Editor's note!

Welcome to our third CLASS Newsletter and happy new evrybody!

In this issue, we will primarily discuss the Tashkent meeting that took place on October 16 and 17, 2018. We will be presenting the most recent work implemented during the meeting along with the action plan devised for the period October 2018 - March 2019.

We will also take a closer look at new CLASS dissemination events organized in the previous months.

Now, let's look at all the progress we've made!

TASHKENT MEETING
National University of Uzbekistan, 16-17.10.2018

The National University of Uzbekistan (NUUz) has hosted CLASS October meeting in Tashkent. Sessions were held at the Meeting Hall of the School of Mathematics. The numerous consortium participants were welcomed by Aripov Mersaid, NUUz CLASS Coordinator and Kudratkhon Bahadirov, the Uzbekistan ERASMUS Office expert. Yelena Kandalina, local coordinator for Kazakh Universities and Gayrat Urozboev, local coordinator for Uzbek Universities also welcomed the visiting cohort.

Tashkent Meeting Structure

DAY 01: Speaker Sessions - Presentations
Welcome speaches: Aripov Mersaid, Kudratkhon Bahadirov, Yelena Kandalina, Gayrat Urozboev
Presenters: Zygmunt Vetulani, Pablo Gamallo, Carlos Gomez, Diana Rakhimova & Gulmira Madiyeva, Altynbek Sharipbay, Aripov Mersaid

DAY 02: Group Work

Tashkent Meeting - Program Overview

DEAR_____

The Mathematics faculty, NUUz invites you to participate in the meeting which is mainly dedicated to the **"Development of Master program in Computational Linguistics"** within the framework of Erasmus+ CLASS project

Registration: 09:30 - 10:00 a.m. October 16, 2018.
Venue: Conference hall, 2nd floor, Mathematics faculty, NUUz, Tashkent.

WELCOME SPEECHES

Avazjon Marakhimov - Rector of NUUz
Aziza Abdurakhmanova - NEO coordinator in Uzbekistan
Yelena Kandalinda - Coordinator of CLASS project in Kazakhstan
Gayrat Urozboev - Coordinator of CLASS project in Uzbekistan
Mersaid Aripov - Head of the Applied mathematics and Computer Analysis department

PROGRAM

October 16

10:30–11:10 Zygmunt Vetulani- Analysis of international master programs by AMU with recommendations; Curriculum – Risk Analysis
11:10–11:30 Coffee break
11:30–12:00 Pablo Gamallo - Own experiences and suggestions for the development of the curriculum Suggestions for the development of the curriculum
12:00–12:30 Carlos Gómez - Own experiences and suggestions for the development of the curriculum; Suggestions for the development of the curriculum
12:30–13:00 Belinda Maia - Own experiences and suggestions for the development of the curriculum
13:00–14:30 Lunch
14:30–15:00 Diana Rakhimova and Gulmira Madiyeva-Suggestions for the development of the curriculum
15:00–15:30 Altynbek Sharipbay-Analyzing the content of international educational master programs in Computational Linguistics Curriculum; Suggestion of Kazakh Universities
15:30–16:00 Aripov Mersaid and Sanatbek Matlatipov-Analyzing the content of international educational master programs in Computational Linguistics Curriculum; Suggestion of Kazakh Universities
16:00 - Excursion sightseeing in Tashkent
19:00 - Dining out

October 17

10:00–11:30 All partners-Work in groups to create the syllabuses of the disciplines of the master program (NLP, IT and Linguistics) and to determine co-authors of the curriculum books and materials
11:30–12:00 Coffee break
12:00–13:00 KazNU/NUUz & all partners - Reports on Dissemination Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy approval
13:00–13:30 UDC & all partners-Quality Assurance Strategy Approval+ Action on Quality Assurance
13:00–14:30 Lunch
14:30 –17:00 All partners-Curriculum approval; Action plan October 2018- March 2019; Discussion and approval

Sessions were held at the Meeting Hall of the School of Mathematics.

