
- **COST Action enetCollect** -

European Network for Combining Language Learning with Crowdsourcing Techniques



Summary

- Introduction
- Objectives
- Approach
- Expected impacts
- Stakeholders and Working Groups
- Management
- Network

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Main Challenge

Fostering the language skills of all citizens regardless of their backgrounds (social, linguistic, etc.) by enhancing the production of language learning material

=> Setting into motion a R&I trend that combines Language Learning and Crowdsourcing.

Relevance and timeliness

- 1) Europe is confronted with intensified migration flows (e.g. Erasmus programs, market globalization, Syrian conflicts).
=> Enabling proper communication is a decisive factor.

- 2) Target groups are spread over Europe while language learning material is usually produced at country-level.
=> A trans-frontier approach should be favored.

- 3) Devising material for the overwhelming number of combinations between languages and target groups requires a large-scale and inclusive approach.
=> EnetCollect sets into motion a R&I trend fostering multiple initiatives.

Relevance and timeliness

- 4) Nowadays 21% of the Europeans aged over 14 are actively learning a language.
=> A massive barely-exploited crowdsourcing potential exists for every language.

- 5) Crowdsourcing is omnipresent in language-related R&I fields but efforts are scattered, uncoordinated, and make very limited use of language learning.
=> The time is ideal for obtaining support from numerous R&I stakeholders.

- 6) Funding agencies increasingly acknowledge the potential of Crowdsourcing.
=> EnetCollect creates a solid and generic footing for numerous initiatives.
=> The time is increasingly favorable for obtaining funding.

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Overall Strategic Objective

Incubating a new R&I trend to a point where multiple parallel and complementary finely-prepared projects relying on successful past cooperations can be started.

Research Coordination Objectives

- Objective 1 -

Creating a theoretical framework for achieving
a shared understanding.

⇒ From low-level aspects, e.g. establishing a common terminology.

⇒ To higher-level aspects, e.g. as evaluating the potential and limits.

Pursued by all WGs

Indicator of completion

- Creation and subsequent updates of a handbook.

Research Coordination Objectives

- Objective 2 -

Gathering evaluation data for complementing
the theoretical framework

⇒ Factual information from prototypical experiments and surveys.

Pursued by all WGs

Indicator of completion

- Creation of complementary evaluation reports.

Research Coordination Objectives

- Objective 3 -

Disseminating the knowledge created and the achievements obtained.

⇒ Communication targeted to different stakeholder groups.

Pursued mostly through the Dissemination and Exploitation plans

Indicator of completion

- Amount of Action-internal content disseminated.

Capacity-building Objectives

- Objective 4 -

Creating a balanced interdisciplinary core community of active stakeholders.

- ⇒ A core community with actual experience in collaborating.
- ⇒ A core crowd that can be reached through the core community.

Pursued mostly through the Outreach plan (Cost policies)

Indicators of completion

- Final number of Action members.
- Balancing between member characteristics.

Capacity-building Objectives

- Objective 5 -

Establishing communication channels.

Well-identified communication means allowing to:

- ⇒ easily share information,
- ⇒ reach relevant stakeholders.

Pursued mostly through the Dissemination plan.

Indicator of completion

- Amount of Action-external content transmitted through the channels.

Capacity-building Objectives

- Objective 6 -

Fostering new funded initiatives.

Relying on the Action's outputs to plan parallel or follow-up projects.

Pursued mostly through the Exploitation plan

Indicators of completion

- Preparation of two large proposals for European follow-up projects.
- Preparation of several national/regional/local project proposals.

Capacity-building Objectives

- Objective 7 -

Creating an association that takes over after enetCollect ends.

- ⇒ Establish a **stable instrument** to continue and steer the work started.
- ⇒ The association will follow a long-term agenda, take over and maintain the outputs and handle subsequent editions of a recurrent scientific event.

Pursued by the core group.

Indicator of completion

- Creation of a non-profit association and the number of its members.

