

MEDAL Newsletter #8 9 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!](#)

Wrapping up 2023-2035: A recap of 3 years of MEDAL



Happy 2026! MEDAL has officially ended, but our efforts have not gone unnoticed. A short documentary has been made about the MEDAL project by the Communications department at the University of Tartu. It features interviews with some of the Steering Committee members, project coordinators, and early-career researchers who have been involved in MEDAL. If you are thinking of setting up your own international collaborative project, and want to know the challenges and rewards that come with it, or if you simply already miss the MEDAL events and need to reminisce a bit, be sure to check out the video!

[Watch the video](#)

Adele's experience at the final conference

The ultimate finale of MEDAL's early-career empowerment efforts was the conference 'New Challenges, Novel Approaches', which took place on the 9th and 10th of October 2025. It was the ideal place for the early-career researchers to showcase what they have learned over the past three years.

PhD candidate at the University of Tartu Adele Vaks attended MEDAL's 'New Challenges, Novel Approaches' conference. Here is what she had to say about it!



[Read the news article](#)

More medals!



Four ECRs received the 'Star ECR' medal at the 'New Challenges, Novel Approaches' conference, for the best presentations by an ECR. The **bronze medal** was given to both [Magda Matetovici](#) and [Annika Kängsepp](#), who were tied for the third place. The **silver medal** went to [Hasan Dikyuva](#). And finally, the **gold medal** went to [Lois Dona](#). These amazing researchers were interviewed for the University of Tartu's website.

[Read the news article](#)

More ECRs in the spotlight

As you might recall, several ECRs have been awarded a medal for their participation in the summer schools. We would like to highlight their achievements, and interviewed them about their research and other passions.

Read the interview with Dorjderem [here](#).

Read the interview with Jesse [here](#).

Read the interview with Laura [here](#).

Read the interview with Sho [here](#).



MEDAL has made a difference: Results of the evaluation survey



We are very grateful for the amazing response rate we have gotten for the feedback questionnaire about the MEDAL project! We can now check off all our documents for the European Union, whose funding, along with UKRI, has made our project possible, but also present a summary of the results to you.

Are you curious about how MEDAL changed people's opinion of the EU, or which aspects of MEDAL were most appreciated?

[Read the news article](#)

The legacy: training materials on OSF

While the project may have come to an end, MEDAL's legacy will live on. All of the training materials used in the workshops and summer schools are being collected and hosted on MEDAL's [OSF page](#). They will be available for the broader linguistic community to make use of. The page is currently still being



[To the OSF page](#)

The legacy: outreach materials and round table reports



Some of you have also been involved in MEDAL's effort to provide outreach events for high school students, and recommendations for policy makers and language teachers! This has resulted in several tangible outputs. Materials related to [Tartu's Young Linguists club](#) can be found here, materials related to the MPI's outreach efforts will be available on [the institute's webpage](#) (page still in progress), and English summaries of the roundtables for Estonian policy makers and language teachers can be found [here](#).

GoLD MEDAL research update

As you might know, the MEDAL project also involved a collaborative research component entitled GoLD (Generalising over Language Data) MEDAL. Our project may have come to an end, but our research collaborations will continue. Read the news article below if you want to know the latest state of our research.



[Read the news article](#)

Goodbye from us all!



The MEDAL Steering Committee has been: Virve Vihman, Liina Linström, Joshua Wilbur, Caroline Rowland, Asli Özyürek, Dagmar Divjak, Petar Milin, Judith Holler, and Hatice Zora.

The MEDAL project coordinators have been: Taavi Vanaveski, Izabela Jordanoska, Justyna Mackiewicz, Sevilay Şengül, Anastasia Chuprina (until Summer 2024), Doğuş Öksüz (until Summer 2023).

The project coordinators are ECRs themselves, so be on the lookout for exciting news from them as they continue progressing in their careers!



If you miss MEDAL already: A 'cousin' of the MEDAL project is the newly-launched project '[Center for Digital Text Scholarship](#)' (DigiTS) at the University of Tartu, a project focused on the advancement of Digital Humanities in all aspects of society. Finally, we want to thank you all for making MEDAL a success and hope to see you again some time. Goodbye!



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