

Action IC1302
Semantic keyword-based search on structured data sources (KEYSTONE)

Subject | Minutes of the 5th Management Committee Meeting of COST Action IC1302 “Semantic keyword-based search on structured data sources (KEYSTONE)”

Marseille, France
22 February 2016

1. Welcome to participants

The meeting took place at the conference room of the “Faculté des Sciences” of the University of Aix-Marseille (Marseille, France). The meeting started at 14:00, on the 22nd February 2016 and finished at 16:15.

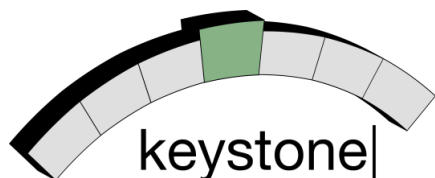
The participants were welcomed by Prof. Francesco Guerra, Chair of the Management Committee of the Action. Besides, Francesco thanked Prof. Omar Boucelma and his team for being the local organizers of the meeting.

2. Verification of the presence of two-thirds of the Participating COST Countries

Francesco Guerra read the attendance list in order to check that all participants in the meeting had signed (see Participants list in Annex I). There were 22 countries represented. So, the quorum was achieved (there were 28 countries participating in the Action at that moment).

3. Adoption of the agenda

Prof. Francesco Guerra presented the agenda of the meeting (see Agenda in Annex II) that was adopted. He also insisted on that the main goals of the meeting were: 1) informing about which had been done in the GP2 and the situation of the Action IC1302, 2) deciding which activities should be organized before the end of the GP2 (30th April), and 3) discussing about how to allocate the budget of the next grant period (GP4) that will start on 1st May 2016. After that, Prof. Francesco Guerra continued his presentation using some slides to support it (Annex III).



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4. Approval of the minutes and matters arising of last meeting

Prof. Francesco Guerra indicated that the minutes of the previous meetings were available at the Keystone website. He also told that the website was the place where it is possible to find all the information about KEYSTONE and he also encouraged to the MC Members to check and update the website periodically.

5. Update from the Action Chair

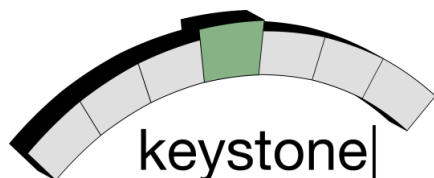
Prof. Francesco Guerra presented the composition of the COST Action, i.e. the list of countries participating in it. At that moment, 28 countries and 3 NNC (Albania, Russia and Ukraine) were participating in the Action. Francesco Guerra also indicated the number of members in each Working Group of the Action and how the members were distributed per country. The country with more people involved in the Action is Spain where a big number of research groups from different Universities are involved.

Francesco indicated that there were 91 Early Career Investigator (ECI) involved in the Action (40.04% of the total). He also remarked that one of the goals of Action COSTs is promoting the career of ECIs. Besides, Francesco pointed out that the participation of females in this COST Action (23.66%) is low, but consistent with the Computer Science area, an area which typically is unbalanced. Nevertheless, he encouraged the participants to think about activities to increase the number of female researchers participating in the Action.

After that, Prof. Francesco Guerra talked about the activities that had been done in GP2 and their costs: 2 meeting (37 848.36 and 45 942.48 €), 14 STSMs (22 318.00 €) and 1 Training School (23 918.65 €), and invited to Dr. Abdulhussain Mahdi (STSM Coordinator) to provide details about the STSMs performed.

Abdulhussain started his presentation with some slides to support it (see Annex IV). He indicated that in 2015, 14 STSM were supported with a cost of 22,518.00 €. He also showed which countries were involved as home and host in each STSM supported, and the age and gender of the participants in the STSM. The distribution of the countries involved in the STSM is proportional to the number of people participating in the network. So far, all requests of STSMs were approved. However, a small group of people is applying for them. So, Abdulhussain encouraged the participants to apply in the next calls. Abdulhussain indicated that most people applying for STSMs was young people (ECIs) and remarked that there was a call opened to request support to perform STSMs (the deadline was 29th February). He also insisted on that the future granted people with support of the Action should send the report of their STSMs before 25th April.

Finally, the MC asked the Chair to contact the previous granted people to have some information about the follow-up research activity and to know if some more publication and / or scientific activity have been done and are still doing.



