meetings**
 - ▶ List your favorite **topics**
 - ▶ In which **country/city** can they take place? How many people will be invited?
 - ▶ Characteristics/Profile of the participants
 - ▶ Etc.

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⚙ Title / Initiator	Type	⚙ Status	⚙ Result	⚙ Dates	
Search a vote ...					Export
e-vote number 7 - Budget shift from Meetings to the last/recent application for a STSM in GP2 Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Running		01/10/2021 08/10/2021	View vote Options
e-vote number 2 -- Amendment in the Budget for the second Grant Period (GP2) Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Closed	✓ Approved	11/01/2021 18/01/2021	View vote Options
e-vote number 1 -- Approval of change in leadership roles for Working Group 3 (WG3) Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Closed	✓ Approved	10/01/2021 18/01/2021	View vote Options
e-vote number 5 -- Selection of dates for the October MC Meeting in Lisbon Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Closed	✓ Approved	19/03/2021 26/03/2021	View vote Options
e-vote number 3 -- Second grant period (GP2) budget top-up Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Closed	✓ Approved	19/03/2021 26/03/2021	View vote Options
e-vote number 6 -- Approval of budget reallocation from STSM and ITC Conference Grants to Meetings Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Closed	✓ Approved	22/09/2021 29/09/2021	View vote Options
e-vote number 4 -- Minutes of the online MC Meeting (December 11th 2020) Anabela Barreiro	MC-Voting	Closed	✓ Approved	18/03/2021 26/03/2021	View vote Options

Showing 7 total votes

Figure: e-Votes

Work and Budget Plan for the Grant Agreement Period

Work and Budget Plan Summary

A. COST Networking Tools	EUR
(1) Meetings	84,300.00
(2) Training Schools	1,000.00
(3) Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM)	24,500.00
(4) ITC Conference Grant	3,000.00
(5) COST Action Dissemination	4,000.00
(6) Other Expenses Related to Scientific Activities (OERSA)	500.00
B. Total Science Expenditure (sum of (1) to (6))	117,300.00
C. Financial and Scientific Administration and Coordination (FSAC) (max. of 15% of B)	17,595.00
Total Grant (B+C)	134,895.00

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- Morphological typology awareness in multilingual NLP evaluation - 15 February 2021
- Generating Counterfactual Explanation for Stance Classification Task - 1 January 2021
- Generating fact-checking explanations in low-resource settings - 1 January 2021
- Structured Multilingual Language Generation - 16 March 2020

STSM		Grant value in €		
Nome		9,375.00 €		
François Portet	Malta - 19-23/10/2020	960.00 €		Paid
Felix Arturo Oncevay Marcos	Denmark (Aalborg) - 15/02/21 -- 30/04/21	3,500.00	grant notification letter -- 12/11/20	Paid
Ms Shailza Jolly	Copenhagen 1/01/21 -- 31/03/21	3,500.00	grant notification letter 16/12/2020	Paid
Mr Alkiviadis Katsalis	Alicante 15/09/21 -- 5/10/21	3,200.00		
Total		11,160.00		

Figure: Budget spent on STSM

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- ▶ Budget for STSM - not fully spent (€13,340)
- ▶ Budget for ITC Conference Grants - not spent at all (€3,000)
- ▶ Budget for Training Schools - not yet spent (€1,000)
- ▶ TOTAL €17,340 non-spent
 - ▶ e-vote number 6 – reallocation of the non spent budget for STSM and ITC Conference Grants to the Lisbon MC Meeting
 - ▶ e-vote number 7 (ongoing) – shift back €1,580 for one more STSM in GP2

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- ▶ The GP3 will start on 1st November 2021 and end on 31st October 2022
- ▶ The estimated budget for our COST Action is **€174,900**, including Financial, Scientific and Administrative Coordination (FSAC).
 - ▶ NOTE: the official confirmation of the above information and Action Grant Agreement signature is conditional to the signature of the contract between the European Commission and the COST Association. Following this signature, the grant period will be opened on e-COST.

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- ▶ Always update the tab "Outcomes" in the M3G website (each WG leader is responsible for sending updates of website content to the Website manager)
- ▶ GDPR form - consent to publish videos on the M3G website
- ▶ Leadership roles
- ▶ Sub-delegation of activities
- ▶ Assignment of (some) deliverables to specific individuals? E.g. Rotation of meeting Minutes writing
- ▶ Others...



Thank you!



TÉCNICO LISBOA