Leiden, 8 December 2014

# Subject │ Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the Steering Group of COST Action IS1305 “European Network of e-Lexicography (ENeL)”

**at Bled, Slovenia**

**28 September 2014, from 9h30 till 16h25**

Present: Martin Everaert (Chair), Iztok Kosem (Vice-Chair), Anne Dykstra (WG1 Chair), Vera Hildenbrandt (WG2 Chair), Vladimir Benko (WG2 Vice-Chair), Simon Krek (WG3 Chair), Eveline Wandl-Vogt (WG4 Chair), Krzysztof Nowak (WG4 Vice-Chair), Rute Costa (Training Schools Manager), Yvonne Luther (ESR/Female Researcher Manager), Tanneke Schoonheim (STSM Manager).

Absent with notice: Bob Boelhouwer (WG1 Vice-Chair), Carole Tiberius (WG3 Vice-Chair).

Minutes: Rob Tempelaars (WG3).

**1. Opening and Welcome**

Martin opens the meeting and welcomes the participants.

**2. Announcements**

As local originator Iztok welcomes the members of the SG in Bled.

Simon suggests an additional item for the agenda, which will be treated as item 8. A requirement for a European portal for dictionaries is that the various dictionaries must be well maintained. Simon advises to use an existing infrastructure already funded by the European community, for example CLARIN. The problem is that the funding for the institutions that manage dictionaries should be repeatedly requested for a certain period and the survival of these institutions is not always guaranteed (see item 8).

**3. Minutes 3th meeting (Bolzano, July 19th 2014)**

The minutes of the Bolzano SG meeting are approved.

**4. Dissemination**

Martin states that lexicography should be especially visible and accessible to a general public, including young people, especially school children, throughout Europe. He assumes that WGs 2 and 3 are not meant to reach the general public in contrast to WGs 1 and 4.

Simon thinks dissemination also implies contact with other bodies (e.g. organizations in education), so they can know what lexicography has to offer. WG3 can address the NLP community, for instance by organising Training School in 2016 at the ACL conference in Berlin and in organising others courses at ESSLLI. The ACL conference is also interesting for WG1 to discuss the portal there with programmers and software engineers.

The results of the Action are also interesting for teachers and translators, although the latter group will use dictionaries anyway (however not necessarily the dictionaries we’ll put in the portal). Rute will get information on how to reach the teaching community in Europe. Vlado points out that a good, visible portal can achieve a great deal. He mentions the Slovakian portal as an example.

Eveline mentions the existence of so-called children’s universities and there is of course wikipedia. We should attract people to the Action by asking users to provide information; this can be discussed at the next MC meeting.

Anne volunteers to become ‘dissemination manager’. He will stimulate action members to present and promote the network at all kinds of events. He’ll make a leaflet with information on the network to be used at conferences and other events. He’ll make a YouTube item on COST (based on the presentations we already have, for instance the presentation in Tallinn). He will use the EURALEX newsletter to promote the action. The network has a Facebook page and a Twitter account which should be used more often.

**5.** **STSM**

For this year we have 8 approved applications, for the next year there are already 5 applications, and more to be expected. Most STMSs are well under the maximum amount allowed per STSM. Overall, it’s working very well.

Simon misses the reports on the STSMs on the website. Tanneke will ensure that these are finished within thirty days after the STSM. Iztok will make them available on the website.

Deadlines are set for applications concerning the year 2015. The first decision on STSMs will be on December 16th 2014 (deadline for submission November 15th 2014). The following deadline is March 31st 2015, decisions on April 30st 2015. The STSM opportunity will be advertised via our internal mailing list and through other mailing lists, including the linguist list.

**6.** **Training School**

Training School 2015 WG2

According to Rute the Training School is organized as follows: 5 teachers, 40 hours training from July 6th till July 10th 2015, 6 hour classes a day; budget 25.000 euro, approximately 30 students. The first meeting of the training staff will be in Vienna (2015), there will also be skype conferences. The program of the school will be presented in Vienna.

The reusability of the course as well as the training materials is a point for consideration. The results must be visible, for instance by publishing the PowerPoint presentations on the website. Embedding in Erasmus Platz is also a possibility (Eveline is involved in this project). This will be discussed by the Training School team.

Simon suggests that the classes can be filmed and put on the website. There is a project called Videolectures.net which travels around to make such recordings everywhere. We should find out how much this costs to see if that is an option we can use.

