# EVALITA 2011
# Speech Tasks

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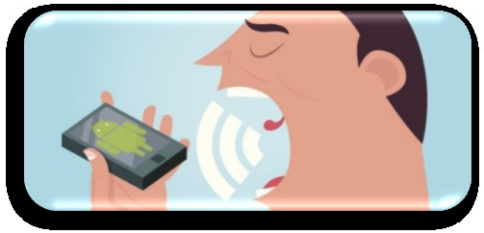
# Outline

- Introduction
- The tasks:
  - **Automatic Speech Recognition**
    (Large Vocabulary Transcription)
  - **Forced Alignment**
    (on Spontaneous Speech)
  - **Student Contest**
    (on Best Voice Application on Mobile Platform)
- Participants and results
- Conclusion and future activities



# Introduction

- **EVALITA-S** is only at its second run …
  (we are still young – there is a long way to reach a "mature" position)
- **None** of the tasks of the previous campaign have been repeated in 2011 evaluation
  (this means that a lot of new work must be done every time …)
- **Application oriented** "tasks" are now of growing relevance in Evalita-S
  (now, we need to involve non only "academic"… and we want/would like to involve mainly research companies in the near future!)

Although of early experience, in Evalita-S we never forget the **"scientific rigour"** and the importance of **"emerging technologies"** when defining new tasks and activities.

# Student Contest

(Best Voice Application on Mobile Platform)

to create a (first) link between Students/Young-Researchers and the industrial word in the field of **Speech Technology**

A meritocratic reward on the basis of task competition has been adopted, in order to guarantee a large participation. But . . .

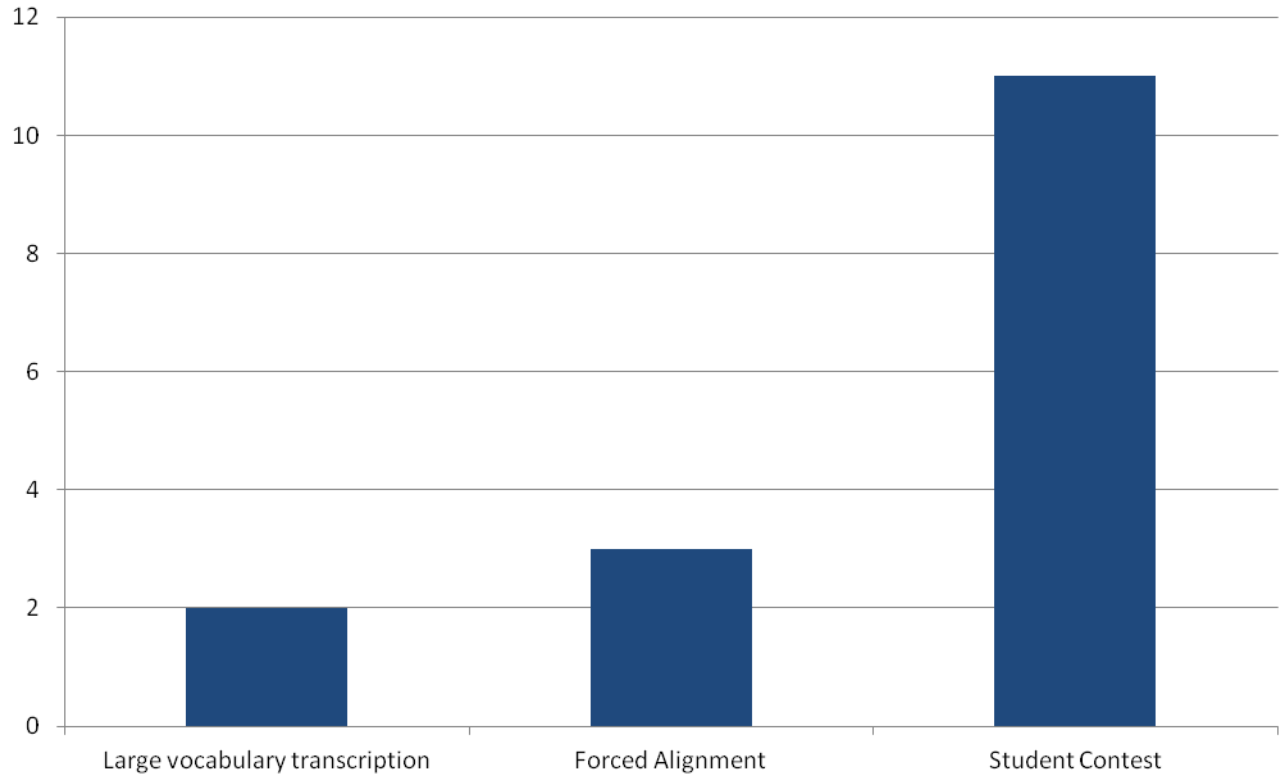
# Student Contest

(Best Voice Application on Mobile Platform)

