



MULTI-TASK  
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# Core Group Meeting

November, 9<sup>th</sup> 2020

November, 16<sup>th</sup> 2020



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DEFINING TECHNOLOGY



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# AGENDA

- COVID-19 Pandemic
- 1st MC Meeting in Lisbon?
- WG Reports
- STSM
- WG Leaders Update
- New Online Activities
- Network Growth
- Website

# COVID-19 Pandemic

## RULE

- The start and end of a GP is the same for all COST Actions and are established in the period 1/5 to the 30/4 of the following year
  - only exception is for starting and ending Actions, which may have grant periods shorter than 12 months and with different start or end dates based on their MC1 date and end date

## Multi3Generation CURRENT SITUATION

- Action delay due to the pandemic and difficulties in making use of the budget for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of the GP (but there are still 6 months to implement Action activities)
  - Officers advise on ways to allocate the budget to activities (also new online activities, not originally included in the Work and Budget Plan)
  - Need a proposal on how the Action intends to re-arrange the **plan of activities** and budget expenditure for the coming months
- deferral/postponement has to be done at the end of the 2nd Grant Period (GP)

# 1st MC Meeting in Lisbon?

- Online via Zoom in December?
  - Do we have enough time to set up a Programme?
    - **Please write your opinion:**
      - Elena: smaller online meeting in Dec to catch up with the information
      - Anabela: is preparing a draft of the online meeting programme (will share it next CG meeting)
    -
- Postpone it to the Spring March 2021?
  - In luoco? Will people travel by then?

# WG Reports' Summary

## Working groups tangible outcomes (deliverables):

Tangible outcomes	WG1	WG2	WG3	WG4	WG5
<b>Advancing Science (AS)</b>					
In-depth analysis and review of methods for incorporating structured knowledge bases into language generation models				X	
Literature review and state-of-the-art on linguistic theories combining linguistic and perceptual information in semantic representations				X	
Algorithms and strategies resulting in a standard methodology for the analysis of text-based dialogue models			X		
Survey and position papers	X	X	X	X	
Joint journal and conference publications	X	X	X	X	X
Cross-topic research roadmap identifying where research effort is most needed and the research challenges that need to be addressed	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Shared Resources for the Community (SR)</b>					
Semantic annotation guidelines and standards for multi-modal data	X				X
Repository of open source software for processing language and visual content, inc. a directory of sources of materials or components		X			
Construction of training and benchmarking datasets for multi-modal MT, multilingual video/image description and dialogue modelling	X		X		X
Reports on requirements surveys					X
<b>Education &amp; Training (ET)</b>					
Curriculum for a graduate course on multi-modal NLP and LG	X				
System application demos accessible via the Action website					X
<b>Other</b>					
Organisation of training and summer schools with courseware, including a short course on Topics on ML for LG for Multi3Generation members, and courses for the wider community (ET, SR)		X		X	
Organisation of an international workshop or shared task (AS, ET)	X				X
Organisation of Industrial Placements (AS, ET)					X
Articles for general readership (ET, SR)					X
Establishment of an Industrial Advisory Board					X
Reports from WG meetings and STSMs	X	X	X	X	X

# WG Reports' Summary

## WG leaders please summarize your progress:

WG 01 - Efficient Machine Learning algorithms, methods, & applications to language generation

WG 02 - Contribution to nlpprogress.com

WG 03 -

WG 04 - exploitation of large knowledge bases and graphs for language generation tasks, focusing on multimodal language generation

- discussed how to structure an in-depth review of methods for incorporating structured knowledge bases into language generation models
- Discussion on how to structure an in-depth review of methods for incorporating structured knowledge bases into language generation models

WG 05 - Industry

# Short Term Scientific Missions

## STSM completed

- Title: Natural Language grounding
- Applicant: François Portet, Université Grenoble Alpes (St Martin d'Hères , France)
- Host: Prof Albert Gatt, Institute of Linguistics and Language Technology, University of Malta, Msida

## STSM planned for this GP (Spring 2021)

- Title: Generating fact-checking explanations in low-resource settings
- Applicant: Shailza Jolly, Technical University of Kaiserslautern (Kaiserslautern, Germany)
- Host: Prof Isabelle Augenstein, University of Copenhagen
  
- Title: Morphological typology awareness in multilingual NLP evaluation
- Applicant: Felix Arturo Oncevay Marcos, University of Edinburgh (Edinburgh, United Kingdom)
- Host: Dr Johannes Bjerva, Aalborg University

## New Online Activities

- **Please write your opinion/suggestions about this:**
- not originally included in the Work and Budget Plan
  - Series of Webinars (weekly?)
  - More STSM
  - Reading groups
  - Presenting research lines (they could be included as webinars)



## WG Leaders

- **Please express your opinion on how to choose the leader:**
- New leaders and/or vice-leaders
  - We need a new leader for WG 03 - Someone from this WG? Any other volunteers?
  - Candidate/s will be proposed and voted by the MC (in the next meeting or eVOTE)

# Website

- Update info on the website (or intranet)
  - CG meetings minutes
  - Reports
  - Changes in CG leads
  - Etc.

## People

### Core group members

DK	Isabelle	Augenstein	Action Chair	University of Copenhagen
ES	Elena	Lloret	Action Vice Chair	Universidad de Alicante
PL	Marcin	PAPRZYCKI	Science Communication Manager	Polish Academy of Sciences
NL	Iacer	CALIXTO	STSM Coordinator	University of Amsterdam
FR	François	PORTET	ITC Coordinator	University of Grenoble
PT	Anabela	BARREIRO	Training School Coordinator	University of Lisbon
MT	Albert	GATT	Chair for WG 1 – Grounded multi-modal reasoning and generation	University of Malta
DK	Barbara	PLANK	Chair for WG 2 – Efficient Machine Learning algorithms, methods, and applications to language generation	University of Copenhagen
UK	Dimitra	GKATZIA	Chair for WG 3 – Dialogue, interaction and conversational language generation applications	Edinburgh Napier University
LV	Inguna	Skadina	Vice Chair for WG 3 – Dialogue, interaction and conversational language generation applications	University of Latvia
IT	Irene	RUSSO	Chair for WG 4 – Exploiting large knowledge bases and graphs	ILC CNR
PT	Fabio	KEPLER	Chair for WG 5 – Industry and End-User Liaison	Unbabel
DK	Sandra	Thordahl Fredmark	Grant Holder Manager substitute	University of Denmark



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# Network Growth

- **Please add missing people to this list:**
- Researchers who have already joined Multi3Generation on Slack
  - Bruno Martins (WG )
  - Rita Ramos (WG )
  - Zühal Kurt (WG2)
- Researchers who showed interest in joining Multi3Generation
  - Şeniz Demir
    - <https://demirse.wixsite.com/home>
  - Elif Baykal, Department of Computer Engineering, Karadeniz Technical University
    - Interest in WG 02
  -



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