- Andrejs Vasiljevs - 2019-10-02

NEALT President's report of the period ending on October 1, 2019

The Northern European Association for Language Technology (NEALT) was founded in Gothenburg on October 28, 2006, and had its first business meeting at the NODALIDA-2007.

NEALT is registered as a Swedish association with a Swedish bank account. The University of Oslo maintaines the [official NEALT web site](http://omilia.uio.no/nealt) for the association and a registry of members of the association. You can sign up as a member of NEALT via the website. Researchers who are engaged with language technology industry are requested to encourage these contacts to serve as supporting members of NEALT. Supporting members primarily sponsor students’ participation via student grants.

As CSC has discontinued maintenance of the Kitwiki platform on which NEALT Wiki pages were hosted, their content has been archived. [Archived wiki pages](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/) are accessible from the NEALT homepage. Executive Committee has initiated a work to update the NEALT website to improve its usability, streamline content management, consolidate and restructure content, improve design and adapt for mobile devices.

The association has the responsibility for the continuation of the NODALIDA conferences which have been successfully organized since 1977 (see the [list of NODALIDAs and their sites](http://omilia.uio.no/nealt/?task=conferences)). The NEALT Executive Committee appoints the chairpersons of the program committee and the local organization committee who then take the shared responsibility for organizing the conference according to [the rules for NODALIDA conferences](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/NealtEcNodalidaRules.html). The present executive committee gave this responsibility to Hrafn Loftsson, Reykjavík University. The board thanks him for accepting this responsibility and further the general chair Barbara Plank and local organization chairs Filip Ginter and Jenna Kanerva for organizing a successful 2019 conference.

The NODALIDA conferences address the traditional Nordic countries as well as the three Baltic countries and NW Russia. As before, NEALT operates as an independent association but works in close cooperation with the ACL and its EACL chapter. NEALT wishes to coordinate its activities with these organizations as well as with the Baltic HLT Conference and other local Language Technology conferences in its region.

Another important task of the association is to host publications, for which purpose one member of the Executive Board is the Editor in Chief heading the [Editorial Board](http://www.nejlt.ep.liu.se/board.htm). The Editor in Chief together with the Editorial Board maintains the [NEALT Proceedings Series](http://omilia.uio.no/nealt/?task=publications) and the [Northern European Journal of Language Technology (NEJLT)](http://www.nejlt.ep.liu.se/) which is a refereed high quality journal. In the beginning of 2016, Prof. Marco Kuhlmann took up the position as Editor in Chief. The publication of the NEALT Proceedings Series is done by Linköping University E-Press, where the NEJLT journal has been published from its inception. The Executive Committee has initiated discussion on the future of NEJLT as it is struggling to attract sufficient interest from authors for high quality publications. A proposal for comprehensive update of NEJLT (hyperlink to the pdf) has been received which will be presented to the NEALT members for discussion.

The association operates several special interest groups or SIGs that work according to [the rules for SIGs](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/NealtEcSigRules.html). The following SIGs have been established:

* [SigCg](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/SigCg.html) : The SIG-CG chaired by Trond Trosterud acts as a forum for the Nordic Constraint Grammar community which facilitates cooperation, exchange of ideas and programs, and building and sharing common resources. The CIG-CG has successfully arranged its seventh NoDaLiDa workshop on constraint grammar, with 10 different talks.
* [SigInfra](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/SigInfra.html) : The SIG-INFRA chaired by Rickard Domeij acts as a forum for developing language technology infrastructures in the NEALT region. No report for the last period
* [SigTeaching](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/SigTeaching.html) : No report for the last period
* [SigICALL](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/SigICALL.html): Report presented by Elena Volodinya.
* [SigNHPC](http://tekstlab.uio.no/nealt_wiki/Nealt/SigNHPC.html): NEALT special interest group in high-performance computing (for NLP) chaired by Stephan Oepen. Report presented by Filip Ginter