

February 2010

Relevance

CLARIN community

for all communities

# Criteria for CLARIN Centres

## What is it?

Centres offering persistent services (A and B types) form the backbone of the CLARIN research infrastructure in so far as they will offer well-described services to the research community at a clearly specified service level based on a persistency statement. Centres will offer different types of services such as access to data resources, execution of web-applications and services, support of infrastructure type of services, advisory services and long-term persistency services. CLARIN centres need to support researchers the way they want to use data and tools. To become a CLARIN centre a number of requirements need to be met which are being listed in this Short Guide.

## What are the advantages of being a centre?

You want to obtain the status of a CLARIN centre if your mission is to provide harmonized language resources and services to the interested research community, and if you want to ensure their availability and persistence. Also CLARIN centers take upon themselves the societal task of giving access to language material to future generations as part of our cultural heritage ensuring long-term interpretability of all language resources. CLARIN centers work together to obtain better opportunities for sustainability, better quality of services, access to a broader and innovative spectrum of services and data, including the possibility to combine tools and data residing in different centres, and consequently will attract more users, including new users. CLARIN centres form part of the emerging European data infrastructure, which will become a crucial

part of the ERA. A national centre which gets the status of a CLARIN centre will be able to take advantage of the collective expertise and resources in the large centre community and will therefore offer the most advanced solutions.

## Who can use it?

This Short Guide is primarily directed to institutions who want to participate in the CLARIN network of centres, since it will inform them about the requirements they need to meet. These requirements also inform the users about what they can expect from centres.

## When can it be used?

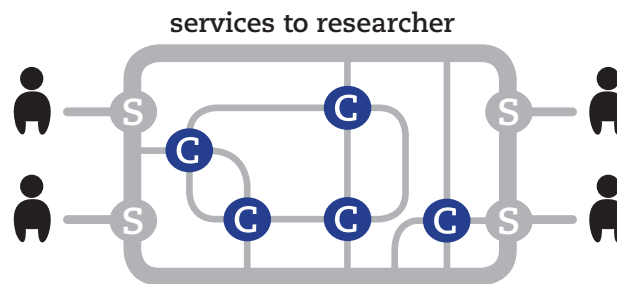
In the preparatory phase institutes who want to participate as centres often do not have suitable environments yet, so not all requirements will be met. In the construction phase, this situation needs to be improved in order to be able to rely on CLARIN services in the near future. The requirements for centres can give a clear orientation for every institute that wants to participate.

## Which are the requirements?

- Centres need to offer useful services to the CLARIN community and to agree with the basic CLARIN principles (own architecture choice, explicit statement about quality of service, usage of persistent identifiers, adherence to agreed formats, protocols and APIs).



- Centres need to adhere to the security guidelines, i.e. its servers need to have accepted certificates.
- Centres need to join their national identity federation where available and be ready to join the CLARIN service provider federation to support single identity and single sign-on operation based on SAML2.0 and trust declarations.
- Centres need to have a proper and clearly specified repository system and participate in a quality assessment procedure as proposed by the Data Seal of Approval or TRAC approaches.
- Centres need to offer component based metadata that make use of elements from accepted registries such as ISOcat in accordance with the CLARIN agreements, i.e. metadata needs to be harvestable via OAI PMH.
- Each centre needs to make clear statements about their policy of offering data and services and their treatment of IPR issues.
- Each centre needs to make explicit statements to the CLARIN boards about its technological and funding support state and its perspectives in these respects.
- Centres need to employ activities to relate their role in CLARIN to the research community in order to guarantee a research based status of the infrastructure and allow researchers to embed their services in their daily research work.



## Who is responsible?

The CLARIN research infrastructure is responsible to maintain the requirements and take care that the centres will finally meet them.

## Whom to contact?

For the CLARIN research initiative the official web-site gives all information also about the national coordination points: <http://www.clarin.eu>

For all aspects of the requirements you can contact:  
Dieter van Uytvanck (MPI): [dieter.vanuytvanck@mpi.nl](mailto:dieter.vanuytvanck@mpi.nl)

## Where to find more information?

The official CLARIN web-site is the source of all information:

CLARIN: <http://www.clarin.eu>

CLARIN Centres Document:  
<http://www.clarin.eu/specification-documents>

CLARIN Centre Types Document:  
<http://www.clarin.eu/specification-documents>

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<sup>1</sup>The last version of this document is maintained at the CLARIN Web-Site under documents: [www.clarin.eu/documents](http://www.clarin.eu/documents)

<sup>2</sup>See the CLARIN centres documents: <http://www.clarin.eu/specification-documents>;  
<http://www.clarin.eu/specification-documents>