Press release

Kick-off meeting of the European research project BOOTStrep at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena

Following the 2nd International Symposium on Semantic Mining in Biomedicine (SMBM 2005), the opening event of the European Union (EU) funded project BOOTStrep (Bootstrapping Of Ontologies and Terminologies STrategic REsearch Project) takes place April 12-13, 2006 at Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena.

Within the next three years, BOOTStrep aims at enabling homogeneous natural-language access on existing bio-databases, as well as implementing a text analysis system allowing the contextual processing of biological publications. Until now, structured biological information only exists within distributed databases in different formats or in documents represented in an unstructured and verbalized way.

The main task of the with 3,6 million Euro funded project is the homogenization of distributed biological sources, combined with a transfer of unstructured into structured information. Solving these tasks guarantees BOOTStrep a unique position in the European research market.

According to the German Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (MPG), there are four million new publications every year, i.e. 20.000 per working day. Even if only a small part of that amount is related towards biological issues, then "no biologist is able to read all relevant publications for his domain", so the project leader of BOOTStrep, Prof. Dr. Udo Hahn from the Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena.

Scientists from England, Italy, France, Singapore and Germany are meeting for the official opening event under the lead of Prof. Hahn, the chair of computational linguistics at Friedrich-Schiller-University for two years now. Primary goal of the kick-off event is, besides the intensification of the personal contacts, the development of a common view on the project, and the agreement on the first working steps. By the end of BOOTStrep in March 2009, a computer program should be developed which analyzes biological publications towards contextual criteria, separates necessary from unnecessary information, and automatically delivers up-to-date knowledge to researchers and industrial developers from the biotech or pharmaceutical domain. "In that case we speak of biological text mining", so BOOTStrep project leader Hahn. Biologist from all countries are to profit from the multilingual program.

The project website www.bootstrep.org offers an updated overview about the project content and results, as well as publication- and partner information.

Contact:
Prof. Dr. Udo Hahn
Institute für Germanistische Sprachwissenschaft Universität Jena
Fürstengraben 30
07743 Jena, Germany
Tel.: +49.3641.944320
Fax: +49.3641.944321
E-Mail: udo.hahn[at]uni-jena.de