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SAVAS

‘Sharing AudioVisual language resources for Automatic Subtitling’

Collaborative Project
Information and Communication Technologies

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1 Introduction

This deliverable presents a report of the 2nd End-User Panel Workshop¹ that was held in Amsterdam on September 15th, linked to the IBC 2013 event. The goal of the workshop was to present the preliminary results of the project.

There are still two more End-User Panel Workshops planned as follows:

- 3rd End-User Panel Workshop
To be held in February-March 2014, linked to Broadcast Video Expo 2014 (BVE) or TVconnect 2014 expositions
Goal: an Open End-User Workshop, to present final SAVAS systems and preliminary evaluation of their performances.
- 4th End-User Panel Workshop / Dissemination event
To be held April 2014, linked to the National Association of Broadcasters Show (NAB Show 2014) conference
Goal: demonstration of the final SAVAS systems. Dissemination of results.

The corresponding reports will be presented in updated versions of this deliverable, shortly after they take place.

2 The 2nd SAVAS End-User Workshop

Similarly to the 1st End-User Panel Workshop, the 2nd Workshop was also held in conjunction with an important event: the IBC 2013 Exhibition.

IBC is an annual event for professionals engaged in the creation, management and delivery of entertainment and news content worldwide. The 2013 event attracted about 53,000 attendees from 160+ countries worldwide, comprising conference delegates, exhibition visitors, exhibitors and press.

The exhibition took place between September 13th and 17th and the 2nd SAVAS End-User Workshop took place on the 15th, hosted in a meeting room rented from the exhibition organisers.

2.1 Agenda

Figure 1 shows the agenda of the workshop. Its main goal was to present the first results of the project and to collect information about potential needs and requirements of the panellists, regarding the use and integration of the SAVAS systems in their operative workflows.

¹ D6.6 was originally planned to report the 2nd End User Panel Workshop to be held at M12, while D6.7 was intended to describe the 3rd End User Panel Workshop at M18. Because there were not enough technical advances to show at the time, D6.6 was skipped and D6.7 reports the actual 2nd End User Panel held in M17.

In the introductory session, Arantza del Pozo gave an overview of the 1st year advancements within the project, informing attendants about the main SAVAS results that were deployed over the period.

Joao Neto gave a more detailed presentation of the SAVAS live and pre-recorded applications: S.Live! and S.Scribe!. Demos of both systems were shown for pre-recorded and live video content in all the SAVAS languages.



Agenda Item	Remark	Time
Welcome	Welcome	9:45 – 10:00
Intro	Introduction to the workshop. SAVAS (Carlo Aliprandi)	10:00 – 10:10
SAVAS status updates	SAVAS project overview. SAVAS status: current and expected results. SAVAS (Arantza Del Pozo)	10:10 – 10:20
SAVAS applications	Presentation and introduction to the SAVAS applications. Applications delivery plan. SAVAS (Joao Neto)	10:20 – 10:30
SAVAS applications	Focus on Transcription Systems. Presentation and demo of the new SAVAS applications: S.Live and S.Server. SAVAS (Joao Neto)	10:30 – 11:30
SAVAS applications	Focus on Respeaking System. Presentation and demo of the new SAVAS application S.Respeak. SAVAS (Carlo Aliprandi and Nicola Piccinini)	11:30 – 12:30
LUNCH		12:30-14:00
Discussion	Discussion. Collection of needs, desiderata and requirements. SAVAS+End-User Panelists	14.00 – 15:00
Conclusions	Conclusions SAVAS (Carlo Aliprandi)	15.00 – 15:15
	Face to Face meetings	15.30 – 17:30
END of WORKSHOP		18:00

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Figure 1. 2nd SAVAS End-User Panel Workshop agenda

Nicola Piccinini presented a beta version of the S.Respeak! application. A live respeaking demo using S.Respeak! was also shown to the panellists in the Italian language.

In the afternoon session, Carlo Aliprandi chaired a discussion session, where each panellist provided feedback and recommendations and expressed their interest on each showcased application.

