



FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1

Grant Agreement: 316087

AComIn: Advanced Computing for Innovation

**FP7 Capacity Programme
Research Potential of Convergence Regions**

EVENT ORGANISATION REPORT

Author: Galia Angelova, Department of Linguistic Modelling and Knowledge Processing, IICT-BAS

Summary: Report about the organisation of the 10th International Conference “Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing” RANLP-2015, 5-11 September 2015, Hissar, Bulgaria

Status: Final Report

Distribution: Public

Issue Date: 30 September 2015

Start date of the project: 01/10/2012

Duration: 42 months



Report about RANLP-2015, an event supported by AComIn

Name and type of the event:

10th International Conference RANLP-2015
“Recent Advances in Natural Language Processing”
Biennial event organised in Bulgaria since 1995
<http://www.lmi.bas.bg/ranlp2015>

Place, dates:

Hissar, Hotel AUGUSTA
5-6 September 2015: RANLP Tutorials
7-9 September 2015: RANLP Conference and associated Student Research Workshop
10-11 September 2015: RANLP Workshops

Programming and Organisation committees:

The Programme Committee of the main conference RANLP-2015 consists of 73 members. In addition, 95 reviewers took part in the review process of 176 submissions. The names of the PC members and reviewers can be found at <http://lmi.bas.bg/ranlp2015/programmeCommittee.php>.

All satellite events of RANLP (Student Research Workshop and the five Workshops held on 10-11 September 2015) have separate Programme Committees which are shown at the respective event pages.

The team behind RANLP consists of the following experts who serve as Organising Committee:

Galia Angelova, IICT-BAS, Bulgaria (Chair of the Organising Committee)
Kalina Bontcheva, University of Sheffield, UK
Ruslan Mitkov, University of Wolverhampton, UK (Chair of the Programme Committee)
Preslav Nakov, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar
Nikolai Nikolov, Association for Computational Linguistics, Shoumen, Bulgaria
Ivelina Nikolova, IICT-BAS, Bulgaria
Kiril Simov, IICT-BAS, Bulgaria (Workshop coordinator)
Irina Temnikova, Qatar Computing Research Institute, Qatar Foundation, Qatar

Participants /number, types/ :

From IICT: 11 researchers (G. Angelova, K. Simov, P. Osenova, O. Kanishcheva, I. Nikolova, I. Radev, L. Zlatkov, S. Kantcheva, A. Popov, N. Terzijska, V. Todorova), the first five are supported via AComIn
Bulgarian participants outside IICT: 18 researchers, students and industrial representatives
Foreign participants: 135 including 10 invited speakers
Invited participants: 13, 7 of them supported via AComIn

Short description:

RANLP-2015 consisted of

- Four tutorials given in 2 days (5-6 September 2015), with Programme shown at <http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2015/tutorials.php> ;
- Main conference (7-9 September 2015) with 6 invited talks, 56 oral presentations, 39 poster presentations, and a parallel Student Research Workshop with 3 oral presentations and 2 poster presentations; for more detail see the Programme at http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2015/docs/programme_31Aug-forWeb.pdf ;
- Five Workshops held on 10-11 September 2015, where 5 invited talks and 46 papers were presented, see the Workshop Programmes at <http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2013/workshops.php>

Scientific Programme of the whole event:

The Scientific Programmes of all RANLP events for 2015 are available at:

Tutorials: <http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2015/tutorials.php>

Main conference: http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2015/docs/programme_31Aug-forWeb.pdf

Workshops: starting www-page at <http://lml.bas.bg/ranlp2013/workshops.php>

Scientific Programme of the AComIn-related activities:

The invited lecturers, supported by AComIn, gave the following presentations:

- Paolo Rosso (Polytechnic University of Valencia): "Author profiling in social media", a tutorial held on 5 September 2015, 10:00-13:40;
- Leon Derczynski (University of Sheffield): "NLP for social media", a tutorial held on 5 September 2015, 15:00-18:40;
- Horacio Saggion (University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona): "An Introduction to Automatic Text Simplification", a tutorial held on 6 September 2015, 9:30-13:10;
- Bonnie Webber (University of Edinburgh, Scotland): "Towards improving the discourse coherence of SMT output", an invited talk held on 7 September 2015, 14:30-15:30;
- Marcello Federico (Fondazione Bruno Kessler, Trento): "When machine translation meets human translators", an invited talk held on 9 September 2015, 9:00-10:00;
- Idan Szpektor (Yahoo Research, Haifa): "Natural Language Processing for Community Question Answering", an invited talk held on 9 September 2015, 14:30-15:30;
- Piek Vossen (VU University Amsterdam): "From mentions in text to instances in RDF: cross-lingual interpretation of unstructured news in the NewsReader project", an invited talk held on 8 September 2015, 9:30-10:30.

The above listed tutorials and invited talks concerned core AcomIn topics: big data in natural language processing as well as large-scale approaches to text analysis using large linguistic resources. The papers of the IICT experienced researchers, published with the support of AComIn, were presented with slides acknowledging the project within the Conference and Workshop sessions. Project leaflets were given to all conference participants as conference materials. The AComIn logo is shown at the RANLP-2015 site and all conference materials.

AComIn-related papers presented at the event and published after peer review:

Three AComIn-related papers are published in the Proceedings of the RANLP-2015 events:

- Kanishcheva, O. and G. Angelova. About Emotion Identification in Visual Sentiment Analysis. Proceedings of RANLP-2015, pp. 258–265, to be uploaded at the ACL Anthology (USA), <http://aclweb.org/anthology>
- Simov, K., A. Popov and P. Osenova. Improving Word Sense Disambiguation with Linguistic Knowledge from a Sense Annotated Treebank. Proceedings of RANLP-2015, pp. 596–603, to be uploaded at the ACL Anthology (USA), <http://aclweb.org/anthology>
- Osenova, P. and K. Simov. Universalizing BulTreeBank: a Linguistic Tale about Glocalization. In Proceedings of the 5th Workshop on Balto-Slavic Natural Language Processing, pp. 81–89, ISBN 978-954-452-033-5, 2015, to be uploaded at the ACL Anthology (USA), <http://aclweb.org/anthology>

Assessment of the added-value of the event to the AComIn dissemination objectives:

The support, provided by AComIn to RANLP-2015, enabled:

- To invite world renowned keynote speakers and tutorial lecturers who presented the achievements in the hottest “large-scale” trends in Natural Language Processing. The IICT post-doctoral researchers listened to state-of-the-art presentations and established fruitful connections with younger experienced scientists from abroad;
- To introduce “reduced fees” for conference participants from countries with lower standard, including lower fees for Bulgarian participants. This concerned especially representatives of Bulgarian software industry and Bulgarian students who attended esp. in the tutorials without any restrictions. In this way the industrial training component of RANLP was particularly strengthened because many companies benefited directly from the practical aspects of the tutorials.

All RANLP-2015 participants were informed about AComIn, which improves the image of IICT as a regional Centre of Excellence in language and semantic technologies.

Changes in the financial planning of the AComIn support spending (if any):

There were no changes in the budget plan, approved by the AComIn Executive Board in June 2015.

Reason for the changes during the actual event implementation: N/A

Event organiser:

30 September 2015

Galia Angelova