

MEDAL Newsletter #5 30 January 2025.



Messages from MEDAL

Empower the next generation of linguistics

This triannual newsletter informs you about MEDAL's latest events and projects.

For more information, visit [our website!](#)



Happy New Year from MEDAL!

2025 will be the final year of the MEDAL project, and it has a lot in store for us: a summer school, a conference, as well as several workshops and outreach events.

Summer School on Computational Modelling

The time has come: the last MEDAL summer school will take place from **23 to 27 June 2025!** We have prepared a programme for you, in which **excellent speakers** will come and talk about various topics related to **computational modelling**. Please visit our

[website](#) for more information about the speakers and the schedule. We look forward to welcoming you in **Birmingham** this summer at our last MEDAL summer school!



MEDAL Conference

The conference 'Methodological Excellence in Data-Driven Approaches to Linguistics: New challenges, novel approaches' will take place on **9-10 October 2025 at the University of Tartu**, Estonia.

We are very excited about the confirmation of the following keynote speakers: **Balthasar Bickel** (University of Zürich), **Jennifer Culbertson** (University of Edinburgh) and **Piia Taremaa** (University of Tartu).

[Submit your abstracts](#) before **February 28th** and mark the following dates in your calendars: **15 April 2025** (Decisions on abstracts) and **15 April - 8 September 2025** (Registration opens).

Looking forward to seeing you one last time in Tartu this fall!



MEDAL for High School

On **April 10th, 2025** we will organize a masterclass on the **history and evolution of language** for the next generation of researchers. Because our last workshop for high-schoolers was quite successful, we are back with another language theme, specifically requested by the

previous participating high school students. We are very happy that we can welcome the following speakers for this masterclass: **Sándor Chardonnnens** (RU), **Monique Tangelder** (RU) and **Koen de Reus** (MPI). Check out our socials and [website](#) for updates.



Behind the Journal: new date

The soft skills workshop Behind the Journal that was scheduled to take place last fall unfortunately had to be canceled. But good news: We have a new date! The workshop will take place on March 20th. Register [here](#).

Mobility Story: Hatice Zora

Dr. Hatice Zora (MPI / Stockholm University) used one of the MEDAL Mobility opportunities to go to Tartu and give a talk. In her own words: *I presented an in-depth overview of how prosody—cues like pitch, loudness, and length of sounds—shapes spoken communication, and how our brains respond differently to prosodic cues at the level of individual words as well as within larger discourse. I further touched on visual prosody, highlighting how facial expressions and gestures can mirror spoken cues. This talk offered fresh perspectives on how our brains dynamically use both spoken and visual forms of prosody to better understand language and communicate beyond words. In addition to the talk, during my visit, I also held consultation sessions with students and researchers.*



Are you also affiliated with a MEDAL partner

institute and you want to visit Nijmegen, Tartu or Birmingham? Check out the different mobility opportunities on our [website](#)!



Mobility & Mentoring

MEDAL offers three type of mentoring arrangements for early-career researchers:

1. Short-Term Research Mentorship Visits (2-4 Weeks)
2. Consultation sessions at events (such as summer schools)
3. Mentor-mentee partnerships

The [Mobility page](#) on our website now also offers information on these three types of mentoring.

Round table: Estonian language teaching in schools

On 11 November 2024, a seminar and round table were held to discuss the teaching of Estonian as a school subject in the midst of societal changes.

The seminar, co-organised by the Estonian Language Council and the MEDAL project at the University of Tartu, addressed various questions about teaching Estonian in schools, both to students whose first language is Estonian and those with other first languages.

Recommendations for developing Estonian classes in general education schools were made.

Read more about them [here](#).



Upcoming Events in 2025

Multiple free (partially) hybrid, online and in-person workshops for the coming semester

January 29-31 (partially hybrid)

[Masterclass: Computational Modelling](#) with Petar Milin and Dagmar Divjak

March 20 (hybrid)

[Soft skills: Behind the journal](#) with Dagmar Divjak

March 25-28 (in-person NL)

[MEDAL admin: Institutional visit Tartu-Nijmegen](#)

April 4 (TBD)

[Round table III: multilingualism center launch](#)

April 8-9 (in-person EE)

[IEGL staff training: working with sensitive data](#) with Henk van den Heuvel

April 10

[MEDAL voor de middelbare school \(high school outreach\)](#) with Koen de Reus, Monique Tangelder and Sandor Chardonnens

April 15

[Open Science: Citizen Science and Open Education Resources](#) with Yvonne Kuiper, Marc van Oostendorp and Monique Schoutsen

June 23-27 (in-person UK)

[MEDAL Summer School in Computational Modelling](#)

October 9-10 (in-person EE)

[MEDAL Conference: New challenges, novel approaches](#)

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See all events here



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