

WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO CHAIR A COST ACTION?

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TextLink: Structuring discourse in multilingual Europe (IS1312)



The main objective of the Action is to coordinate the creation of a European **portal** of cross-linguistically available **monolingual** or **parallel corpora** that have been enriched and made **interoperable** and **co-searchable** through **annotation** of **discourse-relational devices** and the information they convey.

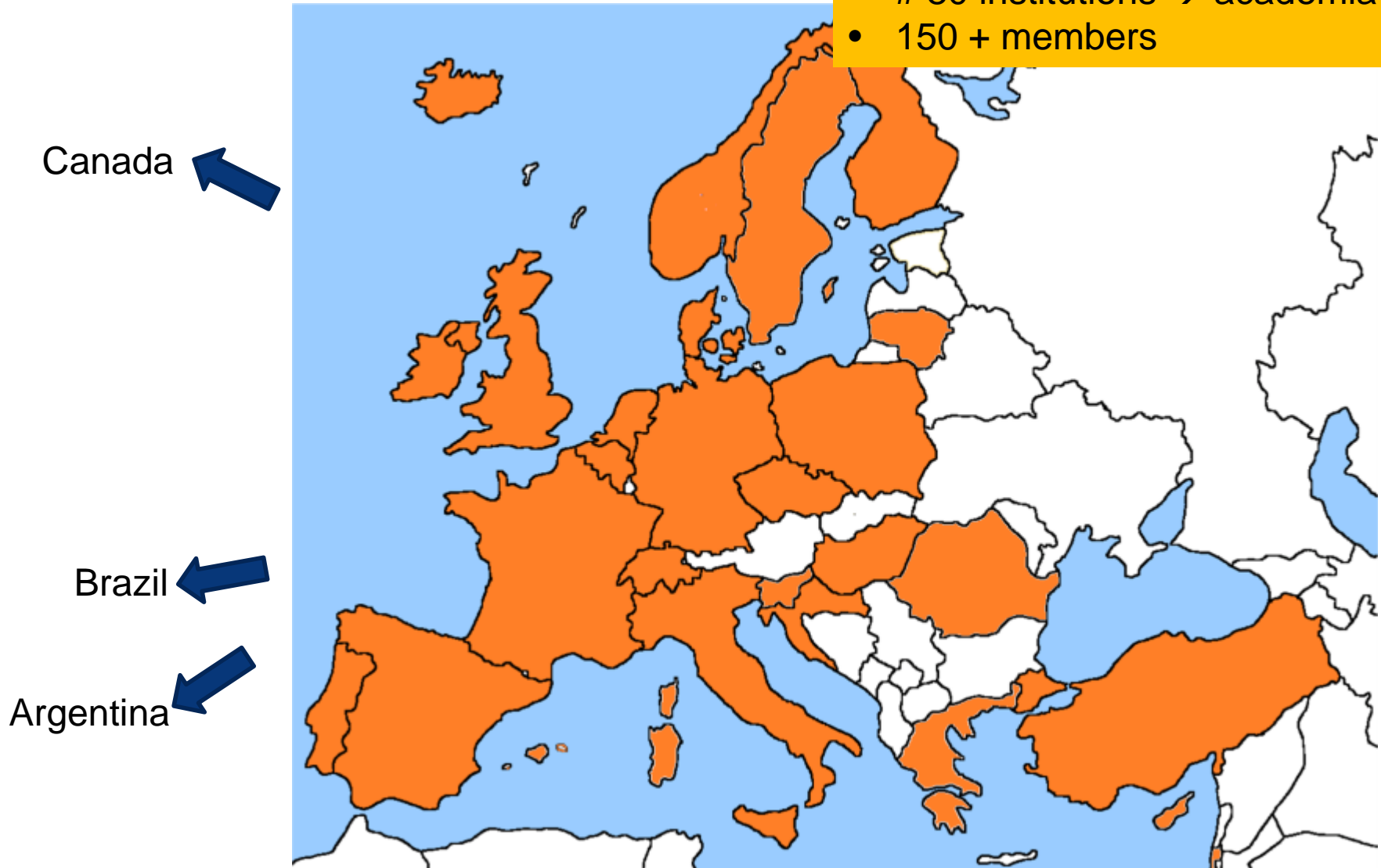
- Timeline

- 11 April 2014 – 10 April 2018



TextLink as a network

- 26 participating countries
- 3 International partners
- # 80 institutions → academia
- 150 + members