Tashkent Meeting - DAY 01

Zygmunt Vetulani, coordinator of AMU CLASS inauguarated the meeting's sessions. His analysis focused on the most crucial aspects of the CLASS Project: degree; duration; teaching language; students'profile; recruitment requirements; curriculum structure and the issues of mobility and flexibility. Prof. Vetulani also determined three categories of project risks: the risks related to language resources and tools as well as those connected to the teaching staff and the students. He also stressed out the need for compensatory classes of the first semester to avoid the risk of mass withdrawal.

Next speaker, USC Professor Pablo Gamallo, made a quick retrospection of his own experience as a student and compared it to his current understanding of the Applied Linguistics master's degree as a teacher. Prof. Gamallo ultimately suggested that the new curriculum should be composed of a National Module (15-20 ECTS); a Research Module (25-30 ECTS); a NLP Module(20 ECTS); an IT Module (20 ECTS); a Linguistic Module (20 ECTS); and finally, a Compensatory Module (15 ECTS).

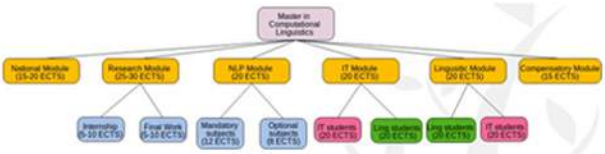

Figure: Arquitecture of the Master: Modules and ECTS

UDC Professor Carlos Gomez presented participants with three different programs leading to an equal number of degrees: one in Natural Languages (Degree in CS Engineering); one in Linguistics and Informatics (Degree in Philology) and a third in Written Language Processing + NL & Text Mining(Degree in Data Science and Engineering). Prof. Gamallo displayed the programs' context; their objectives; their syllabus and their assessment processes highlighting the special characteristics of the three diverse approaches.

Next on the podium was Belinda Maia, who sharec her experience of the Linguateca Project. According to Maia, morphological and syntactic analysis of real language use requires considerable quantities of language corpora, sophisticated linguistic analysis, and hard 'manual'work by properly qualified linguists. This has to be done before creating tools like spelling and grammar checkers for a language, let alone before working in rule based machine translation.

Diana Rakhimova and Gulmira Madiyeva from KazNU were next. The two ladies presented attendees the outline of a 2-year program of Linguistics. The two speakers specifically spoke of the discipline's purpose as well as the skills a master student should acquire while studying. Special mention was attributed to the program's repercussions in organizing linguistic knowledge for future linguists as well as broadening their general linguistic outlook.

ENU Professor Altynbek Sharipbay attempted to analyze the content of international educational master programs in computational linguistics curriculum through the domains of 'Linguistics', 'Speech Technologies' and 'Text Technologies'. He then suggested that training of specialists in Computational Linguistics should include disciplines from all three domains. As a representative of Kazakh Universities he recited a series of disciplines necessary to Complutational Linguistics training.

Aripov Mersaid and Sanatbek Matlatipov closed the DAY 01 session by discussing the Uzbek Universities insights. According to the two, a strong foundation in the basics of both computer science and formal linguistics is founded on computer science background courses and syntactic theory. (Reporting based on Sanatbek Matlatipov's minutes)

Tashkent Meeting - DAY 02

The second day of the Tashkent meeting was dedicated to the creation of syllabuses of the disciplines of the masters program and the determination of the co-authors of the curriculum books and materials. Attendees were divided in groups.

At the end of the session participants approved the reports on dissemination and exploitation strategy as well as the quality assurance strategy and the curriculum. The new action plan from October 2018 to March 2019 was also discussed and approved.

