

STEVIN

**Spraak- en Taaltechnologische Essentiële
Voorzieningen In het Nederlands
*(Substantial language and speech technology
resources for the Dutch language)***

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1. The Dutch Language Union

- Flemish/Dutch intergovernmental organisation
- Legal basis: Language Union Treaty between Belgium and the Netherlands (1980)
- Deals with all issues concerning the position of the Dutch language
- Emphasis: language user (enable Dutch native speakers to use their own language in all situations, at home as well as at work) ⇒ importance of LST in the information society

2. STEVIN: background

- Survey: “The position of Dutch in LST” (1998)
- LST-platform (1999 – 2004)
 - Flemish/Dutch platform, co-ordinated by the Dutch Language Union
 - Partners: AWI, IWT and FWO in Flanders; EZ, OCW, NWO and Senter in the Netherlands
 - Objectives: (1) Networking and creating a market place; (2) Defining the BLARK for Dutch; (3) Developing a blueprint for managing, maintaining and distributing governmentally funded language resources
- Study ordered by EZ for determining additional economic support for the LST-sector (2003)

3. STEVIN: partners and organisational structure

Partners

- In Flanders: AWI, IWT and FWO
- In the Netherlands: EZ, OCW, NWO and SenterNovem

Organisational structure

- Dutch Language Union: co-ordination and financial management
- LST-Board (all partners except for SenterNovem – not a funding partner): making (funding) decisions
- Programme Committee (LST-experts): outlining and watching over the content (writing of the multi-annual programme and the calls for proposals, advising on projects to be funded)
- Programme Office (NWO and SenterNovem): practical project management, support of LST-Board and Programme Committee, co-ordination and organisation of Accompanying Measures

4. STEVIN: programme overview

- Duration: 5 years (2004 – 2009)
- Total budget: 11,4 million euro (1/3 Flanders – AWI, IWT and FWO; 2/3 the Netherlands – EZ, OCW and NWO)
- Objectives:
 - Realisation of an appropriate digital language infrastructure for Dutch (basis: BLARK for Dutch)
 - Strategic R&D
 - Stimulation of LST-networks and core research areas
 - Stimulation of embedding LST-research, education of new generations of LST-experts, knowledge transfer and the demand for LST

4. STEVIN: programme overview

- Pillars:
 - Raising awareness of LST-results
 - Development of lacking LST-resources, strategic R&D and demand stimulation
 - Management, maintenance and distribution of governmentally funded LST-resources ⇒ LST-Agency

4. STEVIN: programme overview

- *Awareness:*
 - Networking and stimulation of co-operation (Flanders/the Netherlands, language technology/speech technology, academics/industrialists) – Instruments: LST-infodesk, newsletters, seminars and conferences (mostly carried out and financed by the Dutch Language Union)
 - Accompanying Measures:
 - Particular funding opportunity within STEVIN
 - Open and continuous call for demonstration projects (max. budget: 1 million euro)
 - Symposia, meetings and other publicity and/or networking events
 - (Financial) support of STEVIN-related events, a/o through “networking funding”

4. STEVIN: programme overview

- *Strategic research and resource development:*
 - Three calls for proposals
 - Open calls for project proposals responding to required priorities and closed calls for tender proposals responding to a specific R&D-requirement
 - Development of basic linguistic resources (tools and data), fundamental strategic research or application development, always contributing to an appropriate digital language infrastructure for Dutch
 - Co-operation (Flanders/the Netherlands, language technology/speech technology, academic world/industry) is encouraged
 - Proposal assessment and ranking by the Programme Committee and an International Assessment Panel (IAP)
 - Project funding decision by the LST-Board

4. STEVIN: programme overview

- *Calls for proposals:*
 - **First call:**
 - Issued on 15 September 2004
 - Target: small short-term projects (duration: max. 2 years) with a self-containing result
 - Current status: funding decision made
 - Portfolio (total budget: 2.052.225 euro): AUTONOMATA, COREA, D-coi, JASMIN-CGN, IRME
 - **Second call:**
 - Issued on 2 March 2005
 - Maximum budget: 4,2 million euro
 - Target: more complex and larger consortium projects with a longer duration (max. 4 years)
 - Open call for project proposals + closed call for tender proposals
 - Current status: submitted proposals are being assessed and ranked by the Programme Committee and an International Assessment Panel (IAP); funding decision to be made in December 2005
 - **Third call:** to be issued in 2007