



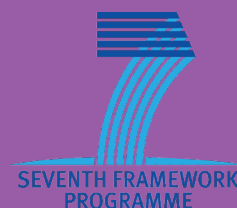
PROMISE

Participative Research labOratory for
Multimedia and Multilingual Information Systems

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Abstract

This document reports on the activities conducted in the year 2010 by the PROMISE project. PROMISE started in September 2010 and in its first fourth months of activity achieved several goals:

- It organized the CLEF 2010 Conference on Multilingual and Multimedia Information Access Evaluation, which attracted more than 140 participants.
- It started to focus on use case based evaluation activities and proposed evaluation labs and workshop for CLEF 2011 concerning the “unlocking culture”, “search for innovation”, and “visual clinical decision support” use cases.
- It has been represented in several events, such as ICT 2010 and META-FORUM 2010, as well as promoted cooperation with the main evaluation initiatives world-wide (TREC, NTCIR, FIRE, RUSSIR, and INEX), other EU projects (META-NET), and potential target communities, such as the human-language technologies one.

The document also reports the plans for the next year for both the evaluation activities and the development of the first prototype of the evaluation infrastructure.

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PROMISE Annual Report 2010

<http://www.promise-noe.eu/>

With a population of over 500 million in its 27 states in which there are more than 80 indigenous and many more immigrant languages, the citizens and companies of the EU demand information systems that allow them to interact with the culturally and politically diverse content that surrounds them in multiple media.

The technology and research behind multilingual and multimedia information systems are, today, in the position of intercepting these emerging trends but their design and development is becoming increasingly complex and needs proper means for ensuring that they meet the expected user requirements and provide the desired effectiveness.

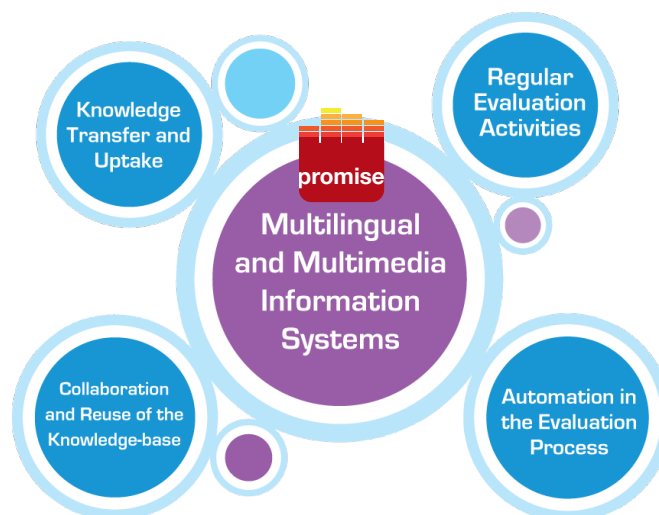
Measuring is a key to scientific progress. This is particularly true for research and development concerning complex systems, whether natural or human-built. PROMISE will provide a virtual laboratory for conducting participative research and experimentation to carry out, advance and bring automation into the evaluation and benchmarking of complex multilingual and multimedia information systems.

Summary of Activities

PROMISE is a Network of Excellence, started in September 2010 and scheduled until August 2013, with 10 academic and industrial partners, who are leaders in the field. PROMISE considers experimental evaluation – both laboratory and interactive – a key means for supporting and fostering the development of multilingual and multimedia information systems which are more adherent to the new user needs in order to ensure that they meet the expected user requirements, provide the desired effectiveness and efficiency, guarantee the required robustness and reliability, and operate with the necessary scalability.

PROMISE aims at advancing the experimental evaluation of complex multimedia and multilingual information systems in order to support individuals, commercial entities, and communities, who design, develop, employ, and improve such complex systems. The overall goal of PROMISE is to deliver a unified environment where to collect data, knowledge, tools, methodologies, and bringing together the user communities, which are involved in the experimental evaluation.

