CLARIN-D Report R1.5:  
Fifth Year Activity Report –  
Progress Report of the  
Project and the Various  
Work Packages  

May 2016
Deliverable: R1.5:
Fifth Year Activity Report –
Progress Report of the Project and the Various Work Packages

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Introduction

The CLARIN-D project¹ (Web and Center-based Infrastructure for the Social Sciences and Humanities) is a research infrastructure project following the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) Roadmap² to build research infrastructure for the Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS). ESFRI research infrastructure projects are built in three consecutive phases: the preparatory phase, the implementation phase, and the usage phase; CLARIN-D is currently in the implementation phase. It is a collaborative effort involving institutions and researchers at nine academic centers:

- Bavarian Archive for Speech Signals (BAS), Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich
- Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science (BBAW)
- Institute for the German Language (IDS)
- Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen (MPI)
- University of Tübingen, Department of General and Computational Linguistics
- University of Hamburg, Hamburg Center for Speech Corpora (HZSK)
- University of Leipzig, Institute of Computer Science
- Saarland University, Department of English and Translation Studies
- University of Stuttgart, Institute for Natural Language Processing

CLARIN-D builds on the achievements of the European CLARIN (Common Language Resource and Technology Infrastructure) initiative as well as the German national project D-SPIN (Deutsche Sprachressourcen-Infrastruktur). CLARIN and D-SPIN developed a set of common standards and goals for humanities research infrastructure as well as plans for the sustainable provision of digital resources and their long-term archiving.

CLARIN-D is funded directly by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), but also receives contributions from German state governments (Länder) and individual universities, as well as support from the Berlin Brandenburg Academy of Science, the Leibniz Foundation, and the Max-Planck-Society.

The CLARIN report R1.5 “Fifth Year Activity Report – Progress Report of the Project and the Various Work Packages” provides a short overview of the activities carried out in the CLARIN-D project during the fifth and final year of the implementation phase.

¹ http://www.clarin-d.de/
² http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=esfri
The present report compiles an executive summary of the set of more detailed annual reports for each work package which include:

- R2.5 Liaison
- R3.5 Establishing the technical infrastructure
- R4.5 Annual report on the activities of the discipline-specific Working Groups
- R5.5 AP5 Fifth Year Activity Report
- R6.5 Fifth Year Activity Report
- R7.5 Support and Helpdesk
- R8.5 Documentation of AP8 preparation activities
- R9.5 Dissemination

These reports have been mailed to the CLARIN-D Advisory Board. They are also available online on the CLARIN-D web page: [http://clarin-d.de/en/yearly-project-reports](http://clarin-d.de/en/yearly-project-reports)
Work Package 1: Management

Work package (WP) 1 is dedicated to the overall management of CLARIN-D, the coordination of the consortium and required administrative tasks.

For managing and coordination, CLARIN-D has a number of committees in place. These committees are the CLARIN consortium committee (Konsortiumskreis, KK), the internal steering committee (Lenkungskreis, LK), the scientific advisory board (International Advisory Board, IAB), and the joint CLARIN-D-DARIAH-DE technical advisory board (TAB). In addition, WP 1 is involved in the technical management, coordinating especially WP 3 and 5 with the user requirements.

Internal Steering Committee (Lenkungskreis)

The internal steering committee (Lenkungskreis, LK) consists of the scientific coordinator, three elected project leaders of CLARIN-D centers, an elected representative of the discipline-specific working groups and the management team. The LK is the administrative body for deciding the operations of CLARIN-D. Currently, the LK consists of Christoph Draxler (BAS), Ludwig Eichinger (IDS), Gerhard Heyer (Leipzig), Erhard Hinrichs (scientific coordinator, Tübingen) and Christian Mair (Freiburg, for the discipline-specific working groups) plus the CLARIN-D coordinators Dörte de Kok (Tübingen, management), Thorsten Trippel (Tübingen, liaison management) and Dirk Goldhahn (Leipzig, technical management). The management team does not have voting rights. Regular monthly meetings are conducted in the form of videoconferences. Regular members of the LK are elected for two years. The CLARIN-D coordinators and the chair of the discipline-specific working groups are members ex officio.

