

SPEECH RECOGNITION ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE - RECENT TRENDS

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ABSTRACT

It is difficult to talk about major speech recognition activities in Europe without mentioning the multilingual framework of this continent. This has set the stage for "mega" projects with very large consortia, which have been mainly concerned in the past with setting up comparable linguistic resources in each language/dialect for training and testing ASR systems. Recent examples have been the SpeechDat [1] project and its extensions to Eastern European and Latin American [2] countries, data collection in vehicles [3] and a follow-up project, currently under negotiation.

At the same time, much smaller consortia dealing only with speech recognition in three or four different languages have multiplied throughout Europe and a very good indicator of the high level of activity of the ASR community is the very large number of proposals submitted to the HLT (Human Language Technologies)[4] program last June - 33 proposals on some topic of speech processing, of which 8 have entered the negotiation phase.

Without trying by any means to be exhaustive, this talk will address examples of both large and small projects, either recently finished [6][8] [10] [14] [16], on going [9] [11] [13] [15] or, if possible, about to start [5] [7], with the goal of giving a rough indicator of the most current research topics and / or innovative applications using ASR in Europe.

1. REFERENCES

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- [2] SALA - SpeechDat across Latin America
<http://gps-tsc.upc.es/veu/sala/>
- [3] SpeechDat Car - Speech Databases recorded in Vehicles
<http://speechdat.phonetik.uni-muenchen.de/SP-CAR/>
- [4] Observatory of Human Language Technologies
<http://www.linglink.lu/hlt/>
- [5] ALERT - Alert System for Selective Dissemination of Multimedia Information
- [6] ARISE - Automatic Railway Information Systems for Europe
<http://www2.echo.lu/langeng/projects/arise/summary.html>
- [7] CATCH-2004 - Converse in Athens, Cologne, and Helsinki
- [8] DISC - Spoken Language Dialogue Systems and Components - Best practice in development and evaluation
<http://www.elsnet.org/disc/>
- [9] ELSE - Evaluation in Language and Speech Engineering
<http://www.limsi.fr/TLP/ELSE/>
- [10] MASK - Multimodal-Multimedia Automated Service Kiosk
<http://www.limsi.fr/Recherche/TLP/mask.html>
- [11] MATE - Multilevel Annotation, Tools Engineering
<http://mate.nis.sdu.dk/>
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<http://www.dcs.shef.ac.uk/research/groups/spandh/projects/respite/>
- [14] SPRACH - SPeech Recognition Algorithms for Connectionist Hybrids
<http://tcts.fpms.ac.be/sprach/sprach.html>
- [15] THISL - Thematic Indexing of Spoken Language
<http://www.dcs.shef.ac.uk/spandh/projects/thisl/>
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<http://isl.ira.uka.de/VODIS/>