The last part of the workshop was dedicated to face-to-face meetings with some of the panellists, namely with SWR, FAB, ScreenSystems, DDS, Univ. Roehampton, Ubertitles and Write systems, to discuss specific needs and potential collaborations regarding the integration and/or evaluation of the SAVAS applications.

2.2 Participants

As in the previous workshop, participation was extended to a wide range of stakeholders potentially interested in the project results: broadcasters in the SAVAS languages; subtitling and reporting companies that use LVCSR in the SAVAS languages; subtitling software providers that are willing to integrate LVCSR technology in their products; universities expert in audiovisual translation and accessibility organizations interested in subtitling for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Invitation to the 2nd EUP workshop was offered to all the 1st EUP workshop participants. Seven out of the previous ten attendants confirmed their interest. Thus, it was possible to extend participation to a limited number of new organisations whose travel and accommodation expenses could be funded through the allocated budget. The final list of participants was as follows:

Organisers

Arantza del Pozo, SAVAS Coordinator
Carlo Aliprandi, SAVAS Dissemination Manager
Joao Neto, SAVAS Chief Technology Officer
Nicola Piccinini, SAVAS Technical Leader

Attendants

Philip Klenk – SWR
John Birch, Andrew Lambourne - ScreenSystems
Yota Georgakopoulou - DDS
Pablo Romero Fresco - Univ. Roehampton
Massimo Binetti, Cristina Croce - Write System
Mikel Recondo, Ubertitles
Mercedes Castro - Mira lo Que Digo
Fidel Manrique Fuero - CESyA
Ricardo Garcia - Emercury Telecom
Miha Sokolov - FAB

The workshop was also attended by a couple of SAVAS colleagues from RAI, namely: Valentina Giardino and Emanuele Gagliardi.

2.3 Main outcomes

As already mentioned during the 1st workshop, panellists confirmed their need to subtitle more content with less resources. The SAVAS applications were perceived as a potential means to solve such need and a number of relevant recommendations and expression of interests were given throughout the workshop.

A general recommendation for S.Live!, collected from broadcasters in particular, was that it would be recommendable to integrate the technology with the live subtitling devices (i.e. inserters, encoders, transcoders, etc.) already available in the market.

Many panellists agreed that S.Scribe! is a very interesting application, especially because it can be easily integrated into existing production workflows. For example, one panellist expressed interest in using the application to automatically subtitle its archive of tapeless videos, which now need to be subtitled whenever they are broadcasted again. Other panellists expressed similar ideas, i.e. using the application to produce automatic subtitles of pre-recorded contents that are released close to airing time, which could then be post-edited in a short time-frame before broadcasting.

S.Respeak! was also considered valuable, and collected interest from the subtitling service providers, who expressed their willingness to use and evaluate the system.

Quality and evaluation of the automatically generated subtitles was another important discussion topic. Subtitle splitting, persistence on screen and the amount of words per minute were deemed crucial quality features that should be tuned to facilitate readability following subtitling standards and recommendations. Regarding evaluation, the NER model employed for respeaking was suggested as an emerging subtitle evaluation metric, which could be adapted to measure the quality of the automatic live and pre-recorded subtitles generated by S.Live! and S.Scribe!. [NERstar](#)² was also proposed as an applicable evaluation tool. Pablo Romero-Fresco's input regarding automatic subtitle quality and evaluation was extremely valuable.

As a result of the face to face meetings, we also collected additional integration requirements and willingness to test and evaluate the SAVAS applications from most of the panellists.

2.4 Conclusions

The workshop was very successful and useful. We gathered 16 people from 12 different parties, with about 70% of repeating participants.

The SAVAS consortium received very positive comments on the status of development of the applications, and several panellists were positively surprised by the results.

A number of remarkable topics were addressed in the workshop, related to development, integration, use and evaluation of the systems.

² <http://www.speedchill.com/nerstar/index.php/nerstar-tool.html>



The interest on the SAVAS results was confirmed, and a general appreciation of the S.Live!, S.Scribe! and S.Respeak! applications was expressed. Several requests for integration into existing production workflows and evaluation were collected.

The SAVAS team is taking into consideration all the received recommendations, and a plan to involve the panellists in system evaluation is being discussed.