International Advisory Board

The International Advisory Board (IAB) is a group of CLARIN-D external experts who are consulted on new developments and discuss strategic and content related developments, with a bird’s-eye view of other developments in the communities. A high-profile international committee of experienced experts from various backgrounds was formed for this purpose. They met in June 2015 in Munich, Germany and will meet again in June 2016 in Hamburg. Members of the IAB are currently: Helen Aristar-Dry (University of Texas at Austin, LinguistList), Christiane Fellbaum (Princeton University), Björn Granström (KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm), Helge Kahler (BMBF), Jan Christoph Meister (University of Hamburg), John Nerbonne (University of Groningen, University of Freiburg), Heike Renner-Westermann (University Library Johann Christian Senckenberg, Frankfurt) and Achim Streit (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology).
Joint Technical Advisory Board of CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE

The joint Technical Advisory Board (TAB) of CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE is a committee for collaboration on the fundamental technical level between two large research infrastructures for the humanities and social sciences (HSS) discussing questions of technical protocols, infrastructural requirements on the level of archiving, interconnection, search, etc. Small working groups (for example, on persistent identifiers, authorization and identification) are formed in areas with overlapping requirements. This avoids duplication of developments and allows for an increased efficiency in implementation, but also interoperability where overlapping exists. For example, this includes an option to grant access to one infrastructure to users of the other.

The most recent meeting of the TAB took place in February 2015 at the IDS in Mannheim. Members of the Technical Advisory Board are currently: Jonas Beskow (University of Stockholm), Carol Goble (University of Manchester), Jan Hajic (Head of the Prague CLARIN Centre), Ed Hovy (University of Southern California), Michael Lautenschlager (German Research Centre for Geosciences, Potsdam), Gerhard Schneider (University of Freiburg), Toma Tasovac (Digital Humanities Centre, Belgrade), Melissa Terras (University College London) and Claire Warwick (University College London).

Project Meetings

In addition to the monthly meetings of the internal steering committee, the consortium of all center leaders meets every three months. The consortium’s committee is the governing body of CLARIN-D. It is currently chaired by Jonas Kuhn (IMS, Stuttgart). Strategic decisions and fundamental coordination take place in this committee.

The following project-internal meetings were organized jointly by Tübingen as coordinator and Stuttgart as representative of the CLARIN-D members:

- A consortium and IAB meeting in Munich, 10-11 June 2015
- A consortium meeting in Hamburg, 15-16 September 2015
- A consortium meeting in Mannheim, 02 December 2015
- Virtual consortium meetings on 25 January and 21 March 2016

Administrative Support

The administrative tasks include the coordination of the reports, both on the administrative side and on the content side; these are reports made to the funding agency, and the KK, the LK, and the IAB, in particular the milestone reports. During this last year of the implementation phase, the coordination of a new proposal was a major task of WP 1. The final version of a funding proposal for an additional four years was submitted at the end of March. The communication with the funding agency and the ministry was coordinated by this work package.
The financial and legal office for CLARIN-D curation projects was jointly administrated by Sebastian Drude (MPI Nijmegen) as administrator of the curation funds, Dörte de Kok (Tübingen) as project coordinator, and Gregor Wiedemann (Leipzig) as administrator of the Discipline-Specific Working Groups (F-AGs).
Work Package 2: Liaison

CLARIN-D’s liaison activities target two directions: other initiatives working on research infrastructures and user groups currently not involved in CLARIN but with research questions to which the infrastructure could provide assistance.

Previous activities with other research infrastructures were continued in this phase. These other research infrastructures consist of infrastructures for defining common interfaces and standards, here especially the standardization organizations ISO (expert group TC 37 SC 4) and DIN (expert group NA 105-00-06 AA) and the Text Encoding Initiative. Other research infrastructures and projects with common interests are the Research Data Alliance (RDA), DARIAH, EUDAT and some research projects such as special research centers (SFBs). Close cooperation with the other CLARIN initiatives on the European level was also continued.

CLARIN-D increased the cooperation with DARIAH-DE on the strategic and dissemination levels. At conferences and events in which CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE are represented, both initiatives agreed on sharing an information booth providing information to users according to the respective specializations. Additionally, a new council of CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE was created for strategic coordination. This council discusses disciplinary specializations, joint activities and long term operational planning and maintenance of infrastructures. Regular meetings of this council have been agreed upon, including video conferences and face-to-face meetings. These activities add to the established technical cooperation, for example in the areas of AAI and PID.

