CLARIN-D Report
R2.1a/b:
First Year Activity Report – Liaison with the CLARIN ERIC and Liaison with DARIAH-DE

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First Year Activity Report – Liaison with the CLARIN ERIC and Liaison with DARIAH-DE

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1 Introduction

CLARIN report R2.1a/b “First Year Activity Report – Liaison with the CLARIN ERIC and Liaison with DARIAH-DE” documents the liaison activities established during the first year of the CLARIN-D project.

It presents an overview of cooperation within the CLARIN-D project as a whole, as well as the cooperative efforts of the individual CLARIN-D centres.

On the national level, CLARIN-D is aligning its activities with DARIAH-DE, the other humanities infrastructure project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

On the European level, CLARIN-D is the German national project participating in the European CLARIN association and is undertaking cooperative activities within that framework.
2 Liaisons within CLARIN

2.1 Liaison with CLARIN ERIC

CLARIN-D – Web- und zentrenbasierte Infrastruktur für die Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften is the follow-up project to D-SPIN (Deutsche Sprachressourcen-Infrastruktur).

It is part in the ESFRI Roadmap\(^1\) (European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures) and the European Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).\(^2\) Detailed planning on the national and international level is necessary in order to construct competitive, open-access European research infrastructures that will profoundly improve European research in the coming decades. ESFRI is an on-going European process to provide that planning.

ESFRI Research Infrastructures are built in three sequential phases: the preparatory phase, implementation phase, and exploitation phase.

The preparatory phase for CLARIN-D took place from 2008 to 2011. During those three years, D-SPIN was the German partner project participating in CLARIN. D-SPIN was funded at the national level by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), while CLARIN was funded directly by the European Commission. The preparatory phase developed the ideas behind CLARIN and D-SPIN through proof-of-concept projects, technical development, models for training researchers, and through clarification of the legal framework for the project, both on the national and European levels.

The second project phase started in 2011 and will continue to 2016. Funding during the implementation phase will be provided entirely at the national level by the participating European countries. CLARIN-D is the national successor project to D-SPIN, and at the European level, the multinational project CLARIN has been replaced by CLARIN ERIC. European Research Infrastructure Consortia (ERICs)\(^3\) are a new category of legal entity established by the European Union in 2009 to facilitate the establishment and operation of joint research infrastructures of pan-European interest.

CLARIN started the process of setting up an ERIC at the beginning of 2011 and concluded on February 29\(^{th}\) 2012, holding a founding ceremony at the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science in The Hague. The founding member countries are Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, and the Dutch Language Union (De Nederlandse Taalunie; a trans-national organisation set up by the Belgian Flemish Region and the Netherlands). More European countries are planning to join CLARIN ERIC soon, notably Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Latvia, and Lithuania. CLARIN ERIC is expected to have roughly 20

\(^{1}\) http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=esfri
\(^{3}\) http://ec.europa.eu/research/infrastructures/index_en.cfm?pg=eric
During the preparatory phase, as part of the D-SPIN project, BBAW (Berlin-Brandenburg

Representatives of CLARIN-D contributed to the process above in the following way:

On 17-18 March 2011, the “First CLARIN ERIC Steering Committee Meeting” took place in The Hague. Germany actively contributed to the meeting with Helge Kahler (BMBF) as Representative, Hans Nerlich (PT DLR) as Steering Committee member, and Erhard Hinrichs as Expert.

On 17-18 April 2012, the “First meeting of the CLARIN ERIC General Assembly” and the First meeting of the National Coordinators Forum took place in The Hague. Steven Kruwer (University of Utrecht) was elected coordinator and chairman of the Executive Board of CLARIN ERIC, with Bente Maegaard (University of Copenhagen) as vice-chairman. Helge Kahler (BMBF; German Federal Ministry of Education and Research) has been elected president of CLARIN ERIC, with Jacek Gierliński (Poland) as deputy president. Erhard Hinrichs (Germany) was elected as chairman of the National Coordinators Forum, and Kadri Vider (Estonia) as his deputy.