Important Work Areas



To achieve its goals, PROMISE pursues the following main activities:

- **Foster the adoption of regular and thorough experimental evaluation activities:** PROMISE carries on the successful and renowned CLEF (*Cross-Language Evaluation Forum*) evaluation campaigns further pushing the evaluation exercises to tackle realistic tasks, use cases, and data sets;
- **Bring automation into the experimental evaluation process:** PROMISE proposes methods and provides a software infrastructure to create larger experimental collections; increase the number and size of the experiments conducted; and develop distributed, asynchronous, and loosely-coupled evaluation protocols, moving experimental evaluation from handicraft process to a mostly automatic one.
- **Promote collaboration and re-use over the acquired knowledge-base:** PROMISE will curate, preserve, and allow for the enrichment of the collected experimental data; it will provide the means for an easy comparison with and a meaningful interpretation and visualisation of the experimental results; and it will facilitate the discussion and collaboration among all the interested stakeholders.
- **Stimulate knowledge transfer and uptake:** PROMISE disseminates know-how, tools, and best practices about multilingual and multimedia information systems; facilitate uptake and participation by commercial entities and industries; and gives rise to multidisciplinary competencies and expertises.

CLEF 2010 – Conference on Multilingual and Multimedia Information Access Evaluation

Since 2000 the Cross-Language Evaluation Forum (CLEF) has played a successful role in stimulating research and promoting evaluation in a wide range of key areas in the information retrieval domain, becoming well-known in the international IR community. The

results had traditionally been presented and discussed at annual workshops in conjunction with the European Conference for Digital Libraries.

CLEF 2010 represented a radical innovation of this traditional format. The aim is to continue with the benchmarking evaluation experiments, but also to provide more space for analysis, reflection and discussion. It was thus organised as a four-day event: a peer-reviewed conference followed by a series of laboratories and workshops. The conference aimed at advancing research into the evaluation of complex multimodal and multilingual information systems. The laboratories continue and expand on the traditional CLEF track philosophy. Two different forms of labs are offered: benchmarking activities proposing evaluation tasks and comparative performance analyses, and workshop-style labs that explore issues of information access evaluation and related fields.

CLEF 2010 was held at the University of Padua, Italy, September 20–23, 2010. Approximately 140 researchers from all around the world participated in the event; with most of them staying for the whole four days.

All the presentations given at the conference and in the workshops, photos, and videos of invited talks, panels, and plenary sessions can be found on the CLEF 2010 website.

Being the first high profile event organized within the confines of PROMISE, CLEF 2010 was the opportunity for project partners to promote and advertise the project: a PROMISE panel was organized, where project ideas were presented and the audience had a chance to give feedback; also many shorter and personal presentations and discussions were conducted over the four day event.



Use Case based Evaluation Activities

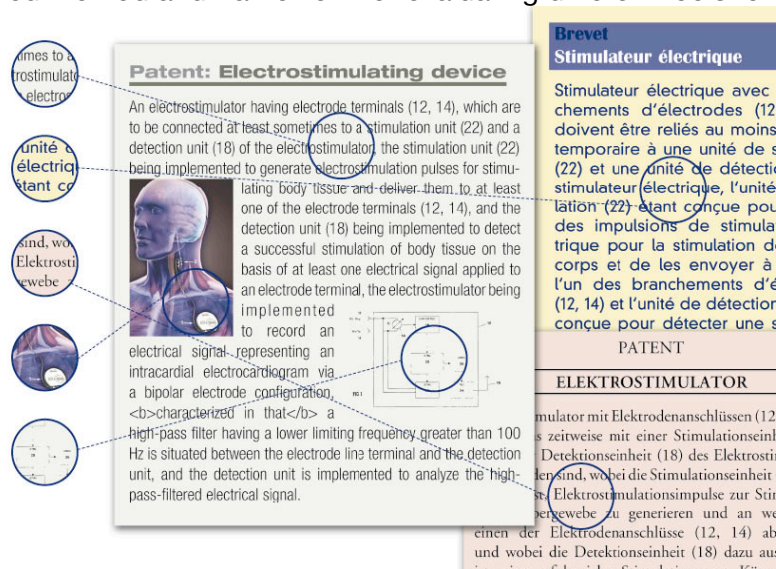
To move from abstract benchmarking to more user-sensitive evaluation schemes, PROMISE in its requirement analysis phase formulates a set of use cases based on scenarios of use for multimedia and multilingual information access. This will also allow future development and research efforts to identify likenesses between their project and PROMISE, to leverage previous knowledge, and to avoid re-treading previous erroneous tracks.

