



Status of Educational and Training Activities

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1 Introduction

As a Network of Excellence, one of the important objectives is to create a people-network of European junior and senior researchers in the field collaborative multimedia content analysis and tagging, exploiting P2P and social networks. To build such network, we believe that three lines of development are important:

- ? Building focused topical cores starting from the expertises of the core and permanently associated partners.
- ? Stimulating junior researchers in and outside Europe to explore the fields of multimedia content analysis and peer-2-peer systems at large, and to help them to get state-of-the art knowledge by participating in conferences, workshops, and summer schools.
- ? Argue to the separate multimedia and networking communities, and in particular to senior researchers, that the combination of multimedia content analysis and tagging on the one hand, and (social and technical) networking on the other hand, makes good sense and will bring about new solutions and requirements that will help to further the important field of search engines in Europe.

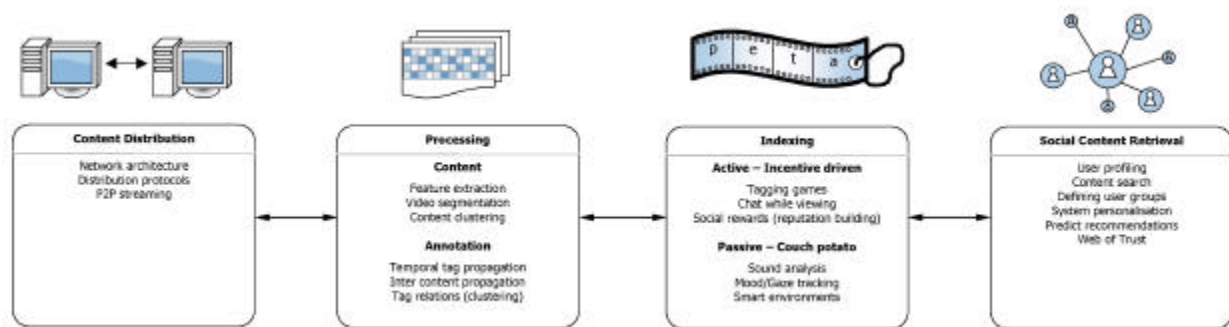
This deliverable reports on the status of these lines of development in three successive sections. Note that we interpret the title of the deliverable a bit broader than the usual notion of “training and education of M.Sc./Ph.D. students”.

2 Kick-off and Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Building focused topical cores that connect well to the expertises of the core and permanently associated partners requires interaction between these partners right from the beginning of the project. After the start of the project on March 1, 2008, the first interaction between participants took place during the kick-off meeting on March 13 and 14. The agenda of the kick-off meeting was as follows:

- ? Summarize objectives of PetaMedia by coordinator,
- ? Presentations by core and affiliated partners on possible contributions and expression of interests,
- ? Forecasting on scenarios in which media content analysis, tagging and networking jointly play a role,
- ? Extraction of working items, collected in focussed Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
- ? First discussion in SIGs

During the kick-off meeting and in the following months, four SIGs were formed, visualized in the following figure.



In the months after the kick-off workshop, the definition and memberships of the four KICs were defined. Each of the core partners has taken responsibility of one of the SIGs. Deliverables scheduled for the first year will be structured according to the division into SIGs for maximal coherence and efficiency. The SIG structure as such is most likely not a permanent one, and will serve in the first year as a driving force for interactions and collaborations in the NoE.

The description of the four SIGs can be found on the PetaMedia website (<http://www.petamedia.eu>) and will not be repeated here.

The first series of SIG meetings has taken place in September and October 2008:

SIG.1: Content distribution, 19 September 2008, EPFL.

