

Dutch/Flemish HLT cooperation



Dutch: facts and figures

- 15 million native Dutch speakers in The Netherlands
- 6 million native Dutch speakers in Belgium (Flanders)
- 3 million 2nd language speakers in Belgium
- 250.000 native Dutch speakers in Surinam
- Dutch is also spoken in Aruba, the Dutch Antilles, France, Indonesia, USA, United Arab Emirates
- 6.5 million speakers of Afrikaans in South Africa and Namibia and 4 million 2nd language speakers
- Dutch ranks 37th of 6500 languages on number of speakers; Dutch ranks 7th as European language

Successful Dutch/Flemish cooperation

Successful researcher cooperation in EC projects (Eurotra, ESPRIT etc); followed by intergovernmental cooperation:

1998 - Corpus of Spoken Dutch

1999 - HLT policy platform

2000 - EUROMAP

2000 - NL-Translex
2002 - BaTaVo Report
2003 - Enabler
2004 - Dutch HLT Archive
2004 - Flemish-Dutch Economic Cooperation
2004 - STEVIN
2009 - CLARIN

STEVIN Conventions and Values

- Structure follows strategy both in organisation and in funding instruments (as fast and simple as possible)
- Goal-oriented approach (assessing deliverables, instead of time registration)
- Integrated approach by stimulating HLT at all levels of the open innovation model and including all actors
- Selecting quality, managing conflicts of interest, transparency and integrity in assessment procedures (IAP > PC > Board)

HLT Integrated Approach

The STEVIN programme aims at securing the position of the Dutch language in the modern information and communication society via an integrated approach of stimulating the HLT technology sector

- Stimulating the creation of HLT resources (BLARK)
- Stimulating HLT fundamental/strategic research
- Stimulating HLT applied research and promoting HLT integration in applications
- Promoting HLT use
- Improving knowledge transfer between HLT actors

STEVIN Budget

- 11,4 M Euro for a period of 5 years: common pot
- Jointly funded by Flanders and The Netherlands
 - * Ministry of the Flemish Community
 - * Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science *
 - Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs
 - * Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research
- Managed by Programme Bureau consisting of:
Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO)
and AgentschapNL
- Financial coordinator: Dutch Language Union

Funding instruments

- Grants for the development of HLT resources and strategic and application-oriented research (*calls for proposals and tenders – 8.5 M€*)
- Demonstration projects stimulating the use of HLT (*open calls – 1 M€*)
- Accompanying measures for HLT networking and HLT knowledge transfer (*– 1 M€*)

All STEVIN results (particularly resources and tools) are maintained and distributed by the TST centrale

HLT related actions

- TST Centrale (HLT Archive): Dutch central repository for HLT resources (data and software)
Budget: 0.5 million Euro per year
- Dutch Language Union HLT Accompanying Actions
Budget: 0.25 million Euro per year
- Many other HLT research programmes funded by other national and international organisations

- CLARIN NL - Budget: 2009 – 2014: k€ 9.000
- CLARIN VL - Budget: 2009 – 2010: k€ 780 (++)

What next?

In recent years:

- NL more focus on infrastructure; funding for talents instead of themes and for applied research.
- VL less focus on infrastructure; funding for strategic and applied research, both open and within specific themes.

Strategy for future cooperation?

- Dutch/Flemish or maybe more variable geometry?