This year’s major achievement was a focus on the user, as reflected in publications and presentations. The relaunch of the CLARIN-D website focuses on user services in the areas of accessing, analyzing and archiving data for users. Together with use cases with detailed step-by-step descriptions, this illustrates the move from the implementation phase towards the usage phase of CLARIN. The website was accompanied by additional informational material such as videos and screencasts directed at users.

With the CLARIN center Tübingen as a partner in the consortium, CLARIN-D also plays a major role in the FP7 and Horizon2020 project EUDAT (European Data Infrastructure) focused on building a European collaborative data infrastructure. As such, CLARIN participated in EUDAT activities. CLARIN-D also utilizes technology provided by EUDAT and provides feedback and input to EUDAT developments.

CLARIN-D continued to cooperate with the Research Data Alliance (RDA), an interdisciplinary initiative of data centers, archives and research data infrastructures.

CLARIN-D reaches out to user communities who are interested in applying data and services. This includes specific workshops, conference presentations, publications and contact with user communities. In 2015, CLARIN-D presented at the annual meeting of the
German Society of Romance Philologies ("Romanistentag"), at the German Society of English Philologies ("Anglistentag") and in the context of the data center group of the association for Digital Humanities in the German language region. It also published an overview article with the Bavarian Academy of Science. CLARIN-D also used dissemination events to contact users, such as at the European Summer University in Digital Humanities in Leipzig and the conference of the German DH association (Digital Humanities im deutschsprachigen Raum), in March 2016 also in Leipzig.

With continued efforts, CLARIN cooperates with eHumanities projects, which are also funded by the BMBF. CLARIN exchanges ideas and technology with these groups and prepares for further services, such as hosting their data and providing web services and tools.

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3 German article: https://www.badw.de/de/publikationen/akademieAktuell/2016/56/00_gesamte_Ausgabe_0116.pdf
Work Package 3: Technical Infrastructure

In this report, we focus on the main advances of the technical infrastructure since the last CLARIN-D work package 3 reporting period, which ended in May 2015.

Important milestones of the reporting period were:

In 2015, all CLARIN-D Centers underwent the process of center assessment and certification. By summer 2015, all nine CLARIN-D centers successfully renewed their CLARIN B center status and their Data Seal of Approval.

Concerning the Federated Content Search (FCS), the specification v2.0 including all necessary libraries and tools has been developed and finalized. As a major step forward, FCS now supports more advanced query scenarios with linguistic annotation layers.

With regards to the Virtual Language Observatory, CLARIN’s faceted browser based on metadata harvested from CLARIN centers, substantial improvements in usability of the user interface (such as user friendly presentations, advanced search queries, revised ranking) and metadata quality have been achieved. Concerning CMDI, CLARIN’s metadata framework, the core infrastructure is currently updated to support the CMDI 1.2 standard. In addition, version 2.0 of the Component Registry was released and put into production, with a new user-friendly front end as a major change.

Currently, CLARIN-D is preparing for the transition into its Usage Phase. Successful migrations of several services in preparation of upcoming organizational changes can serve as examples of successfully adapting to this change. This demonstrates the robustness of CLARIN's distributed setup.

These and other recent developments are detailed in the main report of work package 3.

Summarizing, one can say that CLARIN-D made significant steps forward in all technical areas. Together with aspects such as the renewed certification of all nine CLARIN-D centers, the foundations for a reliable research infrastructure are in place. Work has not been completed, but important challenges concerning the better integration of the existing components and improvement of the user interfaces have already been addressed in many aspects.

In addition, the development of the central infrastructure is organized in a more centralized structure by the CLARIN ERIC or in Europe-wide Taskforces. This allows for a coordinated and efficient development of the central infrastructure in cooperation with developers from the CLARIN ERIC member countries. In this framework, CLARIN-D plays an important role and is planning to do so in the future.