It is very important now to make the final budget and provide information on the Training School 2015 on the website. It might be a good idea to advertise for a STSM to work on the training material for the Training School.

Training School 2016 WG3

The Training School 2016 could be connected to the ACL conference in Berlin or to another big NLP event. It is important for this Training School to also reach companies such as Google, Apple etc. that can be found on the internet. There will be more news on this Training School at the meeting in Vienna 2015.

Training School 2017 WG4

The Training School 2017 could be connected to the DARIAH Training School. Eveline will sort this out.

**7.** **ESR/Female Researchers**

Yvonne states that the information on the amount of ESRs and Female Researchers is roughly the same as in Bolzano. A new draft for the website will be made by the end of this budget year (end of November). It will include everybody who receives some funding from ENeL (MC members, WG members, STSMs, etc.). It is however difficult to get the information on all the participants. An internet form is needed to collect this information from all existing members and the new ones.

For the meeting in Vienna childcare is an important issue. Yvonne will inventarise the people who are interested in childcare during this meeting and Eveline will look for childcare possibilities in Vienna.

**8.** **Infrastructure (additional agenda item)**

Simon: the goal is a network which will live forever. We should look at open calls in CLARIN and DARIAH to see if there is space and money for us in there. CLARIN is focussed on the users now. They look for people and organisations that use the infrastructure. The next call is probably more than one year away and since it is important to keep our network alive we should prepare a proposal in 2015.

We can get ideas on this by asking the MC members in Vienna and by discussing the main issues there. We should see which issues are already solved in CLARIN and we can look at these solutions. Then we can focus on the topics that are left (for instance structures) and write a proposal for CLARIN on these. Part of this proposal should be how the network will survive after 2017. The initiative for all these actions lie in WG3.

**9.** **Working Groups**

**WG 4** –Topics of WG4 are: 1. Emotions (collection of data, connecting data from an European perspective), outcome probably: concept for a dictionary of emotion words; 2. Variation linguistics; in lexicographic perspective: what can be connected and how?; 3. European lexicography (subgroup), unity of words (etymology), linguistic change; 4. Access to dictionaries other than via headwords; 5. Digital humanities (DARIAH, Europeana).

Iztok stresses that it is important to put more information on WG4 on the website. This should be done in November.

**WG 3** –Topics of WG3 are: 1. Survey on Dictionary Writing Systems and corpus screening systems was made during an STSM. This will go out to all action members in October and a report will be presented at the meeting in Vienna (deliverable: conference paper at eLex 2015, publication in IJL and publication on the ENeL website); 2. Workshop on automatic extraction of good dictionary examples (deliverable: proceedings on the ENeL website); 3. WG3 meeting at eLex in Herstmonceux Castle (August 2015) on the topic of extracting data from corpora. This will be done together with people from Parseme, another COST action (deliverable: reports of users).

**WG 2** – Gerbrich de Jong (STSM in Trier) has made a list (in Excel) of 150 online dictionaries and their features. The idea is to make scholarly dictionaries available to the public. The list is open for discussion. One problem is the definition of “scholarly dictionary”. What criteria should be applied? The working definition was:

a) a scholarly dictionary should not be commercial;

b) a scholarly dictionary uses referenced attestations;

c) a scholarly dictionary has a documentary nature, not utilitarian.

This definition is slightly changed by the Steering Group and the suggestion for a new definition is: a scholarly dictionary is a dictionary of a language or dialect with references, that is in principle descriptive.

The list of dictionaries can be used for deciding where retro-digitising might be possible/needed. The list is fairly extensive, etymological and dialect dictionaries are listed as well as commercial dictionaries. Decisions have to be made to what extent all these dictionaries can be part of the portal. Terminological dictionaries are not listed.

**WG 1** – The list of dictionaries that Gerbrich de Jong made during her STSM in Trier is useful for both WG1 and WG2. This list can be forwarded to the MC members who can give suggestions on which dictionaries can be added to or removed from the list. They should also look at the remaining list to detect problems that should be solved within the context of the dictionary portal (structure, meta language, unusual characters etc.). Anne will take care of this.

In 2015 there will an STSM on dictionary portals. After setting the requirements of the dictionary portal, it is important to have some funds for the actual development of the portal. There might be possibilities in CLARIN/CLARIAH. Within our network there are people who are able to do the actual work. It depends on their employers whether they can get the time to work on this. Additional funding would make this easier. Tanneke suggests that perhaps an STSM can also offer some help.

