MEDAL Newsletter #7 10 September 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!

MEDAL Conference: final chance to register!

The time is getting close for final conference of the MEDAL project: "New Challenges, Novel Approaches"!
The conference takes place on 9-10 October 2025 at the University of Tartu.

The deadline to register for the conference has been extended to **15 September 2025**. You can register through our website.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tartu for an inspiring event!

MEDALs for returning participants of MEDAL Summer Schools

The MEDAL Summer School in Computational Modelling marked the third and last installment of our methods-focused summer schools. Seven early-career researchers went above and beyond and participated three summers in a row. From left to right: Dorjderem Byambasuren, Jesse Holmes, Laura Patrizzi, Ezgi Mamus, Sho Akamine, and Maria Reile. Uğur Kan (not pictured) participated online in the first summer school and in-person in the subsequent two.

Stay tuned, because in the coming months we will put the spotlight on these talented early-career researchers!

Read the news article

One more time...

We said the MEDAL Conference would be the final event, but we couldn't leave you without one more workshop, and one more outreach event.

The final MEDAL workshop will be on what grant reviewers expect from a proposal with Melanie Bell, a unique insight for all those of you who want to get funding for their own project!
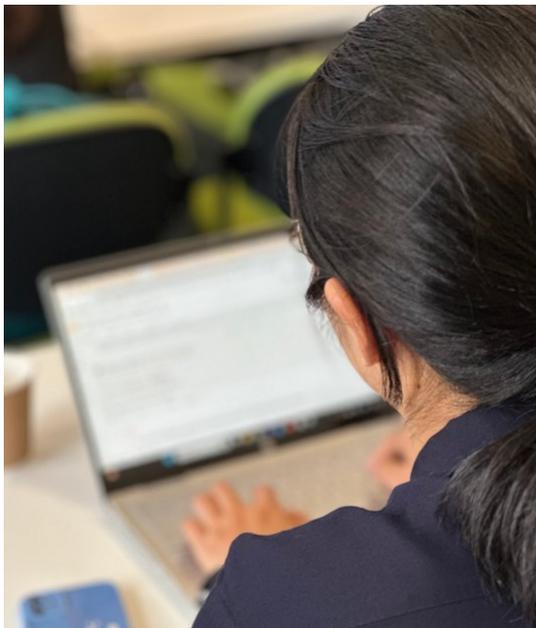
In addition, MEDAL will be represented by coordinator Izabela Jordanoska at the 'Science Weekend' festival in Nijmegen.

Dagmar & Petar at SLE

MEDAL's Dagmar Divjak and Petar Millin gave one of the plenary talks at this year's SLE conference.

In their talk, they examined whether linguistic expertise remains essential in an era when scale and computation often outperform carefully designed symbolic systems. The rapid rise of large language models has intensified the long-standing debate between theory-driven and data-driven approaches to language.

Drawing on their research at the intersection of linguistics, psychology, and artificial intelligence, they reflected on how linguistic knowledge can both inform and critically evaluate data-driven models—and where it may need to evolve.

The End-of-MEDAL Survey

We are very grateful for the amazing response rate we have gotten for the feedback questionnaire on the Summer School!

We know we ask a lot of questions, but we since our project is ending, we want to collect everything we have learned and publish all our leasons learned as a manual for setting up similar projects. You can contribute to this by filling in our final survey!

The survey is anonymous, and contains about 14 questions. You can access the survey by clicking the button below.

To the survey

Upcoming Events in 2025

October 4 (in-person Nijmegen)

[Outreach: Weekend van de Wetenschap](#)

October 9-10 (in-person Tartu)

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

first half November (hybrid)

[Workshop: Understanding what grant reviewers expect](#)

with Melanie Bell

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See all events here

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