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6. Update from the Grant Holder: Action budget status

Prof. Francesco Guerra continued talking about the GP3. He indicated that in the current meeting there were participating 43 persons and that he estimated the costs would be around 39 000 €. He also remarked that the current budget for scientific activities for GP3 was 46 700 €. So, he indicated that around 8 000 € could be used to fund STSMs such as it was discussed in the previous meeting in Coimbra (Portugal). The MC approved to spend the rest of the budget of GP3 in supporting STSMs.

Francesco continued saying that in the current call for STSMs high priority would be given to support STSMs from people in ITC countries, as at least the 50% of the budget should be spent in these countries.

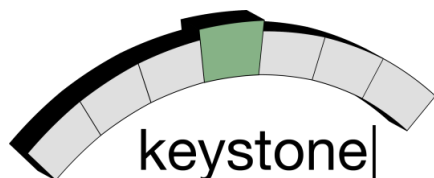
At this moment, Prof. Francesco Guerra showed the participants data about how the funds were distributed in GP1 and GP2: In GP1, 30% of the budget was spent in ITC countries and in GP2, 37% of the budget was spent in ITC countries. Francesco remarked that, the rule of reserving 50% of the budget in ITC countries was established in the second year of the Action when the GP1 had already finished, and that in GP2, a lot of activities were done in ITC countries (e.g. MC meeting in Slovakia or the International Keystone Conference in Portugal). Francesco continued telling that organizing activities in an ITC country did not imply that the country received money from the Action. He also remarked that when some activity was organized in an ITC country, the country normally received fewer funds than the rest of countries because the researchers from that country spent a lot less in the travels (accommodation, flights, etc.).

Dr. Yannis Velegrakis asked Francesco if the rule “50% of the budget must be spent in ITC countries” considered the number of persons in the Action. Francesco answered that even if in the reports we can show also the number of participants, the rule considers only the spent budget. Moreover, he indicated that, according to the data, if we take into account only meetings, 38% of the budget was spent in ITC countries in GP1, and 52% in GP2. However, in general, people in ITC countries were not applying for grants to do STSMs. Thus, in GP1, only 21% of the funds spent in STSMs has been allocated for ITC countries and in GP2, only 12%. Prof. Francesco Guerra encouraged people in ITC countries to do STSMs and ask for grants to support those STSMs.

Finally, Francesco showed the distribution of the funds spent per country and insisted on that that the budget should be distributed homogeneously among the countries participating in the COST Action.

Monitoring of the Action

Prof. Francesco Guerra indicated that currently COST Actions are evaluated at the 18th month, the 36th month and at the end (the 48th month). The evaluation of Keystone in the 18th month was done last April but actually no results of the evaluation are available yet. The problem is that no rapporteur for the Action has been appointed by the COST



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Office until 2 weeks ago when Dr. Claus-Peter Klas has been nominated. Francesco asked if some participant knew him and Prof. Nicola Ferro told that he knew him and described the expertise fields of Dr. Klas. After that, Francesco explained that the report that Dr. Klas is evaluating had been written last year. So that report does not show the activities in which we are doing now. The next evaluation of Keystone (the evaluation corresponding to the 36th month) will be done next October. So, if Dr. Klas suggests something to improve the Action, we have very little time to react.

At this moment, Prof. Francesco Guerra also remembered the participants that one of the results of the Action is to provide an annotated bibliography. So, he asked each participant to add two or three publications in the web site of Keystone to support that deliverable.

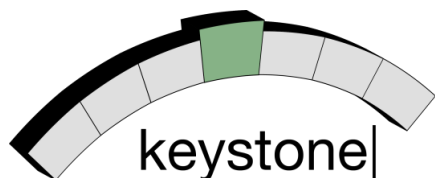
Prof. Francesco Guerra indicated the participants that the Action would be evaluated taking into account the MoU and how the budget had been used. He also said that the results (the products) of COST Actions were not research products but meetings, STSMs, etc. Nevertheless, he remarked that also the publications are important since they provide a measure of the impact of our scientific activities.

7. Implementation of COST policies

Prof. Francesco Guerra described some activities are being performed by members of Keystone to increase the number of students in ICT degrees, for example the Quiz Wikinformática in Aragón organized by the University of Zaragoza and Wikimedia Foundation (Spanish Chapter). After that, he asked for ideas to increase the number of female participants in the Action and to promote gender balance in Computer Science area. Dr. Nicola Ferro indicated that in some conferences a special dinner for women is organized, for example in conferences related to Information Retrieval area, the “Women IR” event is organized. No more proposals or ideas were discussed.