Action Plan October 2018 - March 2019

Ref./ Subref N°	Activities	Responsible	Deadline	Result
	Online meetings: Link for video conference - once in 2 months. USC will define the day and time (2 weeks in advance)	UrSU		1 meeting Each 2 months
1.4.2	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	In process
1.4.3	Evaluation of the CA academic staff in syntactic, morphological and semantic structure of the English language(to check a tool)	UDC	February 2019	online test+ certificate
1.5	Purchasing equipment for administrative and teaching issues - books are to be sent to ENU, NUUz - equipment to be purchased via 2 companies for KZ and UZ	USC KSU UrSU	Oct. 2018 Dec 2018	In process USC books, to be sent to ENU, NUUz
2.1.2	Approving the final version of curriculum via video conference or in the quarterly meeting		October 2018	done
2.1.3	Qualification description	KSU; UrSU		10 Nov, 2018
2.2	Developing syllabuses an its content materials (Must be distributed among partners) - Developing syllabuses (USC=template) - Reviewing syllabuses (KSU list) -Syllabuses correction in accordance with the reviews - Monitoring syllabuses correction -Development of content	*According to Tashkent meeting tasks* *CA partner\module* *According to Tashkent meeting tasks* *USC, KSU, UrSU*	10/12/2018 30/12/2018 30/01/2019 15/02/2019 30/03/2019	
4.1	Developing Sustainability Strategy	ENU, SamSIFL	For online meeting December 2018	
4.1	Developing Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy	NUUz, KazNU	For online meeting December 2018	
4.1.1	Monitoring Dissemination and Exploitation Strategy - to submit reports - collects partners' reports and prepares common report for the project	CA partners NUUz, KazNU	For online meeting February 2019	
5.1	Internal quality control and monitoring of the project action plan	USC, UrSU, KSU	February, 2019	
6.3	Organizing annual meetings for project management	TEIATH	To be defined after Equipment purchase in accordance with the budget	
5.3	Organizing semestral meetings for QA;	KAZNU		

In October 2018 CLASS consortium developed and approved the conventional curriculum for Computational Linguistics master program. Total amount of ECTS is 120 for 2 years training. While developing the curriculum the following factors were considered:
- the international best practices in Computational Linguistics training, including the experience of UDC, USC and AMU;
- the profile of a future program graduate: what competences should be developed during the study period;
- the content of the curriculum should be adaptive to the needs and capabilities of each partner.

The conventional curriculum was developed. The curriculum comprises five modules: National Module, Research Module, NLP Module including applications, Applied Linguistics Module, and Computational Technologies Module. Based on this curriculum each partner university has an opportunity to construct its own curriculum (Reporting: Yelena Kandalina).

Computational Linguistics at Central Asian universities

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Computational Linguistics at Central Asian universities
Conventional Curriculum

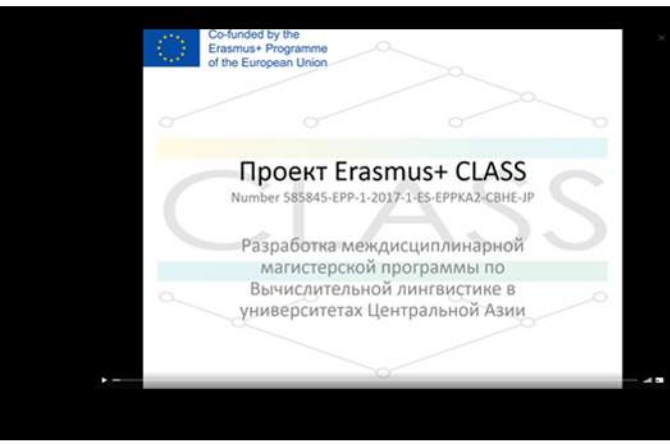
	Modules	ECTS	List of subjects		Notes
1	**National module**	*Obligatory module, which contains several disciplines, defined by the National Standards and Regulations of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan* *The content is defined by the National Standards of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan*			
		Total -19ECTS (max)			
2	**Research module**	*Obligatory module, which includes different types of the master students's work: research work, internship, teaching practice, writing a master dissertation, its defense, final examination*			
		Total– 28ECTS (max)			
3	**NLP module includingapplications**	**25 ECTS (min)**		**Responsible for Development**	
		4	Statistical methods for NLP	ENU	
		4	Language Resources	KazNU	
		4	Machine Translation Technologies	KazNU	
		4	Speech Processing	ENU	
		ELECTIVES (9ECTS, choose 3 disciplines):			
		3	Ontology Design tools		
		3	Formal Models in Linguistics		
		3	Sentiment Analysis Technology		
		3	Synthesis of Speech Analysis of Natural language		
		3	Methods for Information Retrieval and Extraction		
		3	Other (according to the needs)		
4	**Applied Linguisticsmodule**	**24ECTS (max)**			
		5	Formal Grammars	SamSIFL	
		5	Language analysis	KSU; TSUULL	
		5	Natural Language Understanding	UrSU	
			ELECTIVES (9 ECTS, choose 3 disciplines)		
		3	Computational Morphology		
		3	DialogueSystems		
		3	Tools for Thesauri Creating		
		3	Semantic Tools		
		3	Tools for Text Corpora Creating		
		3	ComputerLexicography		
		3	Other (according to the needs)		
5	**Computational Technologies module**	**24ECTS**			
		5	Introduction to Programming for NLP (Python, R, Prolog)	NUUz	
		5	Machine Learning in NLP	KSU; UrSU	
		5	Ontologies, Semantic	TSUULL; ENU	
			ELECTIVES (9 ECTS, choose 3 disciplines):		
		3	Data Mining		
		3	Deep Learning		
		3	Programming Pynthon, Java		
		3	Corpus Technologies		
		3	Other (according to the needs)		
	TOTAL	**120ECTS**			

