WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO CHAIR A COST ACTION?

Liesbeth Degand (UCLouvain)
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

Canada

Brazil

Argentina
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://www.cost.eu/COST_Actions/isch/IS1312)
    - [http://textlink.ii.metu.edu.tr/](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

New networking tool: travel grants for ESRs
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