Another vital aspect that was important in CLARIN-D's fifth year is organizational flexibility. Over time, many institutional and personal factors can change. Successful migrations of several services in preparation of organizational changes in the upcoming
usage phase, can serve as examples of adapting to change. Due to the distributed center architecture, CLARIN was able to adapt with minimal impact on the running services. This demonstrates the robustness of CLARIN's distributed setup. At the same time, the use of components such as the Centre Registry increase this robustness by allowing access to resources and service APIs in this dynamic distributed environment with high reliability.
**Work Package 4: Discipline-specific Working Groups**

In the fifth year of CLARIN-D the activities in work package 4 (WP4) were centered on three main tasks:

- Curation Projects
- Dissemination
- Use case development.

In the following, we will give a short summary of the activities of WP4. For a full report, especially on the activities in the discipline-specific Working Groups (WG), please refer to the CLARIN-D Report 5-4 “Annual report on the activities of the Discipline-specific Working Groups”.

The CLARIN-D working package 4 “Discipline-specific Working Groups” acts as a link between the CLARIN-D resource centers and the research communities that represent the users of the CLARIN-D infrastructure. Ten Working Groups act as consultants for the needs of the humanities, social sciences and particular disciplines. All ten WGs together consist of around 200 academic professionals. Their main role is to advise CLARIN-D during the development and implementation of the infrastructure so that these efforts can best meet the needs of all research communities involved. WG chairs further coordinate dissemination and best practice using CLARIN-D services in their member communities. Nine of the ten WGs set up so-called curation projects where they develop or improve resources and tools for their disciplines. Language resources are maintained and adapted for integration into the CLARIN-D infrastructure (WG 1, 2, 8, 9, 10). Furthermore, analysis tools and data repositories for language data are developed and improved (4, 5, 7, 8).

CLARIN-D work package 4 (WP4) comprises the management of joint activities of the working groups. This includes the organization of working group meetings, organization of specialized and interdisciplinary workshops and the creation of joint reports. Further, WP4 coordinates communications between CLARIN-D centers and the WG as well as between WGs. This work is done in close cooperation with the heads and members of the WG. Virtual meetings are held on a monthly basis. Contents of the curation projects and activities of the WG were published on the CLARIN-D Website. For communication, mailing lists and wiki contents were maintained. WP4 also reports on activities of WG in the quarterly CLARIN-D consortium meetings.

In summer 2015, WP4 organized the third dissemination workshop of the CLARIN-D discipline specific working groups. Around 120 participants attended the workshop on 30.06./01.07.2015 at the Mediencampus Leipzig where the WG presented their work in the curation projects and Prof. Christiane Fellbaum (Princeton University) held a keynote speech on the role of research infrastructures for the Digital Humanities.
In fall 2015, the WG started to develop use-case scenarios of the CLARIN-D infrastructure for their discipline-specific needs. Use-cases consist of example research designs and analysis involving CLARIN resources and/or tools. The goal is to generate understanding of the potential of the infrastructure for the WG members, to collect feedback for developers and to distribute CLARIN-D’s tools and services to research communities. For this, use-case documentation such as screen casts will be published on the CLARIN-D Website.
Work Package 5: Services and Resources

During the fifth project year, CLARIN-D member institutions again focused on the curation and integration of Language Resources and Language Technology (LRT) that originate from different research institutions outside the consortium. However, as in previous years, all partners continued integrating and further curating their own existing LRT. As in previous years, many interesting resources could be curated and integrated into the CLARIN-D infrastructure that cover thematic grounds which were not represented before. The set of web services available for the WebLicht orchestrator was extended to support additional languages and tools.

The taskforce for CLARIN’s dedicated search engine for language resources, VLO (VLO-TF, coordinated by BBAW), concluded its work at the end of 2015. The work and results are documented in detail on the CLARIN community’s developer platform, TRAC, at https://trac.clarin.eu/wiki/VLO-Taskforce (login required). Many of the proposals and suggestions of the taskforce have already been implemented by the VLO development team. The VLO-TF worked in close cooperation with related taskforces on CLARIN ERIC level and served as a major initial force for some of them. Its legacy will be upheld by CLARIN ERIC’s taskforce on metadata curation and the centers’ representatives for metadata and the concept registry. This effectively promotes the aims and purposes of the VLO-TF to the European level and fosters the participation of members from other CLARIN initiatives.
Work Package 6: Legal and Ethical Issues

Work Package 6 (WP6) focuses on legal and ethical issues regarding the usability and reusability of language resources in CLARIN-D. The overall goal of WP6 is to provide useful legal information and resources to CLARIN-D partners. The tasks and goals of WP6 are guided by the outline and milestones laid out in the CLARIN-D Vorhabenbeschreibung (project description).

