

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA16105

STSM title: WG2: Scenario building for Crowdsourcing in Language

Assessment Tests

STSM start and end date: 14/07/2019 to 28/07/2019

Grantee name: Claudia Borg

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

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(max.200 words)

The main purpose of this STSM was to plan and study possible implicit crowdsourcing scenarios in the specific sector of Language Schools and their use of placement tests to assign students to their appropriate levels. Language schools have a very strong presence in the language learning industry, however they tend to focus more on face to face contact and teaching, with little use of digital and technological aids. The aim of the STSM was to assess the different language schools in Malta and see how their placement tests are set up and whether they use technology in their classrooms or not. The placement tests were to be analysed as well so that we could determine which type of exercises fit with the implicit crowdsourcing scenarios.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

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(max.500 words)

During the STSM, I analysed all official language schools in Malta that teach English as a foreign language. Usually their market consists of teenagers to adults from all parts of the world, who would visit Malta for a number of weeks. The students would be situated at the school and spend this time learning English and be in contact with the language continuously. Malta is a favourable market for teaching English since English is an official language and is widely spoken alongside Maltese. The idea is to start forging contacts with a selection of English schools who might be willing to collaborate with EnetCollect. The list compiled took into consideration various aspects – what type of placement test is available, whether they have an online learning platform for their students, whether they use technology in the classroom, and whether they have already participated in externally funded projects. The schools were ranked based on these criteria. I also did a number of online placement tests to gain a better understanding of the type of knowledge that is assessed, how students are categorised and assessed, the type of exercises used.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

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The main result of the STSM is an extensive list of language schools in Malta together with the contact details and an analysis of their placement tests and their profilaration of technology. This list is useful to be able to pinpoint potential participants for future implementations of crowdsourcing scenarios. In this way, we can specifically target schools that will be more relevant to the goals of the cost action.



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A list of placement tests were also created from those available online. These can be used as input to scenario building and prototype creation of placement tests that have underlying implicit crowdsourcing within their architecture.

Most of the placement tests tested vocabulary and grammar. Some tests included semantic meaning of words or expressions, and very few included pronunciation.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

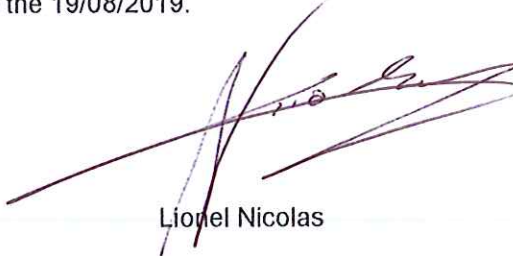
This work will feed into the WG2 meeting to be held later this year. The idea is to build up towards a hackaton through which EnetCollect members can come together and build specific tools aimed at implicit crowdsourcing and language learning. By gaining knowledge about the language schools and what technologies they are currently using, it will place us in a better position to direct the efforts of EnetCollect into where there is most potential.

In the next phase we would look at specific language resources that can be plugged at the backend of an implicit language learning scenario. There are several possibilities to create language learning exercises using vocabulary and grammar. However the next phase would entail link these type of exercises to specific datasets.

To whom it may concern,

as the host of this STSM, I hereby approve this report on the day the 19/08/2019.

Best regards,



Lionel Nicolas