The Scientific Advisory Board consists of Arcot Rajasekar (University of North Carolina, USA), Milena Žic Fuchs (University of Zagreb, Croatia), Brian MacWhinney (Carnegie Mellon University, US), Annamaria Carusi, (University of Copenhagen, Denmark), Louise Edwards (National Library of the Netherlands, Netherlands), Ed Hovy (ISI, University of Southern California, US), and Steven Bird (University of Melbourne, Australia).

All CLARIN members must sign the CLARIN Agreement, which specifies their rights and duties, as well as their national contributions to CLARIN ERIC. The University of Tübingen coordinated the CLARIN Agreement between the CLARIN ERIC, the BMBF, and the CLARIN-D partners. The CLARIN Agreement for Germany will be signed in June 2012 and attached to the annual report for project year 2.

2.2 Liaison with foreign CLARIN partners

Within CLARIN-D, there is also cooperation between the individual CLARIN-D centres and foreign CLARIN partners. Due to the structure of CLARIN-D as a federation of centres, each responsible for different key areas of activity, individual project centres can strengthen their relations with CLARIN partners in other countries on their own initiative.

The Max Planck Institute in Nijmegen is a centre in both CLARIN-D and CLARIN-NL, and constitutes an important connection point between the two projects.

On November 21st 2011, the first meeting between representatives of CLARIN-D and CLARIN-NL was held in Utrecht. This meeting established possible points of contact between the projects, such as establishing standards and constructing a joint authorisation and authentication infrastructure.

The Hamburg CLARIN-D centre is also evaluating the possibility of establishing a joint support and helpdesk with CLARIN-NL.

During the preparatory phase, as part of the D-SPIN project, BBAW (Berlin-Brandenburg
Academy of Sciences) built the C4 Corpus in cooperation with Austria, Switzerland, and South Tirol under the CLARIN-AT project. The multinational partners collaborated in developing corpus content, and by working together on the technical level, in developing a distributed query environment for the C4 Corpus.

Stuttgart has established a close connection with the Oxford Text Archive, which was a CLARIN member in the first project phase. They exchange ideas concerning technical issues for CLARIN centres, e.g. Shibboleth, PIDs, metadata, OAI-PMH.

4 http://www.korpus-c4.org/
3 Liaison with DARIAH-DE

3.1 Joint Technical Advisory Board
CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE will establish a joint Technical Advisory Board consisting of national and international experts. The Steering Committees of CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE are in the process of building that Advisory Board. The inaugural meeting will take place at the end of 2012 or at the beginning of 2013.

3.2 Centre Registry
CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE have discussed the possibility of implementing a shared centre registry – a centralized online database that would store information about centres and the services they offer. This would include general information about centres and specialized information about automatic metadata harvesting, service discovery and other topics.

Discussion with DARIAH-DE has led to the conclusion that the two projects have very different needs and requirements for a centre registry. Therefore, the CLARIN-D centre registry has been developed independently of DARIAH-DE and is now deployed at the computing centre of the Max Planck Institute in Garching (Munich).

3.3 First Technical Meeting CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE
On February 8th 2012, the first joint technical meeting of CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE took place in Karlsruhe. Developers and technical managers from both projects attended the meeting, along with representatives from the computing centres in Jülich and Garching. Representing the CLARIN-D project, Peter Wittenburg and Dieter van Uytvanck (Nijmegen), Volker Boehlke (Leipzig), Oliver Schonefeld (Mannheim) and Thomas Zastrow (Tübingen) were present.

The purpose of the meeting was to find concrete points of common interest on the technical level between CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE. The topics that were discussed included:

- Tools and demonstrators
- Centre registries and collections
- Metadata interoperability
- Persistent identifiers
- Archiving, sustainability and preservation
- Authentication and authorization infrastructure (AAI)

Discussion at the meeting led to the identification of the last point as especially important for both projects. The first concrete collaboration between the two projects was a document addressing open questions and problems for a German AAI infrastructure. This document was forwarded to the DFN (Deutsches Forschungsnetz).
3.4 International Meetings

In 2010, CLARIN and DARIAH organized the conferences *Supporting the Digital Humanities (SDH2010)* and *Networking Event for European Research Infrastructures (NEERI 2010)*. They took place in Vienna as a joint event on 19-20 October and 21 October 2010. Erhard Hinrichs and Peter Wittenburg were members of the Joint Programme Committee; Peter Wittenburg chaired the SDH session on Endangered Languages and Language Documentation.

