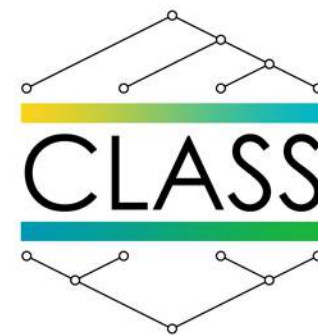**CLASS**

Editor's note!
Welcome to our first CLASS Newsletter!
This is a feature that will report on the program's progress. It will be published every six months. The newsletters will focus on the program's news: our meetings and our outomes. The first months of the program have been really busy!

In this issue we discuss the kick off meeting in Santiago de Compostela, our online meeting as well as all actions taken from all partners in regard to the dissemination of the project.
Let's ckeck the progress we've made!

KICK OFF MEETING
Santiago de Compostela, 17-20.02. 2018

On February 19-20, 2018 at the University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, a kick-off meeting for the project 585845-EPP-1-2017-1-ES-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP - "Development of an interdisciplinary master's program in computational linguistics in Central Asian universities" was held.

The consortium of the project consists of 12 universities from six countries (EU: University of Santiago de Compostela University of La Coruna, Spain; University of Porto, Portugal; Technological Educational Institute of Athens, Greece; Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland; Uzbekistan: UrSU, SSIFL, A.Navoyi USUULL, NUU; Kazakhstan: A.Baitursynov KSU, L.GumilevENU, Al-FarabiKazNU). The partner universities from Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan emphasized the relevance of the project for both countries. European partners were active, showed a keen interest in Central Asian universities and demonstrated a desire to cooperate. The Steering Committee of the project was defined. It includes one representative from each partner university.

The partners of the project were welcomed by Almudena Hospido, Vice-rector for Internationalization and María José LópezCouso, Dean of the Faculty of Philology at the University of Santiago de Compostela. The meeting allowed the partners to get acquainted personally, to present universities, to coordinate current and prospective joint activities for the project and to envisage partnership opportunities that are beyond the scope of the project.

During the meeting, the coordinator and partners presented and discussed the following issues of the project implementation: Project management, incl. financial management of the project; Quality assurance strategy in two aspects: the quality of the project and the quality of the development of the interdisciplinary master program; Strategy for Dissemination of the project results and Strategy for Sustainabilityof project results.

The Action plan, approved by all participants of the meeting (3 representatives from each university), defines the nearest project activities, activates the project implementation and stimulates regular interaction between partners. To store and exchange materials for the project, Dropbox folder is used; and since May 2018 - the website of the project will be applied.

TEIATH IS NOW UWA

A new era begins for TEIATH that has now been renamed to University of West Attica (UWA). The shift involves a series of administrative and curriculum changes. The University will now comprise of twenty-six departments in five different faculties to accommodate approximately twenty-four thousand students.

The University's new site will be hosted in the domain www.uniwa.gr. It is now under construction. In the meantime, information related to the University can be found in the former web site of Campus I (ex TEIATH). The new logo (image on the right) represents the head of the famous Greek philosopher, Plato.

The establishment of UWA was celebrated in a formal event hosted March 12, 2018 in the presence of the Greek Prime Minister, the Minister of Education, the Mayor of Egaleo and the President of UWA.

Partners' Online Meeting, 28.03.2018

The partners discussed the following issues: The reports on analyses of the content of international educational master programs in Computational Linguistics by AMU, NUUz and ENU; the trends for CLASS project master programqualification description. Prof. Zygmunt Vetulani provided explanation concerning the report on the analysis of international master programs on Computational Linguistics. NUUz has been in contact with AMU and prepared the presentation on the analysis.

The Analysis done by ENU includes the survey results which aimed at determiningpossibleemployment and the competences of specialists in the field of Computational Linguistics based on interviewing potential employers. The Central Asia project partners are still expected to provide their feedback on the reports. The master program risk assessment provided by Prof. Zygmunt Vetulani was shared by Professor Belinda Maia. She stated that to develop the qualification description for the future masters it is crucially important to be aware of the availability of language resources and tools that can be used in teaching.

Thus CA universities will compile and share the list of available to everyone Kazakh-English and Uzbekh-English language resources and tools. Prof. Zygmunt Vetulani emphasized that the language engineering tools for these languages, such as text/speech corpora (mono and multilingual), digital computer-processing dictionaries, grammars, parsers, tree-banks, language ontologies (e.g. in form of wordnets).
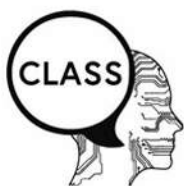(minutes held by Yelena Kandalina)

The video collaboration tool that was used (appear.in) proved to be inefficient. Therefore, a new tool has been recommended for the next meeting. Partners are kindly requested to install the relative software from **eztalks.com**. Otherwise send an e-mail to: **ksuintrel@gmail.com** to receive an invitation link to join the meeting.
(minutes held by UDC)

Partners' Logo Competition

and the winner is...