Dr. Andrea Calí proposed to organize talks where junior researchers could explain their ideas and receive feedback from senior researchers to foster the ECIs. Prof. Francesco Guerra answered that in the International Keystone Conference (IKC) celebrated in Coimbra (Portugal), there was a special track oriented to ECIs whose main goal was providing feedback from senior researchers to junior researchers and that no submissions were done to that track. Nevertheless, he also indicated that we could try again in the next IKC.

At this moment, Dr. Burak Acar asked about the rules to organize a Conference supported by the Action. Francesco said that the most important rule was that no fees for the events could be required to the participants of the events. All events organized by COST actions must be free of charges. Francesco also indicated that the local organizers of the events could receive up to 20 € per day and person participating in the event.



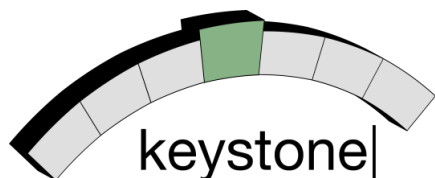
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The discussion about how to encourage ECIs to work with people from other countries continued. Dr. Yannis Velegrakis proposed to organize some social event in the WG and MC meetings. Dr. Elton Domnori proposed to organize some small workshop to put people together without paying to the participants but only to the Keynotes speakers. Dr. Manolis Wallace asked if people who had a PhD could ask for grants for STSMs. Prof. Francesco Guerra answered that people with PhD and PhD students had priority but that all people could ask for STSMs.

8. Follow-up of MoU objectives

Prof. Francesco Guerra showed the MoU objectives (15 goals) and opened a discussion to decide the level of achievement of each of them. After a quite long discussion the participants decided the levels showed in the slides 18, 19, 20 and 21 of the Annex III.

- Goal 1. 5 different partners started the promotion of the Action. A network where 15 countries participated was created in the first year of the Action. Nowadays, there are 28 countries involved. After showing this data, Prof. Francesco Geurra concluded that, from his point of view, this goal had been fully achieved. Nevertheless, Dr. Yannis Velegrakis said that we could do it even better. So, he suggested 75% for the level of achievement of this goal. Moreover, it was considered that strong collaborations and relationships among countries should be created.
- Goal 2. Several teams published papers about the topic “keyword-based search over structured data sources” and 25 STSMs have been funded. However, it was considered that there was no formula to evaluate the level of achievement of this goal.
- Goal 3. It was also considered that there was no formula to evaluate the level of achievement of this goal. Nevertheless, Francesco indicated that there had been several Brain-storming sessions and that the main ideas of some of those sessions have been published in a White paper.
- Goal 4. Francesco indicated that a website, a LinkedIn profile, a Twitter account, and several mailing lists have been created. However, he said that, from his point of view, there were no many activities in those tools (very few peoples were using those tools). So, he asked for ideas to promote the discussion. Dr. John Berlin suggested having Skype meetings, for example to ask people to submit one message per week to a Skype group of the Action. So, a file to put the Skype nick of the members of the Action was created.
- Goal 5. Prof. Francesco Guerra indicated that from his point of view this goal was really related to the previous goal. He also remarked that an update of the White paper would be prepared in the next GP.
- Goal 6. It was indicated that 25 STSMs and 1 Summer Schools had been already organized and performed.
- Goal 7. This goal was considered a weak point of the Action. Nevertheless, some people as for example Dr. Paulo Cunha has been working on collecting and



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publishing datasets to evaluate the approach. Moreover, due to the lack of standard metrics to evaluate this kind of systems other group of several researchers in Keystone (Prof. Nicola Ferro, Prof. Francesco Guerra, etc.) are also working on defining standard metric and benchmarks.

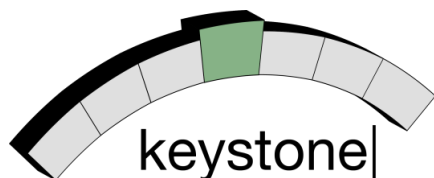
- Goal 8. Francesco indicated that he also considered this goal a weak point because there were a lot of academic people in the Action but not people from enterprises. Francesco also said that in Riva del Garda, a meeting with 4 enterprises was organized and that some issues had arisen. Francesco also remarked that an Industrial board composed of three people had been created after the Riva del Garda meeting. One of the members of the Industrial board has recently passed away. So, Francesco asked for ideas and collaboration to increase the connection between academic and enterprises by e-mail. At that moment, Francesco also communicated that Dr. John Breslin would also talk about that the next day.
- Goal 9. This goal is really connected to the previous goal. So the situation is analogous.
- Goal 10. There was no discussion
- Goal 11. A website to collect most relevant material was created and some researchers have uploaded material. Nevertheless, Francesco encouraged people to use more frequently the website.
- Goal 12. This goal is related to the first goal and participants in the meeting considered that it had been already achieved.
- Goal 13. Francesco encouraged people to check their publications and include the acknowledgment to COST Action IC1302 on them.
- Goal 14. There are WG members from no COST countries.
- Goal 15. Most active participants in Keystone are working in H2020 projects or in requests for H2020 projects.

