

Minutes Management Committee Meeting

COST Action no. IC1207

Action Title: Parsing and multi-word expressions. Towards linguistic precision and computational efficiency in natural language processing (PARSEME)

Venue: Warsaw, Country Poland,

Date: 17 September 2013

Attendance: **25 countries, 32 participants**

1. Welcome to participants
 - a. Presentation of the Grant Holder's secretary (Beata Wójtowicz)
 - b. Short presentation of the new delegations (absent at the kick-off meeting on 8 March: Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Ireland, Slovakia, Slovenia)
2. Adoption of agenda (vote required: one per country)
no comments
3. Approval of minutes and matters arising of last meeting (vote required)
all voted for
4. Update from the Action Chair
 - a. Status of the Action, including participating countries: 27 countries, 26 languages, 6 dialects; 7 countries more than at the kick-off stage; other countries (up to 9) may still join
 - b. Action budget status
 - Year 1 budget: 161,400 € - unspent budget postponed but reduced from the 2nd year's budget
 - Past expenditure:
 - meetings: 4266 euro (>40% saved on the SC meeting)
 - STSM: 860 euro
 - Validating lower reimbursement rates for the hotel in Warsaw: 95 € per person per night instead of 120 € (vote required)
all voted for
 - Local Organiser's Support for the Warsaw meeting: 2500 € meals non-inclusive (about 60% increase wrt. The Work and Budget Plan (WBP) due to new, more realistic LOS rules)
 - c. STSM status and new applications
 - New STSM funding rules (max. travel: 500 €, max. per diem: 160 €)
 - Should the STSM assessment be formally delegated to Cvetana Krstev, with SC approval in case of: (i) conflict of interest, (ii) competing applications? (vote required)
Discussion: So far we don't have enough applications, if we have more, then it would be much better if more people decide. Proposal:
→ Each STSM application will be examined by the SC. If a remote vote is necessary the SC members will be given at least one week to express their views. Any SC member in conflict of interests wrt. the STSM will be excluded from voting.

all voted for

- One past mission: Greece → Germany (5 days); one pending application for the 1st budget year: Croatia → Slovenia; one pending application for the 2nd budget year: Poland → France; WBP estimation for the 1st year: 9 STSMs (for 3 months) in 2013-2014. More applications are welcomed, if the missions are shorter than 3 months each, then we can go above planned 9.
- Next application deadline: 10 January 2014

5. Feedback from COST ICT Annual Progress Conference

- a. Most actions stress the efficiency of STSMs as a COST instrument
- b. Interest of some actions in and support from COST to open access publications
- c. Good ideas:
 - best paper award for ESR papers
 - cartooning for communication
- d. PARSEME has a rather narrow scope as compared to other actions (where usually bringing together many domains of a large field is concerned) . Our advantage is to concentrate on a clearly identified challenge.
- e. gender balance in ICT actions is usually under 25%, sometimes below 10% (in PARSEME: at least 37%)

6. Scientific planning

a. Scientific strategy

- Redefining WG2 and WG3 scopes and titles - potential members have problems with identifying themselves with these WGs; WG4 proposal: "Statistical and hybrid parsing of MWEs" or "Statistical and hybrid processing of MWEs" - to include bigger applications such as MT, IE, sentiment analysis, etc. - see conclusions from WG meetings.
- Remainder on the lightweight procedure of joining the Action via at least one WG (see slides from the plenary session).
- Current WG status: WG1: **30** members, WG2: **17**, WG3: **8**, WG4: **16**
- Gender balance and Early Stage Researchers (ESR) - at kick-off stage: 38-40% women; 23-30% ESRs; statistics to be updated after the constitution of WGs
- WG vice-leaders to be proposed especially among ESRs.
- Links with related COST Actions:
 - IC1002 MUMIA: future multilingual search engines (several PARSEME members are also members of MUMIA)
 - IS1006: Grammars of sign languages (contacts to be established)
 - IC1302 KEYSTONE: keyword-based search engines (contacts to be established)
 - new action: IS1305: European network of e-lexicography (contacts to be established)

Everyone can consider joining these other actions as it establishes natural links between actions.

b. Action Budget Planning - planning is done on a per-year basis; remainder of the 1st year Work and Budget Plan for year 1 voted per email: member parties - 23, voting parties - 23, FOR the WBP proposal - 23.

c. Long-term planning (including anticipated locations and dates of future activities)

- next general meeting venue in Athens, 10-11 March 2014 (vote required)

all voted for

- MWE workshop with a PARSEME special track, co-located with EACL in Gothenburg (Sweden), 26-27 April (vote required)

all voted for

- Training School, July 2014 - call for proposals is open; first suggestions of topics to be taught:
 - how to recognise MWE
 - hands-on tools and applications
 - Call for future general meeting organizers - 2 per year; short proposal description expected
 - Contrastive state-of-the-art surveys in the 4 WGs, coordinated by the WG leaders, for the end of the budget year (May 2014).
- d. Dissemination planning (publications and outreach activities)
- update on the website development (www.parseme.eu)

7. Non-COST membership in the Action

→ no funding towards Europe, except as training school experts, possible funding from Europe towards the non-COST institutions

→ everyone can consider applying for a research trip to non-COST institutions

- a. positive feedback from the Stanford University (Dan Flickinger)
- b. positive feedback from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (Aline Villavicencio)
- c. partly positive feedback from Nuance (Ron Kaplan)

8. AOB

- a. PARSEME spin-off and related projects on the national and international level are encouraged - by now projects in preparation in Switzerland, Czech Rep., France
- b. Proposal from Haifa (Israel) to organize a future meeting, e.g. in September 2014 (hotels expensive but < 120 €, flight tickets ~500 €, security & politics obstacle for some members?). After a discussion we take this location into consideration. SC will discuss this proposal. Others are still welcome to submit their proposals too.

9. Location and date of next meeting:

- a. Athens, Greece, Monday, 10 March 2014
- b. All current WG leaders were during the WG leaders meetings.

10. Closing