

MEDAR

*Mediterranean Arabic
Language and Speech Technology*

Coordinator:

**CST - University of
Copenhagen**
Denmark
nemlar@hum.ku.dk

**ELDA - Evaluations and
Language resources
Distribution Agency**
France
choukri@elda.org

University of Balamand
Lebanon
chafic.mokbel@balamand.edu.lb

Al-Ahlyya Amman University
Jordan
mustafa@ats-ware.com

Universiteit Utrecht
The Netherlands
Steven.Krauwer@let.uu.nl

**ILSP – “Athena” Research
Centre**
Greece
spip@ilsp.gr

**RDI - The Engineering
company for computer systems
development**
Egypt
m_atteya@rdi-eg.com

Birzeit University
West Bank and Gaza Strip
Kananalali@yahoo.com

**ENSIAS - University of
Mohammed V Soussi**
Morocco
Mouradi@ensias.ma

**CEA - Laboratoire d'ingénierie
de l'information multimédia
multi-lingue**
France
Nasredine.semmar@cea.fr

**CNRS - Centre Nationale de la
Recherche Scientifique**
France
fathi.debili@wanadoo.fr

The Open University
United Kingdom
A.Deroeck@open.ac.uk

Université Lumière Lyon 2
France
Joseph.Dichy@univ-lyon2.fr

**IBM - Human Language
Technologies Group**
Egypt
emam@eg.ibm.com

Sakhr Software Company
Egypt
mike@sakhr.com

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European Commission

MEDAR

- a new NEMLAR project



www.medar.info

Mission

The development of language resources and tools for the Arabic language is important for the economy in the Arab countries: The industry itself provides new jobs, but more importantly the use of language technology makes administration faster and more efficient.

At the same time it is important for the culture. By focussing on Arabic language technology and making both the technology and content available in Arabic, the use of Arabic will grow. Language technology can also help access information in foreign languages, even without a very good knowledge of these languages. And finally, it can help spread Arabic ideas and culture to non-Arabic languages.

Background

The NEMLAR project, 2003-2005, was funded by the European Commission with the goal of supporting cooperation between European actors and actors in the Mediterranean region with the purpose of advancing the state of language technology for Arabic and other regional languages.

The goals of the NEMLAR project was the production and availability of shareable LRs and tools, the advancement of Arabic language technology, and the collaboration between countries towards these goals.

MEDAR shares this mission.

The MEDAR project

MEDAR (Mediterranean Arabic Language and Speech Technology) is also supported by the European Commission. The project is running from 2008 until 2010. See www.medar.info.

MEDAR has 4 main objectives:

- 1) Consolidating the **Network** of players in all areas of Arabic HLT.
- 2) Developing the **Cooperation Roadmap** based on a clear picture of the foreseeable technological trends, market potentials, and cooperation possibilities.
- 3) Updating the **Basic Language Resource Kit**: the minimum set of resources and tools necessary for carrying out research and training on LRs and HLT, with a focus on MT and MLIR.
- 4) Supporting the **Development of tools and resources**, in particular MT and MLIR on the basis of partners' technologies and open source code (e.g. Statistical MT, MLIR, and speech recognition) and the framework for their benchmarking.

Dissemination is a very strong component of MEDAR. Dissemination will take place at scientific conferences, at user conferences, at workshops and seminars, through the website and newsletter etc. We will organize an international conference on Arabic language resources and language technology in April 2009, as a follow-up to the conference organized in Cairo 2004.

Join the network

NEMLAR started a network for partners who want to collaborate for the advancement of Arabic language technology.

All institutions and enterprises are invited to join the network, if you share our mission. By joining you will get access to the newest information about language technology (actors, products, research) for Arabic in the region, you will be able to participate in the surveys and in the creation of the roadmap for cooperation.

Join the network through the website www.medar.info, and receive the newsletter and other information.