C H O R U S +

Coordinated approacH to the eurOpean effoRt on aUdio-visual Search engines

CHORUS+ is a Coordinative Action federating partners from Austria, France, Greece, Italy, Spain and Switzerland. CHORUS+ objectives is to coordinate national and international projects and initiatives in the Search-engine domain and to extend this Coordination in non-European countries.

At A Glance: Chorus +

Coordinated approach to the eurOpean effort on audio-visual Search engines

CHORUS+
AUDIO-VISUAL SEARCH

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Center for Research and Technology Hellas – CERTH-ITI (GR),

University of Trento – UNITN (IT),

Vienna University of Technology - TUWIEN (AT),

University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland – HES-SO (CH),

Engeneering Ingegneria Informatica SPA – ENG (IT),

Thomson (FR),

JRC - Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (EC)

Duration: 01/2010 – 12/2012

Funding scheme: *CA,*

Total Cost: *€ 1.377m*

EC Contribution: *€ 1.061m*

Contract Number: INFSO-ICT 249008

Main Objectives

CHORUS+ aims at creating the conditions of mutual information exchange and cross fertilisation between the FP7 projects in the search-engines domain and the recently launched national and international initiatives in this area. A particular emphasis on setting concrete R&D and industrial objectives for multimedia search in Europe is planned through the implementation of discussion groups limited to selected representatives (industry and academia) and the organisation of and open participation in workshops, conferences and summer schools.

"In order to address the large variety of potential use cases and the great level of uncertainty ... the profusion of initiatives is beneficial."

At the business level, CHORUS+ aims to foster discussion and avoid fragmentation. The outcome of this discussion will address the interests, needs and challenges of technology producers, content owners and consumers.

At the technology level, numerous initiatives on analysing, annotating, classifying or otherwise linking audio-visual content will take place with the final aim to ease navigation, access and use of virtually unlimited quantities of audio-visual content.

CHORUS+ believes that, in order to address the large variety of potential use cases and the great level of uncertainty regarding future success stories, the profusion of initiatives is beneficial and will trigger competition between projects leading to better results.

Information Society   European Commission

Technical Approach

The CHORUS+ project is composed of 5 Workpackages:

WP3 has 3 main objectives:

1) to mutualise data collections and annotations and make them available to the search technology community through a dedicated procedure for benchmark-creation facilities,

2) to analyse evaluation dimensions and disseminate best practices in terms of evaluation processes for multimedia retrieval, and

3) to share and exchange knowledge and experiences and establish the capabilities and limits of current search services in order to enable the emergence of efficient next generation search engines.

WP4 aims at understating how the partnership between different actors can be facilitated in order to describe and contribute to the establishment of (multiple) ecosystem(s) in the search field.

WP5 will aim at organizing two Think Tank meetings per year on selected business themes in relation to audio-visual search.

WP1 will co-ordinate the day-to-day management & **WP2** is in charge of the dissemination efforts

Key Issues

CHORUS+ will work on the following key issues:

- Support the **integration and strengthening of a single European research area** by stimulating interaction and co-ordination among research projects at the EU level in the area of audio-visual search engines.

- **Extend cooperation and coordination to Asian countries** (Japan, Singapore and China) and, if applicable, to the **USA**, since the topic of multimedia search engine represents a global concern today which needs a wider cooperation scope than European frontiers. Emergent efforts from these countries will be watched and establishing connections will be investigated.

- Support the creation of a **multi-disciplinary approach** for the implementation and setting-up of audio-visual search engines in the EU.

- Support the **dissemination of results and strategies** developed within the ICT Program.

Expected Impact

Strategic Impacts:

- Facilitate European industrial consensus across projects dealing with similar issues allowing the smallest projects to be fully integrated in the picture through Think Tank events, workshops, meetings and conferences.

- Assist in gathering stakeholders to analyse the situation and agree on common priorities and actions.

- Lead to better access the impact of ICT at macro, industry and firm level, on a socio-economic aspect.

Industrial Impacts:

- Lower threshold (especially intellectual investment) for new players to enter the search market via an open service-oriented search-engine framework.

- Provide key analysis to strengthen European firms' competitiveness in the mobile and enterprise sectors with in-depth market research.

- Provide crucial inputs to regulatory bodies.

- Bring together system integrators and service operators, suppliers of search technologies and researchers in order to assess the needs for innovation in particular, identified business sectors.

Scientific Impacts:

- Identify and assess candidate evaluation frameworks using the following criteria such as: (i) an openly published specification, (ii) a component-based architecture, (iii) an analytics pipeline, (iv) open data format standards, and (v) service-oriented architectures.

- Formalise a complete benchmarking and evaluation environment for search engine components.

Dissemination Impacts:

- Creating awareness attracting all the relevant stakeholders who may be interested in the adoption of the technical solutions;

- Raising interest in the scientific community around the research areas brought forward in the CHORUS+ Community;

- Create a communication channel between technical solutions and users.