

# Preface

Language technology research in Northern Europe is thriving. One clear sign of this is the fact that the NODALIDA conference (also known as the Nordic Conference of Computational Linguistics) has grown to the point where it is no longer manageable to let the local organization committee do all the work in putting together the program. Hence, the need for a separate program committee.

When trusted with the responsibility of chairing the program committee, the program chair made an informal survey of expectations in the community through an e-mail questionnaire sent out on the NODALI list. (Thanks to everyone who responded.) Four things emerged clearly from this survey: People wanted a high-quality technical track with review of full papers. However, people also wanted an opportunity for students to present their work, and an opportunity to get feedback on work in progress in the form of posters. Last but not least, people wanted workshops. Hence, we give you regular paper sessions, student paper sessions, a poster session, and a full day of workshops. As a bonus, we also give you two distinguished keynote speakers, Diana McCarthy and Walter Daelemans, the first business meeting of the newly established Northern European Association for Language Technology (NEALT), and a tutorial on the Estonian language, hoping to establish a new NODALIDA tradition of local language tutorials. (Thanks to Koenraad de Smedt for this great idea.)

When issuing the call for workshops, regular papers, student papers, and posters, we were unsure whether there would be enough work going on in Northern Europe and the rest of the world to fill all the categories. The community response surpassed all our expectations. We received 41 regular paper submissions, 24 student paper submissions, 32 poster submissions, and 7 workshop proposals, for a total of 104 submissions, an all time record for NODALIDA. (Thanks to everyone who submitted their work.) Moreover, a fair share of these submissions came from countries outside our region, clearly showing that NODALIDA, while remaining a conference with a strong regional character, is also being recognized in the rest of the world. In the final program, there are 26 regular papers, 12 student papers, 26 posters, and 4 workshops. We want to thank the program committee and all our 69 reviewers for their hard work in putting together the program.

Finally, NODALIDA 2007 is special not only for being the biggest ever in terms of submissions, but also for being the first NODALIDA held in Estonia, in the beautiful city of Tartu, at one of the oldest universities in the region, founded

in 1632. We want to thank the local organization committee for all their hard work to welcome the NODALIDA participants in Tartu.

We wish you all an enjoyable NODALIDA 2007!

Joakim Nivre  
Program Chair  
NODALIDA 2007

Mare Koit and Tiit Roosmaa  
Local Co-Chairs  
NODALIDA 2007