## We partially reached the goal…

Starting from 11 registered participants, only 3 completed the task, and these 3 are all from the same University

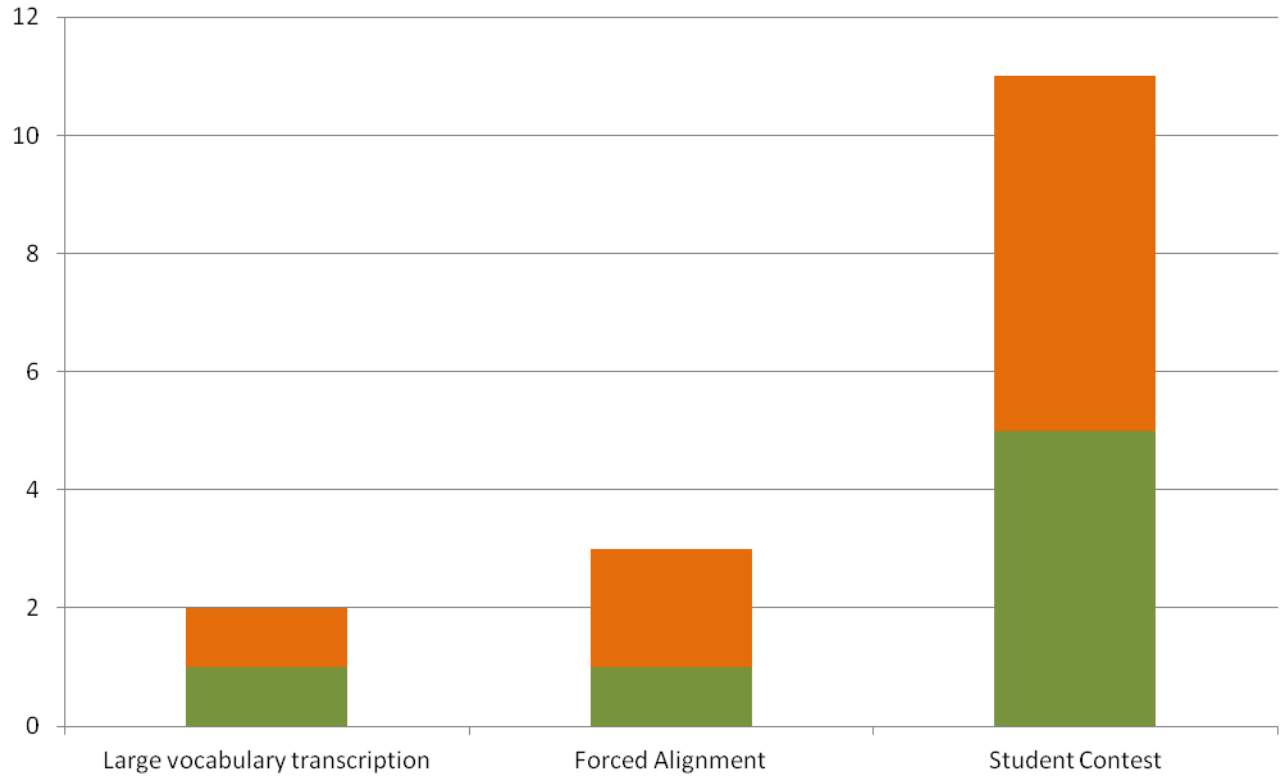
# Participants (overall by task)




