

Results of the STEVIN Mid-Term Evaluation

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Mid Term Evaluation

- International Assessment Panel (IAP) was asked to assess the impact and results of
 - The STEVIN programme as a whole
 - The individual projects

Mid Term Evaluation

- Nine Questions have been formulated by the Board
- Answers to these questions have been provided by the Programme Committee (PC) in the STEVIN Internal Evaluation Report
- Additional information is available in
 - the STEVIN Fact File
 - STEVIN Project Progress Reports

Mid Term Evaluation

- Midterm Evaluation Workshop has been held on June 27, 2008, in Rotterdam, with
 - STEVIN programme committee
 - STEVIN project leaders and participants
 - IAP
 - Programme office

Mid Term Evaluation

- Midterm Evaluation Workshop
 - Presentations
 - STEVIN Goals
 - PC Internal Evaluation
 - Projects: goals, status, and results
 - Demonstrations
 - Discussions
 - IAP meeting to formulate its findings

Mid Term Evaluation

- IAP findings, also as answers to the nine questions, has been laid down in a report
 - A draft version exists
 - This version will soon be finalized

Questions (summarized)

1. Is the STEVIN programme reaching its main aims and objectives?
2. Does the selection of the research projects reflect the stratified chain approach?
3. Is the STEVIN output adequate, made available in a non-discriminative way, and is IPR adequately dealt with?
4. Does STEVIN stimulate collaboration between academia and industry in Flanders and the Netherlands?

Questions (summarized)

5. Is the STEVIN supporting programme successful?
6. Are the STEVIN programme and its result visible?
7. What is the scientific impact of STEVIN on Dutch and Flemish HLT?
8. Is the STEVIN organisation adequate?
9. Are the installed procedures for granting, launching and monitoring the projects and for transferring and approving the project results adequate?

IAP Findings

- IAP congratulates the Dutch and Flemish HLT community with the accomplishments STEVIN has reached so far
- IAP appreciates the direct co-operation between NL and FL research groups
- IAP was pleasantly surprised by the good dynamics they observed in the collaboration between industry and academia due to the STEVIN stimulating activities
- One portal for storage and maintenance (HLT-Central) of the project results is strongly encouraged

IAP Findings

- STEVIN's well-structured and stratified approach is well chosen and can serve as an example for other language communities
- IAP finds that an effective series of supporting activities has been developed for network creation and knowledge transfer
- IAP wants to compliment the PC for their considerate, effective and adaptive operation, esp. wrt complicated procedural issues in the first phase
- STEVIN is to be considered as very successful

IAP Findings

- Underrepresentation of
 - Multimodal / multimedia projects
 - Certain semantic aspects (e.g. discourse annotation, semantic web aspects)

➔ Important items on the near future research agenda
- Cooperation between language and speech technology needs further encouragement

IAP Findings

- Reusability and Validation of resources is an important theme for the near future of the programme
- IAP stresses the importance of keeping (PhD) students interested in HLT and promoting HLT in the educational academic programmes

IAP Findings

- STEVIN should make itself more visible
 - On the programme level, also outside the Dutch language community
 - Make also an English website
 - Present STEVIN at LANGTECH meetings
 - Submit article on the STEVIN programme e.g. to Springer Verlag
 - On the project level. The researchers should
 - Aim at giving presentations at top level conferences
 - Submit articles to top level peer-reviewed journals
 - Participate in (international) evaluation exercises

Conclusions

- STEVIN has been evaluated very positively
- It is considered as exemplary for HLT communities in other regions / countries

- But it should promote itself and its results in a more prominent way!

Do Not Go Beyond This Slide!



Question 1

- Do you think the STEVIN programme is sufficiently reaching its main aims and objectives described in the programme text? That is
 - Realise an effective digital language infrastructure for Dutch, based on the BATAVO (BLARK) priorities
 - Carry out strategic research in the field of language and speech technology, especially in areas of high demand for specific applications and technologies;
 - Advance the creation of networks and the consolidation of language and speech technology activities, educate new experts, and promote discussion and transfer of knowledge.

Question 2

- Does the selection of the research projects reflect the stratified chain approach of the STEVIN programme, i.e. address all four levels in an appropriate way?:
 - The basic language resources, explicitly limited to the data and their production;
 - HLT research and development, ultimately resulting in available HLT components;
 - Application development (HLT embedding);
 - The user (‘demand stimulation’)
- Are there any critical gaps in the programme that should still be addressed?

Question 3

- Is the (scientific) output of the STEVIN projects adequate in terms of quality and quantity? Which are the most outstanding results?
- Are the results made available in a non-discriminative way?
- Do you think that IPR policy is adequately dealt with in the STEVIN programme?

Question 4

- One aim of the programme is to stimulate collaboration between academia and industry in Flanders and the Netherlands. Is there enough evidence indicating that this aim is being achieved?

Question 5

- An integral part of the STEVIN programme is its supporting programme which specifically aims at organising and/or financially supporting activities that
 - stimulate network relations between the different types of actors that are involved in developing, implementing or embedding HLT technologies, and
 - encourage knowledge transfer between these actors.
- How do you judge the success of this part of the programme so far?

Question 6

- Are the STEVIN programme and its results visible to the (inter)national field of HLT research, the interested industry, and the interested public? Please provide some examples.

Question 7

- What is the (scientific) impact of the STEVIN programme with respect to Dutch and Flemish HLT?

Question 8

- Is the organisational structure of the programme, namely the International Assessment Panel, HLT Board, programme committee, and programme bureau appropriate?
- Does the programme offer sufficient guarantees on transparent, impartial and objective proposal evaluation, project monitoring and decision taking in general ?
- Are potential conflicts of interest adequately dealt with on all levels of the programme?

Question 9

- Were the installed procedures for granting, launching and monitoring the projects and for transferring and approving the project results adequate?

International Assessment Panel

- Prof. dr. Hans Uszkoreit (DFKI - Germany)
- Prof. dr. Gábor Prószéky (Morphologic - Hungary)
- Prof. dr. Roger Moore (Sheffield University - UK)
- Dr. Nicoletta Calzolari (ILC - Italy)
- Mr. Paul Heisterkamp (Daimler - Germany)
- Dr. Gilles Adda (LIMSI - France);
- Prof. dr. Anne Abeillé (Université Paris 7 - France)
- Dr. Stelios Piperidis (ILSP - Greece).