SIG.2: Processing, 8 October 2008, TU Berlin

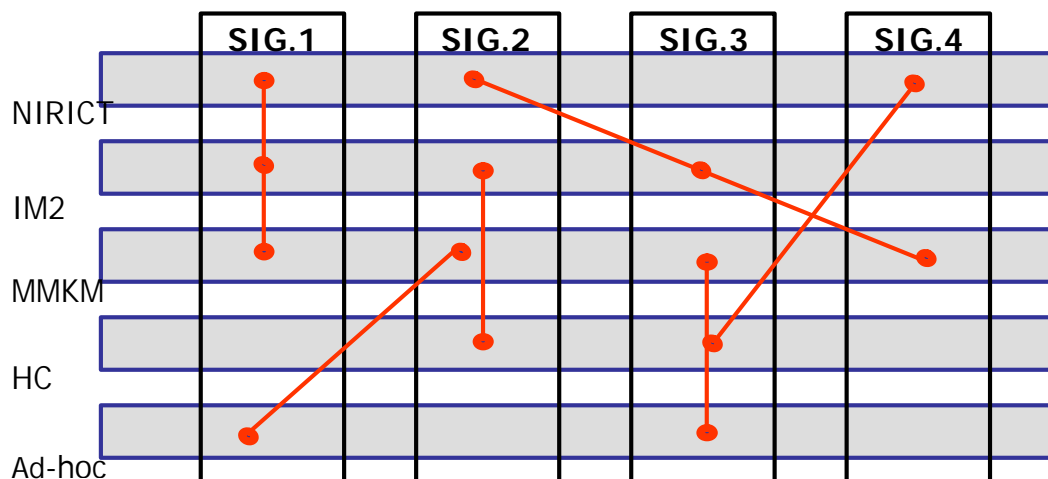
SIG.3: Indexing, 5 September 2008, QMUL

SIG.4: Social, 23 September 2008, TU Delft.

The SIG meetings were attended by the core partners and interested partners from the national networks. Minutes of the SIG meetings are available and will not be repeated here.

Each of the SIG meetings consisted roughly speaking of two parts. In the first part, the participants gave presentations about their on-going research relevant to the SIG. From these presentations as well as from the content of Deliverable D4.1 (National Network Research Report) it became very clear what the points of focus of the different SIGs are and how the interests are spread over national networks. It became also clear that clean cut divisions between the SIGs is not only impossible but also undesirable. This emphasizes the fact that the SIGs are to be seen as platforms for initiating and stimulation of the discussions, not as closed communities which develop their own independent agendas.

In the second part of the SIG meetings, the participants had brainstorm discussions and formulated concrete action points to be taken. The most visible action point is the definition of the so-called 'mini-projects'. Mini-projects are collaborations between two or more PetaMedia network partners, preferably covering two or more countries. Mini-projects are seen as the vehicle to stimulate the creation and strengthening of the fabric of collaborations in the NoE, as illustrated in the figure below (red lines are miniprojects).



Miniprojects can run in project year 2 and 3, have a limited time, and have specific resources allocated. Funding guidelines have been established for these miniprojects. The project's spending guidelines have been laid down in a separate document.

At the first PetaMedia Yearly Technology Integration Meeting (PYTIM, October 20 and 21, 2008, Berlin) the various proposed miniprojects will be presented. The network steering board will review and approve the miniprojects. At that time, also the involvement of ad-hoc partners will be discussed. The next instalment of this deliverable will give an overview of the miniprojects, their objectives, and the partners involved.

3 Student Involvement in Workshop and Conferences

The consortium has agreed on the guidelines for funding of network partners, ad-hoc partners and student grants. These spending guidelines are laid down in a separate document.

The funding of ad-hoc partners will partially be spend on travel grants of Ph.D. students of organizations outside the four countries involved in PetaMedia. Quote from the PetaMedia Spending Guidelines:

Ad-hoc partners are only eligible for reimbursement of conference expenses under the travel grant mechanism. PetaMedia provides 40 travel grants of €1000 each. These travel grants are awarded by the PetaMedia steering board, and administered by the coordinating partner.