9. Scientific planning: Work and Budget for GP4

The subsequent activity in the MC meeting was devoted to prepare and discuss the W&B plan for the next GP4. Francesco communicated that the budget expected for GP4 was around 130 000 € and that GP4 would last from 1st may 2016 to 30th April 2017. He also remarked that the 2nd edition of the International Keystone Conference and the 2nd Training School had been included in the MoU of the Action for GP4.

Francesco communicated that Dr. Joel Azzopardi and Dr. Charlie Abela from Malta have already created a call for volunteers to be speakers/trainers in the next Training School and that they had received 6 submissions (see slide 23). After that, a discussion about the location of the next school began. Francesco suggested also involving some well-known researcher and MC agreed on that.

Three different groups had proposed three different locations (Trento, Santiago de Compostela and Albania). Francesco said that the Action had already organized some



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events in Italy and that Albania had just entered in the Action. So, he preferred Santiago. Dr. John Breslin asked for information about how to reach Santiago. Dr. José Ramón Ríos Viqueira answered that there were 4 airports really next to Santiago (Santiago de Compostela airport, A Coruña airport, Vigo airport and also O Porto airport). After some more discussion a scientific committee (compost of Prof. Yannis Velegrakis, Dr. Joel, Dr. Charlie Abella, Dr. José Ramón Ríos Viqueira, Dr. Antonio Fariña, the volunteers to be speakers in the Training school and Dr. Raquel Trillo-Lado) was created to work on the program for the school. Nevertheless, the program will be approved by the MC committee.

Francesco remarked that the hackathon organized in the last Training School was really appreciated. So, he suggested to have also one hackthon in the next Training School. Dr. Joel Azzopardi indicated it was important to select which data to use in the hackathon. Dr. José Ramón Ríos Viqueira answered that there were several possible options: data from sensors of the buildings of the University of Santiago de Compostela, open data related to environmental issues (temperature, rain, etc.)

Regarding the 2nd International Keystone Conference (IKC), Francesco indicated that he had created a shared document asking for volunteers to organized the conference (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-gHUmNu1-CbDSWKMz_xjoys1uFJMPEun1GhkjYda3CA/edit#gid=0) and that around 7 people wanted to be chairs. However, nobody wanted to organized it. After some discussion it was decided to create a steering committee for the selection of the program chair. The steering committee was composed by people who presented as volunteer to collaborate in the organization of the conference (see (https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-gHUmNu1-CbDSWKMz_xjoys1uFJMPEun1GhkjYda3CA/edit#gid=0)).

Finally, Francesco proposed a possible distribution for the budget for the GP4 (see slide 25). Nevertheless, no final decision was done.

10. Request to join the Action new members

Prof. Francesco Guerra welcomed the new members and indicated that the list of members of Keystone was available on the website of Keystone.

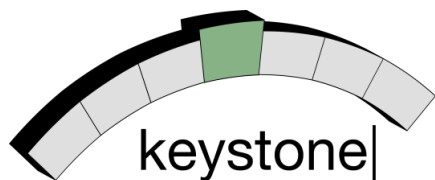
11. Non-COST applications to the Actions

Prof. Francesco Guerra explained the rules related to the participation of NNC and IPC countries. He also enumerated the countries that could be NNC or IPC (see slide 26).

12. AOB

Nothing to be discussed.

13. Summary of MC decisions



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Prof. Francesco Guerra listed the decisions taken by the MC from the last meeting to that moment (see slides 27 from Annex III).

14. Closing

The chair of the Action, Prof. Francesco Guerra, closed the MC meeting showing the list of participants in the meeting and encouraged the attendants to enjoy the rest of the activities of the COST Action IC 1302 that day and the next day (23rd February). The meeting closed at 16:10.