Some initial use cases have already been identified but others will be added during the project lifetime, as well as a mechanism for selecting which use cases to carry out and investigate:

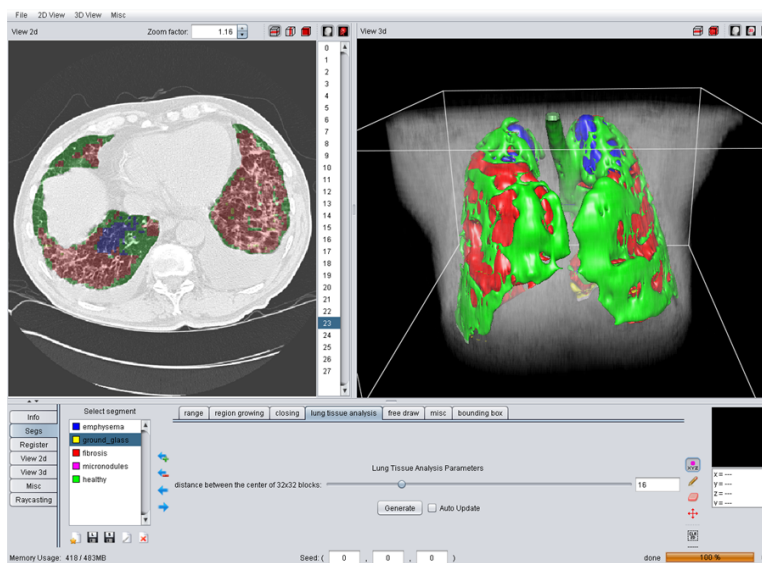
- **Unlocking culture:** deals with information access to cultural heritage material held in large-scale digital libraries comprising libraries, archives, museum, and audio-visual archives.



- **Search for innovation:** deals with patent search and its peculiar requirements to seek out standardized method and framework for evaluating different tools for the IP.



- **Visual clinical decision support:** deals with visual information connected with text in the radiology domain in order to provide retrieval and access mechanisms able to jointly exploit textual and visual features.



User Involvement, Promotion and Awareness

PROMISE is constantly looking for opportunities to enlarge its community, reach close and neighbour communities, and target other relevant project and industrial stakeholders.

PROMISE and Other Evaluation Initiatives

The “First Evaluation Initiatives Liaison Meeting”, took place in Padua on 21 September 2010 with representatives from TREC (Text Retrieval Conference, USA), NTCIR (NII Test Collection for IR Systems, Japan), FIRE (Forum for Information Retrieval Evaluation, India), ROMIP (Russian Information Retrieval Evaluation Seminar, Russia), and INEX (Initiative for the Evaluation of XML Retrieval, Australia) to discuss possible cooperation and synergies among international evaluation campaigns.

PROMISE at ICT 2010

PROMISE and CLEF have been re-presented during the Networking Session “*Benchmarking multimedia retrieval applications*” held in Brussels on 28 September 2010 at ICT 2010 where the experience in organizing and running the CLEF evaluation initiative in the multilingual and multimedia information access fields has been reported.

PROMISE and META-NET

PROMISE started a cooperation with META-NET (FP7 NoE forging the Multilingual Europe Technology Alliance) on specific and concrete action items:

- shared and compatible licensing policies for language and evaluation resources;
- interoperable software infrastructures and exchange of metadata about managing language and evaluation resource;
- benchmarking of language resources;
- close communities.

Moreover, PROMISE has been represented at META-FORUM 2010 - Challenges for Multilingual Europe held in Brussels on 17-18 November 2010.

