



EVALITA 2009

Second Workshop on Evaluation of Natural
Language Processing and Speech Tools for Italian

Reggio Emilia, December 12 2009



EVALITA: Objectives

- Promote the development and diffusion of NLP and Speech tools for Italian
- Provide shared tasks
 - Training and test data
 - Common evaluation procedures
- Take advantage of existing annotated corpora for Italian



Tasks at EVALITA 2009

NLP

- Part of Speech Tagging (University of Pisa)
- Parsing (University of Torino – CNR-ILC Pisa)
- Lexical Substitution (CNR-ILC, Pisa)
- Textual Entailment (Tor Vergata, La Sapienza, Rome, Saarland University)
- Entity Recognition (FBK-irst, CELCT, Trento)
- Connected Digit Recognition (Abla, FBK-irst)

Speech

- Speaker Identity Verification (Nuance, Agnitio Madrid, Uni. Calabria, Cosenza)
- Dialogue System Evaluation (Uni. Trento, Uni. Napoli, Speechcycle, Loquendo)



EVALITA: Participation

	Expressions of interest	Participation
Part of Speech Tagging	18 (15)	8 (11)
Parsing	13 + 8 (13)	8 (8)
Lexical Substitution	5	3
Textual Entailment	4	2
Entity Recognition	14+6 (7)	8 (6)
Connected Digit Recognition	5	4
Spoken Dialogue Systems	3	3
Speaker Identity Verification	12+11	10

102 (55) expressions of interest, 46 (30) submissions

- 30 (21) different organizations
- 11 (8) non Italian groups
- 5 (2) non academic



EVALITA: Discussion

- Improvement of performance: for some tasks results are comparable to English
- Consolidated tasks (e.g. well known format) are preferred
- Collaboration with evaluation initiatives in Europe (Passage in France)
- Capitalize on the big effort
 - reuse datasets for benchmarking
 - publications
 - International visibility of the Italian community
 - attract more companies



EVALITA: Sponsors



Italian Association for Speech Sciences



Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence



International Master in Human Language
Technology and Interfaces



LIVEMEMORIES: Active Digital
Memories of Collective Life



Evalita 2009 is an event endorsed by FLaReNet
(Fostering Language Resources Network)



Workshop Program

- Task sessions
 - Tasks and results presentation
 - Selected presentations
 - Discussion
- Invited talk – 12.30: Patrick Paroubek (LIMSI)
- Lunch (12.50 – 14.20)
- Two Posters Sessions (and coffee break)
- 16.45 – 17.30 Final panel and discussion
Giampaolo Mazzini (CELI), Piero Cosi (AISV), Patrick Paroubek (LIMSI)



Thank You!

- Evalita has been organized on a voluntary basis:
 - Many thanks to task organizers!
 - Many thanks to all participants!
 - Many thanks to Evalita sponsors!
 - Many thanks to workshop local organizers!



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Special thank to:

Manuela Speranza (FBK-irst), Valentina Bartalesi Lenzi (CELCT), Rachele Sprugnoli (CELCT)