Professor Zygmunt Vetulani from Adam Mickiewich University, conducted a lesson at NUUz!

Prof. Vetulani, from Adam Mickiewich University, conducted a lesson at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science, Professor of Computer Linguistics and Artificial Intelligence at Urgench State University, Department of Physics and Mathematics, Vocational Education: Informatics.

Grajina Vetulani, Professor of the "Logic, grammar and language processing" specialty, and Professor of the Adam Miskiewich University, Faculty of Modern Languages was involved in the subject of "Le lexique-grammaire en tant qu'approche semantique" for 3rd year students in the major of "Philology and Language Teaching: French Language".

The prospects of collaboration with Adam Miskiewich University were discussed for future academic and scientific purposes, training of graduate students, young teachers and researchers, organization of retraining and professional development of professors and teachers, and creation of new generation educational academic courses. (Reporting: Urazboev Gayrat)



KazNU Video Roller
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p2C7gP2FsxU&t=10s

KSU Video Roller
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-g3eYWbHJ64&t=12s

TSUULL wins 2nd place in Uzbekistan Exhibition!

An exhibition for Erasmus+ projects currently running in Uzbekistan was held on 5th and 6th October. TSUULL University participated in the exhibition with the CLASS Program and was awarded the second place among the 15 participating groups.

"TurkLang -2018"

The VI International Conference on Computer Processing of Turkic Languages "TurkLang -2018" was held at the University of the Uzbek Language and Literature on October, 18-20, 2018. The conference moderator was Nilufar Abdurakhmonova from TSUULL. The conference was devoted to the issues and scientific researches of creating computational languages of Turkic languages. More than a hundred professors participated, including Ashref Adali, Altinbek Sharipbay, Ayrat Gatiatullin, Murat Orhun, Olimjon Zokirov together with other scientists and researchers on the field of Computational linguistics from Finland, China, Portugal, Russia (Yakutia, Tuva, Chuvashia, Bashkorostan, Tatarstan), Turkey, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan.

The conference included several sections, such as Natural Language Processing linguistic resources, Ontology and Corpus linguistics, Machine translation. According to the seminar of Uniturk, scholars will create NLP technologies and linguistic resources collaboratively. Issues including collaboration of experts on corpus linguistics and computational linguistics were also discussed. The guests also introduced the progress of the project CLASS in the frame of Erasmus+.

Both the conference and CLASS project were communicated through " O'zbekiston 24", "Yoshlar", "Madaniyat va ma'rifat" and social networks like Turon 24, daryo.uz. (Reporting: Nilufar Abdurakhmonova)

Our next newsletter will be published in September 2019. Until then, please don't forget to send your minutes, your pictures and all your valuable contributions! Thank you in advance!