TASK 2: Fine-grained classification of Socio-political Events

1. Task Definition

The objective of this generalized zero-shot learning task is to classify short text snippets reporting socio-political events with fine-grained event types using the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) event taxonomy, which consists of **25 event subtypes** (**seen classes**) pertaining to political violence, demonstrations (rioting and protesting) and selected non-violent, politically important events. The task is to label text snippets using ACLED types and potentially other types of similar events not covered directly by ACLED (**unseen classes**).

To be more precise the task is subdivided into 3 subtasks:

Subtask 1: classification of text snippets that are assigned to ACLED-compliant types only,

Subtask 2: classification of text snippets that are assigned to ACLED-compliant types and the "unseen" (non-ACLED) types, namely: "Organized Crime", "Natural Disaster" and "Man-made Disaster", whose definitions are provided in a separate file,

Subtask 3: classification of text snippets that are assigned to unrestricted event types (not covered in subtask 1 & 2), which will be announced at the time of evaluation (release of the test data).

The participating teams **may decide to work on all or just some of the subtasks** mentioned above.

2. Training Data

For the training purposes one can use event-related textual data of any kind, where we recommend considering exploiting the short text snippets reporting events which are part of the large event dataset created by ACLED (https://acleddata.com/), and which can be obtained from ACLED using this web page: https://acleddata.com/data-export-tool/ for academic purposes.

The text snippets stored in the Event Database of ACLED are labelled with one of the 25 sub-event types as specified in the ACLED code book at: https://acleddata.com/acleddatanew/wpcontent/uploads/dlm_uploads/2019/01/ACLED_Codebook_2019FINAL.docx.pdf

For the sake of training purposes one can exploit as an inspiration the techniques for text normalization and cleaning of ACLED data, and baseline classification models trained using ACLED data described in https://www.aclweb.org/anthology/2020.coling-main.584/.

3. Test data

Test data for this task will be **around 1,000 text snippets** from news, web pages reporting socio-political and security-related events, and artificially created event descriptions labelled using **both the ACLED event taxonomy** (seen classes) and some **event types not being part of ACLED** event typology (unseen classes).

4. Evaluation

The registered participants will be provided a single test data file, where each line consists of two tab-separated elements, i.e., an ID (integer), followed by a text snippet reporting an event. The system response files should have per event a line with the event ID and an event label separated by a tab. One text snippet is to be annotated with a single event type label.

As mentioned earlier, only one test data file will be provided, and using this test file each team may submit **up to 5 different system responses for each sub-task**. The evaluation will take into account the subtask a system response is aimed at, ignoring the entries not belonging to that subtask. As such the name of a file system response must respect the following pattern:

“submission.<team-name>.<sub-task number>.<response counter>.txt”

for instance

“submission.MyTeam.3.1.txt” for the first submission to sub-task 3 of team “MyTeam”.

The systems will be evaluated mainly using: **Precision**, **Recall**, and **Micro** and **Macro F-1** metrics, where the last two are the most important ones.