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Approach

- Research coordination -

EnetCollect researches crowdsourcing approaches of two types:

- **Explicit**, i.e. the crowd intentionally participates (WG1),
- **Implicit**, i.e. the crowd is not necessarily aware of its participation (WG2).

EnetCollect also researches factors and conditions related to **user-orientation**, and **usability** for language learning (WG3).

EnetCollect researches factors and conditions related to **technology** (WG4) and **ethical, legal and commercial dimensions** (WG5).

Approach

- Capacity building-

EnetCollect will devise sophisticated Outreach, Dissemination and Exploitation Plans with several mechanisms (e.g. Collective Workforce).

EnetCollect follows an Open Access, Open Data and Open Science logic.

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Expected impacts

- In the short term -

Completion of the overall strategic objective, i.e. incubating a new R&I trend to a point where multiple parallel and complementary finely-prepared projects relying on successful past cooperations can be started, by means of:

- ⇒ an interdisciplinary core community with practical experience in collaborating,
- ⇒ a theoretical framework, prototypical data and a shared agenda.

Expected impacts

- In the short to long term -

Ground-breaking advancements of language learning practice and improvement of language-related R&I achievements derived from the enhanced creation of:

- ⇒ language learning material of outstanding quality and diversity.
- ⇒ language-related datasets of outstanding quality and diversity.

Thus meeting the Action's challenge of fostering the language skills of all citizens regardless of their backgrounds (and more).

Expected impacts

- Main beneficiaries in the long term -

Pretty much everybody related to language learning and data-intensive R&I subjects on the whole planet (and especially in Europe) !

Since a massive crowdsourcing potential is available for all language, **less-resourced languages**, despite having a smaller crowd to rely on, will be the ones benefitting the most!

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Stakeholder groups

The relevant stakeholders belong to 4 profiles:

(1) content-creation experts (ranging from teachers to researchers),

(2) content-usage experts (teachers and students for most),

(3) crowdsourcing experts (researchers for most),

(4) Learning/Content Management System developers (LMS/CMS).

Working Groups

- WG1 -

R&I on Explicit Crowdsourcing for Language Learning material production

Stakeholders: content-creation experts and crowdsourcing experts.

Timeline:

[0-12] Overview of existing materials and workflows for their creation
Review of explicit crowdsourcing approaches

[6-24] Research on producing learning material through explicit crowdsourcing

[18-45] Design, implementation, and testing of prototypes

Working Groups

- WG2 -

R&I on Implicit Crowdsourcing for Language Learning material production

Stakeholders: content-usage experts and crowdsourcing experts.

Timeline:

- [**0-12**] Overview of existing materials and workflows for their creation
Review of implicit crowdsourcing approaches
- [**6-24**] Research on producing learning material through implicit crowdsourcing
- [**18-45**] Design, implementation, and testing of prototypes

Working Groups

- WG3 -

**User-oriented design strategies
for a competitive solution**

Stakeholders: content-creation experts and content-usage experts.

Timeline:

[**0-12**] Overview of existing state-of-the-art online language learning solutions

[**6-24**] Studies on functionalities, interface design, and usability

[**18-45**] Testing of prototypical functionalities, interface, and usability

Working Groups

- WG4 -

**Technology-oriented specifications
for a flexible and robust solution**

Stakeholders: CMS developers and crowdsourcing experts.

Timeline:

[6-45] Technical solutions and blueprints to support WG1 and WG2
Technical solutions and blueprints to support WG3

