



## D5.3-4

# Cost estimates for CLARIN members

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**Table of contents**

<b>1</b>	<b>Executive Summary</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>3</b>
2.1	CLARIN Membership Fee .....	3
2.2	Types of National Costs.....	3
<b>3</b>	<b>Examples of Budgets and Costs</b> .....	<b>4</b>
3.1	Budgets and Costs CLARIN.SI.....	4
3.2	Budgets and Costs CLARIN.DK.....	4
3.3	Budgets and Costs Swe-CLARIN.....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Experience/Lessons Learnt</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Final Remarks</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>References and Further Reading</b> .....	<b>7</b>

## 1 Executive Summary

This report gives examples of cost estimates for establishing and running a typical CLARIN research infrastructure. It is clear that there are large differences among the different countries with regard to financial support and institutional landscape, so this report only gives examples for cost estimates.

This report is intended as a support for those countries who are preparing to become a CLARIN member as well as for countries that recently joined.

The target audience is both current national coordinators and future national coordinators, *i.e.*, those that are going to manage their country's participation in CLARIN ERIC. Also, the document is hopefully useful for people working on national service-providing institutions or data centres.

The document is part of a series of documents that addresses issues relevant to the construction of national consortia and knowledge sharing infrastructures. The series takes into account setting up a national consortium, the professional profiles needed for a typical CLARIN consortium, the handling of intellectual property rights (IPR), standards *etc.*

The document builds on the experience gathered during the first years of CLARIN ERIC and on a CLARIN-PLUS training workshop held in Solstrand, Norway in March 2016<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>CLARIN PLUS workshops were held in Solstrand, Norway, in March 2016, in Vienna, Austria, in June 2016, in Prague, Czech Republic, in February 2017, and in Helsinki, Finland, June 2017.

## 2 Introduction

CLARIN ERIC is a research infrastructure consortium consisting of national consortia in each of its member countries. CLARIN ERIC requires that a national consortium is set up when joining as a member of CLARIN ERIC.

The purpose of this document is to give some information of cost estimates for establishing and running typical infrastructure functions of a national consortium. In this section, the different types of costs are listed. This is followed by examples of budgets and costs in section 3. Section 4 lists some lessons learnt.

### 2.1 CLARIN Membership Fee

The CLARIN membership fee was for years up to 2016 regulated in the [Statutes](#)<sup>2</sup> and indicated in Annex 2 of the statutes. For the subsequent years, the General Assembly has decided<sup>3</sup> that the principles for the calculation of the annual fee as laid down in the Statutes generally remain status quo, including the annual 2% raise for countries which join or renew for several years. See the [overview of fees per country](#).<sup>4</sup>

### 2.2 Types of National Costs

In addition to the membership fee, a budget is needed for the national consortium. The national consortium will have to agree on a workplan to be carried out by the members of the national consortium, as well as a budget that would enable the national coordinator to attend meetings of the different CLARIN committees, *e.g.* the National Coordinators Forum (NCF) and the Standing Committee for CLARIN Technical Centres (SCCTC).

The size of the budget will depend on the situation in each country. We know that some countries have only a small budget available which almost only covers the CLARIN fee and will have to depend on the willingness of both individual persons and institutions to contribute for free or to co-fund activities.

Here we provide a list of cost items besides the CLARIN fee that has to be considered:

- National coordinator (NC);
- National representatives in committees<sup>5</sup>;
- Travel budget to attend meetings for NC and national representatives;
- Accounts and financial support administration;
- Office space – often co-financed by institutions without explicit agreement;
- CLARIN technical and knowledge centre(s): establishing and maintenance;
- Awareness efforts: web page, information material, national help desk;
- National awareness seminars and workshops: renting of rooms, consumption, and perhaps travel; and
- Collaboration with researchers and research institutions about research, use cases, data management or other activities relevant in the national landscape.

The usual procedure is that CLARIN ERIC and the national consortium formulate an agreement (the CLARIN Agreement, cf. D5.3-1) that specifies more details about the contribution of the consortium.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.clarin.eu/sites/default/files/OJ-2012-136-EU-Decision.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> See <http://office.clarin.eu/v/CE-2014-0327-MembershipFees-accepted.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See [https://www.clarin.eu/sites/default/files/CLARIN-membership-fees\\_2012-2020\\_webversionMay2017.pdf](https://www.clarin.eu/sites/default/files/CLARIN-membership-fees_2012-2020_webversionMay2017.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See CLARIN-PLUS Best Practice Paper D5.3-5 *Professional profiles for typical CLARIN infrastructure functions* at <https://www.clarin.eu/content/information-potential-new-members>

### 3 Examples of Budgets and Costs

In the following we will give a few illustrative examples of the budgets and costs in three different countries participating in CLARIN. The figures are calculated based on figures presented at the CLARIN-PLUS workshop held in Solstrand, Norway, in March 2016. The figures can only be seen as approximate figures, as the given information here is converted into uniform table presentations even though there are very different national funding situations.

The term FTE is used for a Full Time Equivalent in the specific country, and FTE salaries are approximated. The yearly figures are calculated as average for the period given, the concrete figures for a specific year can of course deviate from this, so the figures below can only be seen as estimates.

