

## *Preface*

The Nordic countries have a long tradition of cooperating within many areas, including politics, education and science. Many languages are closely related and sometimes also the same language is spoken over national boundaries (for example Sámi and Swedish). Language technology is relatively well developed in these countries, but much more is needed to build the infrastructure needed for advanced R&D, and to secure the languages of the region for the future. The CLARIN project is an initiative on the European level to meet those challenges by making language resources and technology available and usable.

In recent years, new regions around the Baltic have become parts of the Nordic area. With increased cooperation, coordination and consolidation of common strengths, the Nordic/Baltic countries could strengthen their work in language technology infrastructure and their contribution to CLARIN.

The main topic of the workshop is Nordic strengths and opportunities of cooperation within the NEALT Geographic Region in constructing an infrastructure of common language resources in connection to the European CLARIN (Common Language Resources and Technology Infrastructure) initiative.

The purpose is to find ways of cooperating that will strengthen the contribution of the associated countries to the development of an infrastructure of common language resources within the CLARIN initiative. In the workshop, participants in CLARIN from the NEALT-associated countries will be given the chance to present their national projects and discuss possible ways of cooperating, sharing resources, coordinating activities, consider new projects and such. Opportunities and proposals for closer cooperation and coordination will be presented and discussed at the workshop.

CLARIN participants in the NEALT-associated countries were invited to present their national work from the perspective of possible cooperation between groups and projects in the different countries: Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden. The workshop is intended for participants having an interest in developing the language resources and technology in the NEALT Geographic Region for languages spoken in that region. There will be an opportunity for each such country to present an overview of the status of their national language resource infrastructure.

Eight abstracts from each of the above mentioned countries were submitted for review by the editors (who did not review contributions from their own country). All of them were accepted. We, the editors and organizers, want to thank the authors for their contributions. We look forward to a promising workshop in Odense where they will be presented and discussed.

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Workshop website:

<https://kitwiki.csc.fi/twiki/bin/view/Nealt/SigInfraNodalida2009WorkshopCall>

Conference website:

<http://beta.visl.sdu.dk/nodalida2009/>

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