The total number of **Participants** is **16** (2+3+11)

but …

# Participants (organizers vs all)

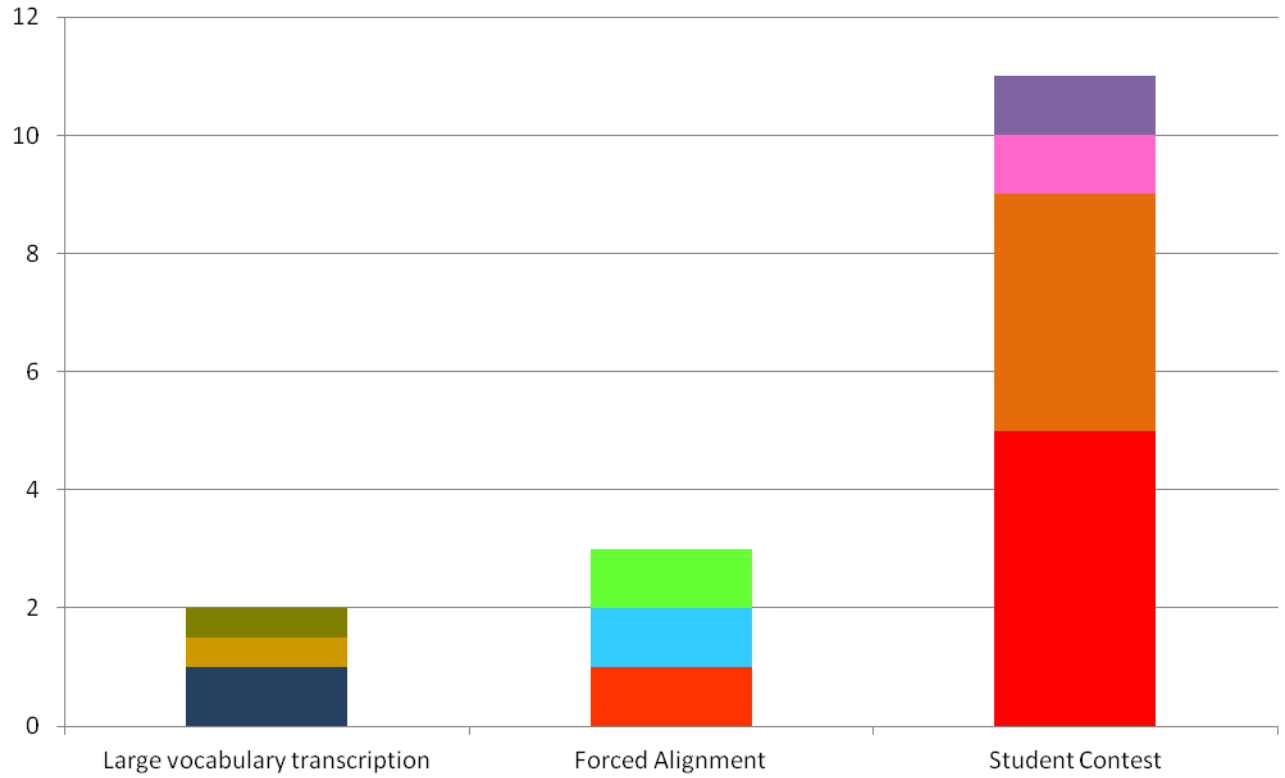



looking at the Institutions…

the **Organizer** also acts as **Participants**, in all the tasks.

And more precisely …

# Participants




we a total of 9 different Institutions…

In addition for the SC task 10/11 of potential* Participants are from the same city… so that:

**WE NEED/ASK FOR A LARGER PARTICIPATION**

** only 3 of the 11 registered have completed the task: 9 retired before the deadline*

# Some conclusion (a learned lesson)

Participants must/should have the same "**weight class**", especially when we are facing industrial structures . . .

(but also Academics must be "comparable" with other partners both industrial as well as academics)

In both Evalita-S (2009 & 2011) we found that industrial partners scare of "**lower results**", so they prefer to miss this opportunity and avoid any risks . . . This strongly reduced the number of participant, and **shows a very important problem**

# Some conclusions

Thinking at **Evalita-S 2013**, we now have to take the appropriate actions to avoid a possible "**stranding**" of this worthy initiative on speech technologies.

Our "**lifetime**" could be:

- focus on(ly) speech "killer application"
  (the ones "companies" can't say NO !)
- find tasks that "sound" more international
  (try to relax the "Italian" dependency of the task)
- find task that require "low cost" resources
  (e.g. crowdsourcing, unlabeled speech materials, etc. )

and last, but not least:

**to have a "political" support/sponsor at Academic and Industrial level**

# It is important to . . .

- promote the evaluation "philosophy" as a mandatory activity for the innovation, the growth and the competitive success of our country in Europe and in the word

- to increase the Speech Technology Italian Community (STIC), and to create/support fixed and stable collaborations among all partners; especially between Research & Innovation (or Academic and Industry)

# Thank You!