The Institut für Deutsche Sprache (IDS) has consolidated all legal information regarding CLARIN-D in one place, the CLARIN-D Legal Helpdesk, (http://CLARIN-D.de/legalissues). This now includes information on CLARIN legal terms and licenses, a Legal Information Platform, with information on various legal topics in English and German, and a CLARIN-D Language Resources Legal Issues Bibliography. In the past year, these were updated with entries on possible changes to German laws affecting research (including government-commissioned reports) and introductory resources to begin to understand legal issues.

The WP6 team contributed as part of a roundtable of authors to DFG (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, German Research Foundation) endorsed guidelines on legal issues and language resources, and prepared an English-language version of this report in response to an expressed interest from the CLARIN community. This will be released shortly as a CLARIN Legal Issues Committee (CLIC) White Paper.

The WP6 team gives frequent presentations and lectures at CLARIN-D events, digital humanities conferences, and as invited speakers at university classrooms, providing education to the CLARIN-D and research communities on legal issues affecting language resources and digital humanities in general.

Continuing on WP6’s mission of copyright reform, the WP6 team has been involved in continued communication with European Commission staffers to continue articulating our position there.

The CLARIN Legal Issues Committee (CLIC) includes Witt, Kamocki, and Ketzan (Vice Chair), and a meeting took place on 10.15.2015 in Wroclaw, Poland. In late 2015, Pawel Kamocki joined the OpenMinTeD project as an external legal expert. OpenMinTeD is an EU-funded project that aspires to enable the creation of an infrastructure that fosters and facilitates the use of text mining technologies in the scientific publications world.

New license helper tools are being developed within CLARIN, following the CLARIN License Category Calculator last year, which uses plain language to help users identify the conditions of use for a resource. A second license helper was developed throughout 2015/2016 and will go fully online this year.

Throughout 2016, IDS will continue to expand the Legal Helpdesk, publish more journal articles and at least one CLIC White Paper, continue work on license helper tools, and
continue to represent the voices of CLARIN-D and CLARIN at venues relevant to changes of law, in Europe and now especially Germany.
**Work Package 7: Support and Help Desk**

Whereas the focus of previous work was on integration of the Help Desk and its components into the CLARIN-D Infrastructure as well as the integration of further (CLARIN-external) tools, the successful operation in the current reporting period allowed for several approaches of evaluation to gain reliable information on user demands and possible areas for optimization.

For this purpose, the following evaluation measures were taken:

- As a part of the "Help Desk Kiosk" that was arranged within the framework of the third CLARIN-D F-AG Workshop from June 30th to July 1st in Leipzig, a number of **qualitative interviews** with users were conducted, leading to a rearrangement of the Help Desk entry points (i.e. the "Help Desk Button" and contact forms).

- A web-based **questionnaire** was implemented and put to use as a method of continuously collecting feedback concerning user satisfaction during the regular help desk operation by asking users to fill out the questionnaire once their ticket has been closed.

- The results clearly show a positive attitude towards the overall performance of CLARIN-D user support and confirm the idea of comprehensive technical documentation as a first instance of a multilayer support structure consisting of knowledge resources and individual (1\textsuperscript{st}, and 2\textsuperscript{nd} line) support.

- In order to get reliable information on the personnel effort of the CLARIN-D-Help Desk, comprehensive **time recording** and analysis were conducted with a representative group of six help desk agents from the CLARIN-D Centers in Tübingen, Mannheim and Hamburg over a period of one month.

The results supported using this help desk structure, since 61\% of all incoming tickets were processed and successfully closed by the 1\textsuperscript{st} line support (mainly consisting of student assistants), and only 39\% had to be escalated to 2\textsuperscript{nd} line support (mainly performed by experts and employees at CLARIN-D-centers). The results also confirmed the calculations of personnel effort made in advance.