Working Groups

- WG5 -

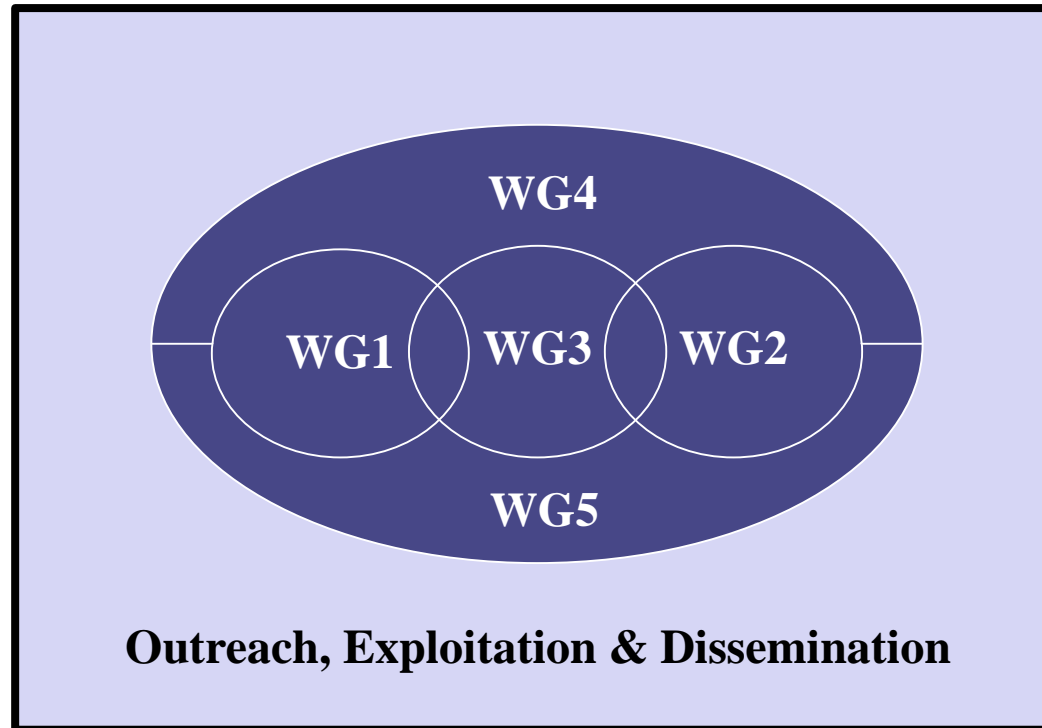
**Application-oriented specifications
for an ethical, legal and profitable solution**

Stakeholders: all stakeholder groups.

Timeline:

- [6-45] Devising guidelines for an ethical language learning solution
- Devising guidelines for a legal language learning solution
- Devising guidelines for a profitable language learning solution