Important for the dictionary portal is to define the user and the content. In our opinion the user of the portal is working in the humanities as a scientist, a teacher or a translator and/or an educated person who is interested in language. PR is very important to attract attention to the portal.

Points of interest are also:

* The possibility to filter the choices of the user
* The interface of the individual dictionaries that you have to cope with when getting into the information
* The possibility of translating at least headwords, but maybe also somewhat more (definitions)
* So-called super headwords for some languages to interlink them (as was done for Frisian and Dutch in the Netherlands).

**10. Membership and registration for WGs**

It is important to have as much information as possible available of our action members. We need to know whether they are male or female, young or old, PhD or professor, and what their fields of interest are. There will be a form on the website to be filled in by every member, which enables us to connect members with shared interests and to make statistics for our own use.

Existing members are asked to fill in this form as soon as possible. New members have to apply for the membership in a WG at WG Chairs. After they are confirmed as WG members, they will also be required to fill in the information form.

**11. Website and Internal Communication**

There should be more information on the website. We need the final reports of the Bolzano meetings before November. We also need information on the Training Schools in general and on the 2015 Training School in particular. Information can be sent to Iztok who will update the website regularly. A website calendar with all upcoming events in our fields of interest is suggested. This calendar should not only contain our own events, but also congresses, conferences, workshops and other meetings that are relevant to the action members.

The meetings of the MC members must be made more active. We should announce the topics of the meetings as soon as possible and explain what we expect from the members. They should prepare written presentations which can be discussed and put in reports and on the website. Martin and Iztok will prepare a text about the responsibilities and involvement of MC members in the action.

**12. Future meetings**

There are some changes in the time schedule:

6-8 December 2014 Vienna = no official ENeL event

21-22-23 January 2015 Vienna 🡪 11-12-13 February 2015. (MC, SG, WGs, WG3 Workshop)

April 2015 Leeuwarden = no official ENeL event, announcement on the website only

May 2015 Cluj = no official EneL event, announcement on the website only

July 2015 Lisbon : no Steering Group meeting, only Training School, may be WG2 and WG4 meeting

13-14 August Herstmonceux Castle : MC, SG and WGs meeting.

October 2015 Athens : only if there is money left for it (like in Bled)

Meetings SG

February 2015 (Vienna, Austria)

May 2015 (Cluj, Romania; after budget examination replaced by Skype meeting)

August 2015 (Herstmonceux Castle, United Kingdom)

October 2015 (Athens/Chania, Greece; after budget examination replaced by Skype meeting, unless there is money left)

Meetings WGs:

**WG 1, 2, 3, 4** – February 2015 (Vienna)

**WG 2, 4** – July 2015 ? (Lisbon)

**WG 1, 3** – August 2015 ? (Herstmonceux Castle)

Work and Budget Plans

There is somewhat more money spent on STSMs in 2014. That is not a problem because we are allowed to move money to another topic of the Work and Budget Plan 2014. We will probably not spend the entire 1.000 euro on OERSA, so that can be leveled.

The Work and Budget Plan 2015 was prepared for the meeting in Bolzano and the MC has agreed on the changes that were suggested (more money to STSMs, budget of 25.000 euro for the Training School). The plan will be finalized and sent to the COST office as soon as possible. After approval of the COST office the plan can officially be approved by the MC.

**13. Questions before closure of meeting**

- Martin: many people are interested in language, but nobody wants to pay for serious dictionary content. Commercial companies can hardly make good dictionaries and governments doubt whether they should subsidize dictionaries. This is a big – international – problem for dictionaries, also in e-lexicography.

Anne, Iztok and Martin will put some ideas on this subject in writing. We might address this subject in coöperation with EURALEX, ASIALEX, DSNA etc.

- Anne: Within the Matthias de Vriesgenootschap (a Dutch society for lovers of dictionaries) COST can be promoted. The next meeting will be dedicated to European Network of e-Lexicography. There certainly must be meetings in other countries too where members of the network could promote the action.

- Anne: To reach a new audience it is perhaps a good idea to put the COST action on YouTube.

- Vlado: Bratislava is a beautiful place that is centrally located and easily accessible, and could be one of the future venues for EneL meetings.

**14. Closing**

The Chair closes the SG meeting at 16.25.