Further steps taken in the reporting period mostly referred to technical optimization and enhanced usability and user friendliness. Thus, for instance, the web based contact form of the CLARIN-D Help Desk was further developed to provide enhanced security and spam protection as well as support for the use of multiple languages in field labels and description text. Furthermore, the OTRS based Ticketing System was updated to a new version and was migrated to another server. The latter step was made necessary by unexpectedly high storage requirements in the file system caused by email attachments of incoming user requests.
To comply with the Iframe-based embedding principles of the CLARIN-D Website, the FAQ had to be revised with respect to the content of articles (shorter articles with no graphic content). Apart from this, the FAQ content was revised with respect to more basic and less specific articles based on incoming user queries.
Work Package 8: Training and Education

The major event of work package Training and Education in the fifth project year was the joint summer school with the European summer university Digital Humanities Culture & Technology (ESU DH C&T) which took place from July 28th to August 7th in Leipzig. CLARIN-D co-organized the summer university for the second time, organized three workshops and an afternoon project presentation session which explained

- what you can do with CLARIN-D tools and resources,
- how to process your own resources and integrate them in CLARIN-D and
- how to contact/get help from CLARIN-D.

Both workshops and the project presentation session were well received. A more detailed report on the summer university with a list of the workshops and presentations can be found in chapter 2 of R8.5 and on the website of the summer university (http://www.culingtec.uni-leipzig.de/ESU_C_T/).

The next joint venture with the ESU DH C&T is already in planning. The third joint summer school will take place from July 19th to July 29th again in Leipzig. CLARIN-D will again organize five workshops. More information on the workshops and on the status of the summer university can be found in chapter 3 of R8.5 and on the website of the summer university (http://www.culingtec.uni-leipzig.de/ESU_C_T/).

Apart from the summer university, CLARIN-D organized a number of individual workshops, tutorials, courses, demonstrations and presentations at various events, and locations including a workshop series on Working with Corpora, which followed the principle of learning through collaboration. An overview of these training measures can be found in chapter 4 of R8.5.

For TeLeMaCo the collaborative portal for teaching and learning material we saw a steady growth of teaching material. The newly implemented access monitoring shows approximately 300 accesses per month. For more information on TeLeMaCo see chapter 5 of R8.5.
Work Package 9: Dissemination and Acceptance

Overview

The work package 9 (WP9) on Dissemination comprises running the CLARIN-D website, the publication of a newsletter, the participation in and organization of workshops and conferences, the production of educational videos, and the dissemination of flyers and brochures.

The Bavarian Archive for Speech Signals (BAS) at LMU Munich and the Institute for Natural Language Processing (IMS) at the University Stuttgart collaborate in WP9. At IMS, Gerhard Kremer is responsible for WP9, at BAS it is Christoph Draxler.

Main Dissemination Strategies

CLARIN-D distributes information about its aims, contents, status and progress via several communication channels:

- a web site with links to resources, services and tools,
- a newsletter which is published every 6 months by BAS,
- the organization of workshops on recording and processing speech data,
- educational videos, and
- active participation in workshops and conferences for young researchers.

These information channels are used by all CLARIN-D partners. Furthermore, all CLARIN-D partners contribute information about their activities for the sake of the dissemination of information about CLARIN-D.

Activities

In the reporting period, AP9 published one newsletter in December 2015. No new flyers were produced by the work package. In March 2015, BAS has finalized a new tutorial video on the grapheme to phoneme conversion (G2P) web service. Since April 2016, there are four educational videos available.

AP9 has contributed presentations and tutorials on general CLARIN infrastructure issues and/or specific CLARIN web services to international workshops and conferences. Furthermore, CLARIN-D shared an information booth with DARIAH-DE at DHd.

In 2015, the project’s liaison officer, located at University of Tübingen (Seminar für Sprachwissenschaft) has taken over most content-related responsibilities regarding the webpage from IMS. Tübingen has also relaunched the web site, with a focus on user-centered design. IMS continues to provide technical support for the server environment.
and the content management system. Major upgrades of both were performed in May 2015.

**Strategic Planning**

The current CLARIN-D phase ends in September 2016. Strategic planning will focus on establishing a new team of editors for the next phase of CLARIN-D, and on increasing the number of external contributions to the newsletter, in particular from the different scientific communities.