TextLink management

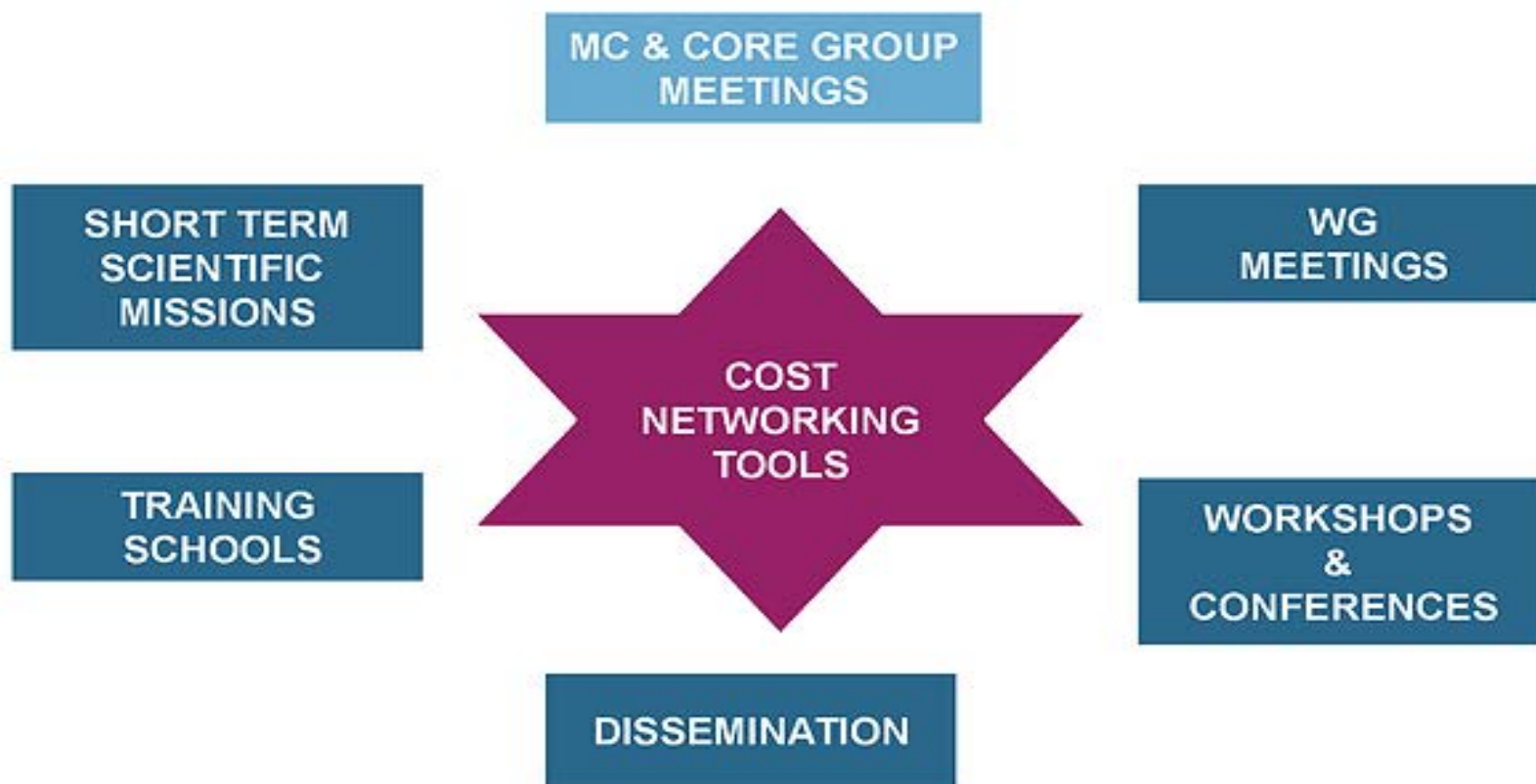
- Steering Committee
 - Chair: Liesbeth Degand (UCLouvain - BE)
 - Vice-Chair: Bonnie Webber (U. Edinburgh – UK)
 - Grant Manager: Nicky Thrupp (UCLouvain – BE)
 - STSM manager (IT)
 - Communication manager (website) (TR)
 - http://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/IS1312
 - <http://textlink.ii.metu.edu.tr/>
 - Training School manager (ES)
 - Working group co-leaders (PT, CZ, PL, FR, CH, NL, UK, DE)

Working groups

- Resources
- Interoperable annotation guidelines
- Assessment of empirical and cognitive soundness
- Tools



Activities



Networking tools

- Workshops and conferences
 - Three Action conferences
 - Louvain-la-Neuve (BE) – January 2015
 - Budapest (HU) – April 2016
 - Toulouse (FR) – March 2018
 - Six thematic meetings
 - Saarbrücken (DE) – October 2015
 - Lisbon (PT) – October 2016
 - Potsdam (DE) – November 2016
 - Edinburgh (UK) – February 2017
 - Madrid (ES) – June 2017
 - Vilnius (LI) – October 2017

Networking tools

- Four working group meetings
 - WG1: Prague (CZ) – October 2014
 - WG2&3: Fribourg (CH) – April 2015; Budapest (HU) – April 2016
 - WG1&4: Warsaw (PO) – December 2015
- Two training schools
 - Valencia (ES) – January 2016
 - Prague (CZ) – February 2017
- Short term scientific missions
 - 19 researchers (ESR): CZ, SE, TR, DE, NL, UK, BE, PL, FR, DK, FI, RO PT
 - 12 Institutions: TR, DE, BE, CH, DK, UK, IT, PT, ES, SE, NL
 - Average length: 2.5 wks (1wk – 7.5 wks)

Management tools

- MC meetings // Action or WG meeting
- Steering committee // MC meetings

Output

- TextLink related publications
 - Existing collaborations
 - New collaborations
- TextLink induced keynote speakers
- Description of available resources
- Description of existing annotation guidelines and annotation tools
- Text book (in preparation)
- Portal construction (in preparation)

Grant management

- PRO
 - Flat rates
 - Online platform
- CON
 - Yearly budget (→ underspent)
 - Restricted flexibility
 - Exclusion of V.A.T
 - Exclusion of pre-payments for host institutions
- MUST
 - Dedicated grant manager (e.g. salary on FSAC)

Being chair

- PRO
 - Puts university on the map
 - Individual visibility = extension of professional network
 - Improvement of diplomatic skills
- CON
 - Difficulty of « after COST » project (frustrating)
 - Keeps you very busy ...
 - Admin with some countries is very complex
- MUST
 - Favour science over management (hire grant manager!)
 - Choose your WG leaders with care
 - Choose an efficient vice-chair (outside your own expertise)
 - Choose a good communication manager with team (WEB!)
 - Balance your network (age & gender)
 - Choose realistic goals

TextLink success stories

- STSMs
- Training schools
- New collaborations
- Huge network on specific topic

Specifics

- Writing the proposal
- How much budget?
- Evaluation procedure (yearly reports)
- Building the network
 - Starting point
 - Top-down
 - Bottom-up