CLARIN Newsflash

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Copy for the Newsflash
If you have relevant news for the
CLARIN community, please send this
to Hetty Winkel: **h.winkel@uu.nl**.
Fore more in-depth information, we
refer to the CLARIN Newsletter, which
can be found on the website:
http://www.clarin.eu/newsletter.

If you no longer wish to receive this
Newsletter, please send a message to
h.winkel@uu.nl.

Visit our website!
www.clarin.eu and www.clarin.eu/vlw

CLARIN-ERIC: where we stand

The following countries have now signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Dutch Ministry of Education and Research: Croatia, the Dutch Language Union (also representing Flanders), Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. From a number of other countries we have receivedpositive reactions, but the signature may need some time: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Norway and Spain. These countries, as well as Bulgaria and Italy, have nominated a delegate (if they have signed) or observer (if they haven't signed yet) to the CLARIN-ERIC Steering Committee. The first meeting of this Steering Committee will take place in the Hague on Friday March 18. The members of the CLARIN Strategic Coordination Board have also been invited. During this meeting the documents required for the ERIC application will be presented and discussed. This includes the CLARIN-ERIC statutes, the Membership agreement and the funding model. Possibly we need a second meeting of the Steering Committee to come to a consensus on these issues. We plan to submit the final application for the CLARIN-ERIC to the EC Brussel in June this year.

CLARIN developments in the countries

NORWAY
The Research Council of Norway has published a white paper on The Scientific Case for eInfrastructure in Norway, including a chapter on language infrastructure.
http://tinyurl.com/2dvtorh

LATVIA
The Ministry of Education and Science supports CLARIN activities in Latvia. In November, 2010 the Institute of Mathematics and Computers Science (IMCS), University of Latvia, signed the third agreement with the Ministry of Education and Science regarding support for implementation of the preparatory phase of the CLARIN project. By this IMCS can actively participate in the CLARIN project until the end of the preparatory phase. Besides participation in different working groups of WP5, WP2 and WP7, several national events, e.g. the CLARIN Latvia National workshop, are planned for Spring, 2011. CLARIN was presented at the annual conference of the University of Latvia. On February 3, CLARIN Latvia participated with a poster in the plenary session of the annual conference of the University of Latvia "Science financed by EU in Latvia". This plenary session is traditionally organized by the Academic Department of the University of Latvia and the National Contact Point and is mainly devoted to 7th Framework Programme activities that support fundamental research, i.e., IDEAS, PEOPLE and RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES. Experimental Web Services: In the scope of WG 5.6 (LRT Integration) several NLP tools for Latvian have been made available via experimental Web Services http://valoda.ailab.lv/ws/).

Recently some of them have been standardized according to the ISO family of standards, namely, a tokenizer and sentence splitter, a POS tagger, and a morphological analyzer. The main annotation schemes that we use are Morpho-syntactic Annotation Framework (ISO/DIS 24611) and Lexical Markup Framework (ISO 24613:2008). For specifying morphological categories we use ISOcat - an implementation of the Data Category Registry (ISO 12620:2009).

THE NETHERLANDS
In CLARIN-NL a second call for demonstrator and data curation projects has been launched. This call invited researchers to submit proposals for projects for maximally 100k euro, and the total available budget for this call is 600k euro. The following proposals were awarded a grant:
Arthurian Fiction (*Arthurian Fiction in Medieval Europe*)
C-DSD (*Curating the Dutch Song Database*)
OAVA (*Cognition, Acquisition and Variation Tool*)
INPOLDER (*Integrated Parser and Lemmatizer Dutch in Retrospect*)
IPROSLA (*Integrating and publishing resources on sign language acquisition*)
NEHOL (*Negerhollands Database*)
VU-DNC (*VU Diachronic Newspaper Corpus*)
WAHSP (*Web-application for historical sentiment mining in public media*)
WIP (*War in Parliament*)

These projects are descibed in more detail on the CLARIN NL website at: http://www.clarin.nl/node/162.

All CLARIN NL projects are described in a booklet, which can be downloaded at: http://www.clarin.nl/node/85.

New CLARIN Members

- **LUSI-LAB & Department of Physics, University of Naples ''Federico II"**
- **Center for Research in Linguistics and Languages Sciences Newcastle University**
- **Institut für Linguistik, Universität Stuttgart**
- **Istituto per il Lessico Intellettuale Europea e Storia dell Idee, CNR, Rome**
- **Dipartimento di Science della Comunicazione, Universitá degli studi di Salerno**

Announcements and Events

UNITED STATES
The US National Science Foundation's directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences received 244 unique white papers that lay out visions for the future of the SBE sciences, the capacities necessary to pursue that research, and the infrastructure required to support it. There are at least seven white papers with relevance to language infrastructure. Links to these papers are here: http://cyberling.org/node/266

Meeting of the CLARIN Executive Board:
The next EB-meeting will take place on April 18 and 19, 2011. Suggestions for agenda points can be sent to Hetty Winkel.

The next Newsflash will be published in April 2011. If you have any news to be included, please send it to Hetty Winkel before April 10. (h.winkel@uu.nl).