After CLASS kick off meeting in Santiago de Compostela all partners have mutually devised a short competition for a CLASS logo. Here are the entries:

UWA has been assigned the task to design and supervise the project's site. Upon the completion of the logo competition, the institution carried out the assignment. CLASS official site is now available at the address:

http://erasmus-class.eu

L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University has established a blog for the dissemination of the CLASS program. The blog is in Kazakh languageand it presents the viewer with all kinds of information about the program's partners, its goals and its outcomes. The ENU blog is available here:

http://comling.enu.kz

Co-funded by the Tempus Programme of the European Union

Development of the interdisciplinary master program on Computational Linguistics at Central Asian universities

ABOUT THE PROJECT · PARTNERS · PARTICIPANTS FROM ENU · PRESENTATIONS · REPORT · PROJECT OP · VIDEO · CONTACTS

Meeting of project coordinators February 19-20, 2018 at the University of Santiago de Compostela (Spain)

* This edition is based on articles and notes collected from CLASS partners over a period of six months. We would like to thank this issues' contributors and invite everyone to participate in the next issue!

ENU's Video Roller is now available in YouTube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ae_MY-kUCaA

The Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education of the Republic of Uzbekistan has issued an article on CLASS. The author highlights the significance of the program as it promotes international collaborations and the use of up-to-date educational pedagogical technologies but most importantly, its emphasis on the creation of educational programs and methodological materials based on international educational standards. For more please visit:

http://edu.uz/uz/news/view/824

Every year, an action plan will be comprised with the aim to guide all partners through the actions and activities of the program. The plan will be decided among the partners and wiill clearly indicate each partner's responsibilities and the outcomes each institution is required to deliver along with the predetermined dates for group meetings and submissions.
Here is this year's action plan!

	Task	Responsible	Date
	Logo design (website + official docs)	Each partner university submits a logo to USC	28.02.2018
	Establish the one platform (ex. DROPBOX or another) until creating the WEBSITE for uploading the prepared project's materials	TEIATH	20.04.2018
	Online meetings: Link for video conference -once in 2 months. USC will define the day and time (2 weeks in advance)	Appear in KSU	
	Submitting information to TEIATHabout each partner to be published at the website	ALL PARTNERs	30.03.18
4.2	Creating the web site of the project	TEIATH	20.04.2018
	Defining local coordinators and project team. (Sending CVs, contact information, etc.)	Each partner university submits to DROPBOX	5.03.2018
		KSU prepares the templates	
6.2			23.02.2018
1.3	Analyzing the content of international educational master programs in Computer Linguistics (Suggestion or report)The report is presented at the 1st online conference , USC will inform all the partners 2 weeks before the online conference	AMU, NUUZ, ENU	20.03.2018
	Needs analysis - CA academic staff in syntactic, morphological and semantic structure of the English language		
1.4.1	Syllabus (instruction, materials) for teaching and instructing CA academic staff in syntactic, morphological and semantic structure of the English language	UDC	15.03.2018
	Training in UDC on syntactic, morphological and semantic structure of the English language	5 teacher per CA university	End of June
1.4.2	The for teaching and instructing CA academic staff in syntactic, morphological and semantic structure of the English language 144 hours	ALL CA partners	Since September 1, 2018
1.4.3	Evaluation of the CA academic staff in syntactic, morphological and semantic structure of the English language	UDC	Dec-18
1.5	Purchasing equipment for administrative and teaching issues 1.Preparing suggestions 2.The list of the equipment 3. Purchase of books	ALL CA partners submit suggestions to USC USC USC	10.03.2018 10.04.2018 Before June
2.1.1	Preparing of the draft of the part curriculum for working and suggestions on developing curriculum	• UDC with ENU and SAMSIFL (NLP FOR CL) • AMU with UrSU, KSU and NUUz (IT for CL) • U.PORTO with KazNU and TSUUL (Linguistics for CL)	26-May-18
2.1.2	Approving the final version of curriculum via video conference or in the quarterly meeting	USC, UDC, AMU, TEIATH and U.PORTO	43252
2.1.3	Qualification description	U.PORTO	26-Apr-18
	Developing syllabuses (Must be distributed among partners)	1 2 3	
2.3	Training CA academic staff in blended learning 1. Preparing training materials 2.List of participants with details 3. Define the date for training	AMU	
4.1	Establishing and executing dissemination plan (Creating the templates for partners for filling up the plan with the dates)	NUUZ and KAZNU	