On 17-18 November 2011, the CLARIN and DARIAH initiatives organized the joint conference *Supporting Digital Humanities 2011* (SDH2011) in Copenhagen. CLARIN-D participated in the Programme Committee with Erhard Hinrichs and Peter Wittenburg.

Both CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE were invited to participate in the workshop *CLARIN-AT – DARIAH-AT: Europäische Forschungsinfrastrukturen in den Geisteswissenschaften* in Vienna on 21-22 February 2012. Dieter van Uytvanck and Thomas Zastrow attended as representatives of CLARIN-D. They presented the current state of work and recent developments at CLARIN-D and discussed them with members of the Austrian CLARIN-AT and DARIAH-AT projects, as well as a number of Austrian humanities researchers.

At the conference *Digital Humanities 2012* in Hamburg, CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE are organizing a joint workshop. The workshop has the title “Service Oriented Architectures (SOAs) for the Humanities: Solutions and Impacts. Joint CLARIN-D / DARIAH workshop at Digital Humanities Conference 2012”. Workshop organizers are Heike Neuroth (DARIAH-DE), and Peter Wittenburg, Erhard Hinrichs, and Thomas Zastrow (CLARIN-D).

3.5 Dissemination

Saarland University (UdS) had a meeting with DARIAH-DE at the opening of the *Göttingen Centre for Digital Humanities* in July 2012.

UdS organized a workshop together with DARIAH as part of AP8 *Schulung und Ausbildung* in order to coordinate activities in this area. The workshop took place in Saarbrücken on March 30th.

3.6 Further Interactions

- The Max Planck Institute has had several discussions with DARIAH-DE in the context of the *centerNET* and *DANS* communities.
- CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE have both participated in the ISO TC37/SC4 standardization process.

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5 http://ztwweb.trans.univie.ac.at/sdh2010/
6 http://cst.ku.dk/sdh2011/
7 http://corpus3.aac.ac.at/showcase/index.php/clarindariahworkshop
8 http://www.dh2012.uni-hamburg.de/
9 http://www.dh2012.uni-hamburg.de/conference/programme/pre-conference-workshops/
4 Liaison with other initiatives

In 2011, the Federal Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) launched a call for research and development projects in the eHumanities sector (*Bekanntmachung des Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung von Richtlinien zur Förderung von Forschungs- und Entwicklungsvorhaben aus dem Bereich der eHumanities*¹⁰).*

Up to 24 projects will be funded, aiming to develop new interdisciplinary research approaches combining the social sciences with computer science. The initiative’s main goals are the development of innovative research methods using digital information sources, as well as the development of expertise in eHumanities among computing experts and parallel expertise in computational approaches among researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

This BMBF call complements BMBF funding for projects developing research infrastructure and virtual research environments, such as CLARIN-D and DARIAH-DE. This is motivated by the belief that the invention of innovative research approaches can only take place through the development of new computational techniques and solutions – and related tools, services and software – that address specific research questions.

CLARIN-D partners will participate as computing and technical partners in several projects being launched in response to this BMBF call. The list of projects that are accepted by the BMBF has not yet been officially published. Approved projects will be published on the CLARIN-D web page.

Several eHumanities projects, which have been invited by the BMBF to submit a formal proposal for project funding, will participate in the *CLARIN-D M12 workshop*¹¹, a conference for researchers in the social sciences and humanities, which will take place in Leipzig on 27-28 June 2012 (cf. CLARIN-D Activity Report R4.1).

¹⁰ http://www.bmbf.de/foerderungen/16466.php
¹¹ http://clarin.informatik.uni-leipzig.de/index
5 Conclusion and further perspectives

During the first year, CLARIN-D built a solid basis for interaction and cooperation, both nationally with DARIAH-DE as well as internationally through CLARIN ERIC and other European CLARIN projects. The funding of the CLARIN ERIC will provide the cornerstone for successful integration of the transnational CLARIN infrastructure and of languages and tools contributed by the member countries.