PROMISE and HLT-ITA

PROMISE is targeting the Human-Language Technologies (HLT) community for Italian and participated in the bi-annual Workshop of the Natural Language Processing Group of the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence held in Brescia on 1 December 2010 by proposing possible cooperation items:

- creation of shared benchmarks for information access and human-language technologies;
- exploitation of the PROMISE evaluation infrastructure;
- shared evaluation tasks by adopting a component-based evaluation approach;
- integration of the communities.

Future Work

Next year, PROMISE will concentrate on several items. First, the organization of CLEF 2011 Conference on Multilingual and Multimedia Information Access Evaluation which will be held in Amsterdam on 19-22 September 2011.

The three above-mentioned uses cases will be carried out as laboratories and workshops at CLEF 2011 and, in particular:

- **Unlocking culture:** workshop “CHiC 2011 – Cultural Heritage in CLEF: From Use Cases to Evaluation in Practice for Multilingual Information Access to Cultural Heritage”;
- **Search for innovation:** laboratory CLEF-IP 2011 for evaluating information retrieval techniques in the intellectual property domain.
- **Visual clinical decision support:** “medical image retrieval” task in the ImageCLEF laboratory exploiting images from articles published in Radiology and Radiographics including the text of the captions and a link to the html of the full text articles.

PROMISE will deliver the first prototype of its open evaluation infrastructure which will be used for managing and providing access to the scientific data (experiments, performance measures, and statistical analyses) produced by the above mentioned evaluation activities.

Finally, PROMISE will extend its reach to other communities as much as possible by participating in the organization of events for specific communities, such as for example the special session on “Medical Image Repositories Assisting Diagnoses - MIRAD 2011” which will be organized at the International Conference on Imaging Theory and Applications (IMAGAPP 2011).

Further Information

Further information about PROMISE, its activities, and related events can be found at:

- CLEF 2010 home page
<http://www.clef2010.org/>
- CLEF 2011 home page

<http://www.clef2011.org/>

- CLEF General home page
<http://www.clef-campaign.org/>
- A PROMISE for Experimental Evaluation – Panel at CLEF 2010
Slides:
<http://www.clef2010.org/resources/slides/20100920/promise-panel/panel-PROMISE.ppt>
Video on YouTube:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MEKMA5Dq9HU>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MlYCNjF-8fI>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZLCYcFcaR5s>
- CHiC 2011 – Cultural Heritage in CLEF
<http://www.promise-noe.eu/web/guest/use-cases/unlocking-culture/chic-2011/>
- CLEF-IP 2011
<http://www.promise-noe.eu/web/guest/use-cases/search-for-innovation/clef-ip-2011/>
<http://www.ir-facility.org/research/evaluation/clef-ip-11/>
- Medical Image Retrieval 2011
<http://www.promise-noe.eu/web/guest/use-cases/visual-clinical-decision-support/imageclef-2011/>
<http://www.imageclef.org/>
- Special Session on Medical Image Repositories Assisting Diagnoses - MIRAD 2011
<http://www.imagapp.visigrapp.org/MIRAD.asp>
- “Benchmarking multimedia retrieval applications” networking session at ICT 2010
http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/events/cf/ict2010/item-display.cfm?id=3473
- “Human Language Technologies for Italian – 2010”, Workshop of the Natural Language Processing Group of the AI*IA
<https://sites.google.com/a/aixia.it/nlp/hltita-2010>
- META-NET and META-FORUM 2010
<http://www.meta-net.eu/>
<http://www.meta-net.eu/events/meta-forum-2010>

PROMISE Consortium

- University of Padua, Italy (coordinator)
<http://www.unipd.it/>
- Swedish Institute of Computer Science (SICS), Sweden
<http://www.sics.se/>

- University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
<http://www.uva.nl/>
- Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
<http://www.uniroma1.it/>
- University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland, Switzerland
<http://www.hes-so.ch/>
- Information Retrieval Facility (IRF), Austria
<http://www.ir-facility.org/>
- Zurich University of Applied Sciences, Switzerland
<http://www.zhaw.ch/>
- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany;
<http://www.hu-berlin.de/>
- Evaluations and Language resources Distribution Agency (ELDA), France
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- Centre for the Evaluation of Language Communication Technologies (CELCT), Italy
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