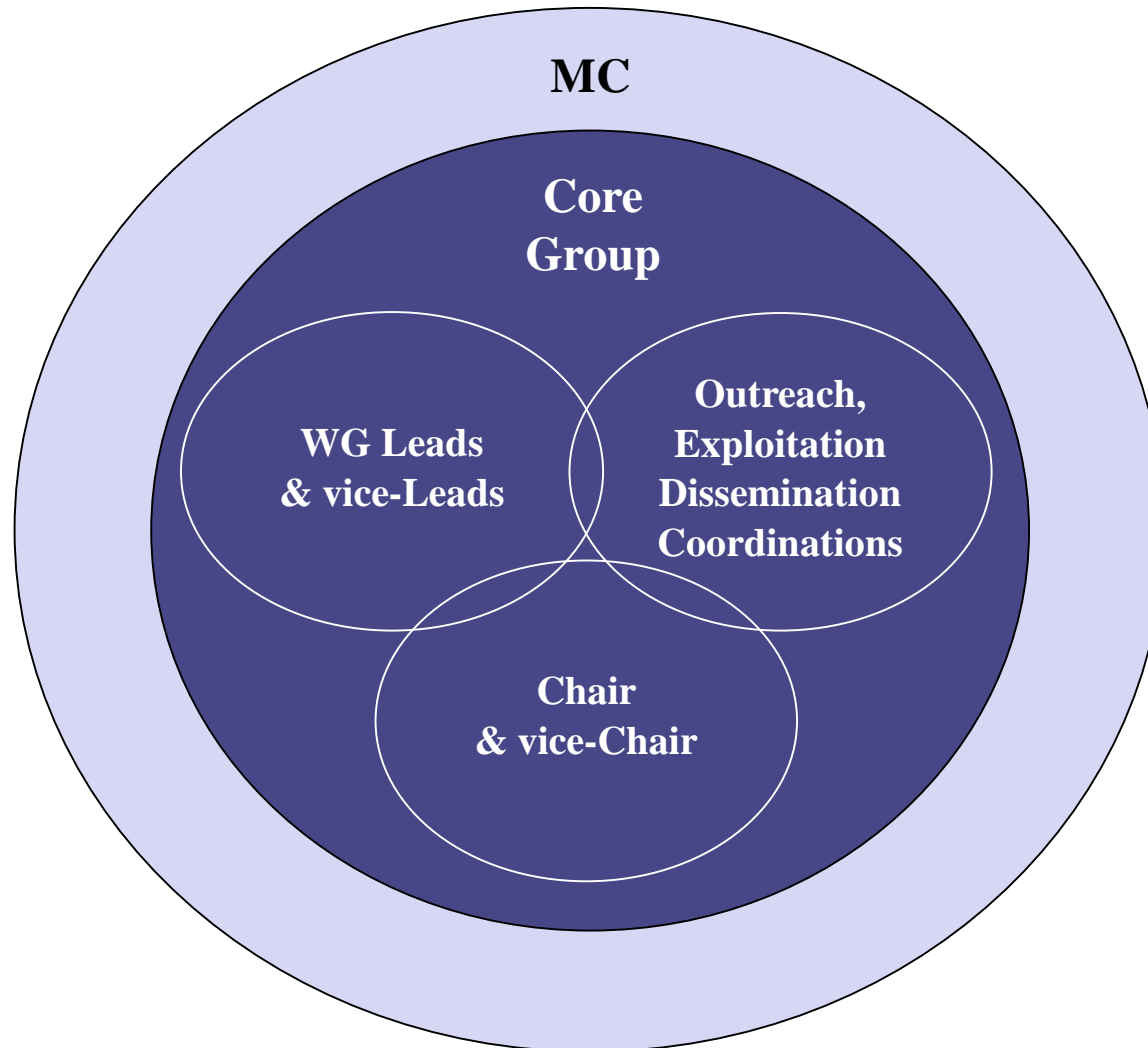
Overall research coordination



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Management structure



Management rules

- Meetings** General Meetings (WG, MC, Core) for the entire network once a year. Core group will hold four meetings (2 physical, 2 online).
- Elections** The MC elect the Action Chairs and the WG Leaders.
The Action Chairs and WG Leaders elect the OED Coordinators.
Yearly re-confirmation.
Extraordinary elections will be scheduled as needed.
- STSMs** Proposals collected and managed by the Exploitation Coordination.
Selection of the proposals at each core group meeting.

Management rules

Procedures Minor updates will be taken by the core group and reported to the MC. Major updates will be discussed at MC meetings and voted.

Monitoring The core group will provide activity reports prior to Annual meetings. Special attention will be dedicated to implement Cost policies. All reports will be made available online.

IPR Open Access, Data and Science encouraged but not enforced. IPR strategy document will identify and protect IPR (e.g. ownership, access rights, etc.) and dispute settlement.

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Network

- Network of proposers -

The network of proposers included

- 68 members from 34 countries
- the 4 targeted stakeholder groups,
- a wide variety of languages and linguistic backgrounds (26 languages belonging to 8 different language families),
- a large spectrum of **private** and **public** institutions.

The network of proposers exhibited an appropriate balancing in

- ✓ **gender** (44% Males, 56% Females),
- ✓ **seniority** (39 “Early Career Investigators” out of 68 proposers),
- ✓ **nationalities** (34 countries),
- ✓ **inclusiveness** balancing (54.8% of “Inclusiveness Target Countries”).

Network

- Current state of affairs -

- ⇒ The current MC already includes 28 COST countries.
- ⇒ More than 100 persons are registered on the general mailing list!

As soon as the WGs and the Outreach coordination are established, the inclusion of new members will be oriented to implement COST policies.

**Many thanks for
your attention**