For costs we approximate the expenses for:

- National coordination, including the tasks as national coordinator and the national representatives in committees;
- Support/admin tasks/experts (wide range of tasks);
- Technical support, repository;
- Technical support, services and tools;
- Curation of resources; and
- Outreach

It is not the intent to give detailed figures for exactly these categories for the three examples below, so the examples are only meant to illustrate the diversity among the CLARIN consortia.

#### 3.1 Budgets and Costs CLARIN.SI

The Slovenian CLARIN consortium, CLARIN.SI (<http://www.clarin.si/>), is a consortium of 12 partners: all four Slovene universities, three research institutes, three societies, and two companies. The partners cover almost all actors in the field of language technologies, language resources and linguistics in Slovenia. Jožef Stefan Institute is the recipient of the funding and hosts the technical centre (web page, tools and repository).

##### **Budget:**

- Funding for 2015-2016: 40,000 €/year
- Co-financing from research projects in programmes: 50% of a FTE
- CLARIN fee: 12,773 €/year
- Computers are made available without cost.

##### **Costs:**

National coordination	30% FTE
Support/admin work	15% FTE
Technical support, repository	33% FTE
Technical support, computational linguist and computational science	40% FTE
Outreach, curation of resources	23% FTE
CLARIN fee, approx.	13,000 €

In total approx. 1.4 FTE, CLARIN fee and computer costs.

#### 3.2 Budgets and Costs CLARIN.DK

The Danish CLARIN consortium, CLARIN.DK (<http://info.clarin.dk>), is a consortium of 5 partners: University of Copenhagen, Aalborg University, Aarhus University, and University of Southern Denmark and The Royal Danish Library. University of

Copenhagen is the recipient of the funding for CLARIN activities in Denmark and hosts the technical centre (web page incl. tools, services and repository). The funding of CLARIN activities in Denmark is a part of the funding of DIGHUMLAB (*i.e.*, DIGHUMLAB covers the Danish contribution to CLARIN and DARIAH). DIGHUMLAB<sup>6</sup> is a national, distributed research infrastructure that integrates and promotes tools, digital resources, communities, and opportunities to Danish researchers in the humanities and social sciences.

**Budget:**

- Funding for 2012-2017: 170,000 €/year
- Computer costs: 20,000 € for five years: 4,000 €/year
- CLARIN fee: 25,545 €/year
- Special workshop outreach activities: 13% FTE
- Co-financing from University of Copenhagen: 28,000 €/year

**Costs:**

National coordination incl. committee work, annual conference etc.	45% FTE
Technical support: computational linguist and computational science, tools	45% FTE
Technical support: repository	55% FTE
Curation of resources	20% FTE
Outreach	23% FTE
CLARIN fee, approx.	26,000 €

In total approx. 1.9 FTE, CLARIN fee and computer costs.

### 3.3 Budgets and Costs Swe-CLARIN

The Swedish CLARIN consortium, Swe-CLARIN (<http://sweclarin.se>), is financed by the Swedish Research Council. The consortium consists of University of Gothenburg, Linköping University, Lund University, Stockholm University, Uppsala University, KTH, Language Council of Sweden, and National Archives. The funding is distributed among the partners.

**Budget:**

- Funding for 2014-2018: 1,080,000 €/year
- Computers are made available without cost.
- Co-financing from participating institutions: 200,000 €/year

**Costs:**

National coordination	220,000 €
Experts	520,000 €
Technical support: computational linguist and computational science, tools and repository	280,000 €
Local admin work	130,000 €
Outreach	130,000 €
CLARIN fee, approx.	38,000 €

In total approx. 1,280,000 €/year and computer costs.

<sup>6</sup> See <http://dighumlab.org>.

## 4 Experience/Lessons Learnt

The examples show that some countries manage with approx. 2 FTE, while others have much more funding. It will be preferred to get financing for approx. 2 FTE and the CLARIN fee for three to five years. Establishing the consortium, reaching out to the research community, setting up a data repository with tools and services, and establishing a knowledge sharing infrastructure can easily take three years.

Collaboration with research projects can be seen as very beneficial, even if the projects cannot contribute to the financing of the CLARIN consortium; they have awareness channels into the research communities, which can be very beneficial for the outreach of CLARIN.

The examples presented here showed a CLARIN country where the activities are mostly co-financed by the participating institutions and two others where the co-financing is approx. 20%. For Denmark the financial situation changes in 2018. After that the institution will have to finance CLARIN activities 100%. This change in the financing scheme – from national funding constituting the major part of funding during several years into almost solely institutional funding – may be seen in more countries in the future.

## 5 Final Remarks

In this short document, we hope to have addressed the important issues regarding cost estimates of the CLARIN infrastructure. We are very interested in feedback that may improve the document. Please contact the author!

## 6 References and Further Reading

- CLARIN ERIC Statutes: <http://hdl.handle.net/1839/00-DOCS.CLARIN.EU-75> .
- CLARIN membership fees 2012-2020: [https://www.clarin.eu/sites/default/files/CLARIN-membership-fees\\_2012-2020\\_webversionMay2017.pdf](https://www.clarin.eu/sites/default/files/CLARIN-membership-fees_2012-2020_webversionMay2017.pdf) .
- CLARIN Agreement template: <https://www.clarin.eu/content/clarin-agreement-template> .
- Best Practice Documents: <https://www.clarin.eu/content/information-potential-new-members> .