

Content

Final Review Report

Project No.: EDC 22249

Project website: <http://www.m-cast.infovide.pl>

Project acronym: M-CAST

Names of Reviewers: Jörg Schütz
Galia Angelova

Date of meeting: 08-March-2007

INFSO	
Adonis n°	A408443
Date	09 MARS 2007
Action	F.M.
Contrib.	
Info	
Deadline	
File	

A. Work Done

The reviewed project results perfectly match with the Technical Annex of the proposed objectives, and are delivered with very good quality and within the scope of the deadlines. The consortium took very seriously the comments made at the mid-term review; especially the ones concerning the integration of users and the quality of deliverables. The system demonstrator is built with the active involvement of the users-libraries who also invested much effort in an in-depth user requirements study and the testing of the system.

The automated multilingual query-answering features, covering 6 languages, are very well developed. The demonstrator is focused on Polish and Czech library texts. The other languages were added to the consortium linguistic resources from existing previous developments; and thus the search facilities could be farther elaborated.

The project results are in line with the objectives of the eContent programme in the multilinguality area and they prove the potential of a multilingual question-answering system for digital libraries.

B. Product/Service Results:

The delivered portals for searching with free natural language questions in two digital libraries is based on a sound and efficient technical basis, that can/must be customised to cater for the multilingual and diverse requirements of the partners and users. The overall technical solutions are built on a solid methodological ground and current state-of-the-art NLP services, provided by European leaders in the respective fields.

The Consortium manages to demonstrate acceptable speed in processing the really large amounts of linguistic resources. The integrated framework of the M-CAST engine harmonises a variety of library document collections, their metadata in real settings and corresponding linguistic resources supporting the M-CAST language technologies.

C. Project Management

The project management for this project was very good, with an obviously coherent group of partners who have managed to deliver high-quality project results.

It is also clear that much time has been devoted to the actual involvement of users during the second year of the project as well as to dissemination activities in Poland and Czech Republic. Being pioneers in the field in these two new member states, the partners have also organised several workshops to attract the public attention to their results and to establish contacts with the relevant European initiatives.

There was also concern to ensure a solid legal basis for the project with respect to the IPR issues and publishing library materials.

D. View on Project Status

The project can be considered as successfully completed to the highest possible standard. All agreed deliverables have been presented in time and their quality meets the standards and requirements of the eContent programme.

The portal is operational and its functionality matches the expected completeness and quality, according to the Technical Annex. The initial plans for general multilingual search were justified to multilingual question-answering as the latter fits best to the services expected by the library users.

E. Exploitation / Implementation potential

The potential for successful commercialisation of the project results is evident, especially for the software providers from Portugal; France and Italy who are key actors at the European LT market. The lessons learnt in M-CAST will strengthen their position at the market of search engines and the question-answering in particular.

However, plans for potential commercialisation in Poland and Czech Republic are demonstrated as well. The libraries need to search for further funding to keep the M-CAST prototype alive and to turn it to a modern electronic service in a longer term.

F. Recommendations for future work

For future commercial applications, the Consortium may consider extending the linguistic resources and adding new languages.

G. Overall recommendation:

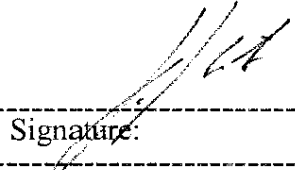
See above.

Successful completion

Modify

Rejected

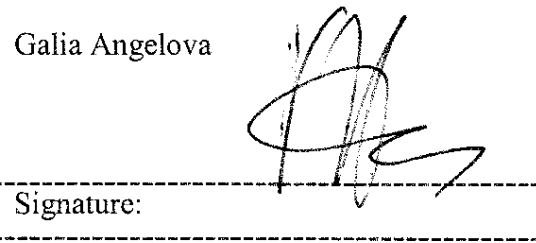
Reviewer: Jörg Schütz



Signature:

Date: 08-March-2007

Galia Angelova



Signature:

Date: 08-March-2007