Travel grants can only obtained for those meetings that explicitly acknowledge the support of the PetaMedia project. Travel grants are obtained through an open call and open competition. Each year, between 10 and 15 travel grants will be awarded, with a maximum of 40 for the duration of the project. The ranking of applications will be done on the basis of

- a. Relevance of the individual's research to PetaMedia.*
- b. Distribution over gender and continents, with a preference for EU new member states and Asian and applicants.*

In the first 6 months of the project, two travel grants have been awarded:

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------|----------------|---|--------|
| May 08 | SSMS 2008 | Pinar Duygulu | Bilkent University | Turkey |
| May 08 | SSMS 2008 | Phivos Mylonas | National Technical University of Athens | Greece |

The request from organizers of the SAMT 2008 (Semantics And digital Media Technologies) workshop to provide Ph.D. student travel grants has been turned down because of insufficient match with PetaMedia objectives.

Planned for the coming period is support for 3 Ph.D. students to participate in WIAMIS 2009 (Workshop on Image Analysis for Multimedia Interactive Services), London. The PetaMedia core partners will make efforts to reach out to Ph.D. students from EU new member states and Asia.

4 Opinion Forming

An important mission of the PetaMedia project is to expose the typical image/content analysis community to the developments in the field of peer-to-peer networking, social communities, and tag-based information retrieval. The objective is to influence the opinion of this community on how to proceed in research and development in multimedia information retrieval such that a substantial improvement over today's performance will be achieved.

The following activities by the PetaMedia consortium contribute to the opinion forming.

- ? Tribler (an Introduction to P2P Technology) Workshop, Delft University of Technology, May 27, 2008.
- ? PetaMedia Workshop on Implicit Human-Centered Tagging, Queen Mary University, London, September 5, 2008. Organized by Maja Pantic (Imperial College London/University of Twente), Ioannis Patras, (Queen Mary University London), Alessandro Vinciarelli (IDIAP, Switzerland)
- ? Workshop on Multimedia information retrieval at the IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP), San Diego, October 12, 2008. Workshop organized by E. Izquierdo (Queen Mary University London), and A. Hanjalic (Delft University of Technology). Presentation and panel led by R.L. Legendijk (Delft University of Technology).

5 State of the Consortium and Future Developments

In the first six months, a lot of attention has been given to organizing the NoE and getting partners from the national networks (permanent affiliated partners) involved. Due to different funding limitations and complications in the four participating countries, this has shown to be more complicated than initially thought. Nevertheless, the core partners believe that the PetaMedia partnership model (core partners, network partners, ad-hoc partners, student grants) is beginning to work and that the network is strengthening.

On 30.9.2008, the consortium is involving the following core and network partners:

The Netherlands (NIRICT)

Core partner: Delft University of Technology

Nirict partner: Twente University of Technology

New national network partner (not in Nirict): Telematics Institute Enschede, TNO-ICT Delft, Centre for Mathematics and Informatics (CWI), Amsterdam.

Switzerland (IM2)

Core partner: EPFL

IM2 partner: University of Geneva, IDIAP

New national network partner (not in IM2): University of Yverdon

United Kingdom (MMKM)

Core partner: QMUL

MMKM partner: Imperial College; University of Glasgow; University of Southampton

New national network partner (not in MMKM): University of Surrey

Germany (HC3)

Core partner: TU Berlin

HC3 partner: Technical University of Hannover, RWTH Aachen

Reach out to new national network partner (not in HC3): University of Koblenz

Concerning the future developments, the reach out will be aimed at partners outside PetaMedia's national networks. The strategy for reach out is currently under discussion. Most likely, the reach out will develop along three lines:

- ? Connect to related NoE's in the 7th framework. In particular those that have partially overlapping partnerships such as the NoE Social Signal Processing.
- ? Involvement of European or other partners needed for strengthening the miniprojects. This involvement will be on the basis of visits of 1-3 months stays of junior and senior researchers at core or network partner's organisation.
- ? Involvement of partners that have strategic European positions. These partners can play an important role in the continued existence of the network after the funding period (virtual centre of excellence - VCE). In particular, the NoE is looking at the KIC (knowledge innovation cluster) initiatives of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), which may form an appropriate vehicle for the PetaMedia VCE.