

PROSECCO Mission Report

Delegates to a PROSECCO short-term mission should complete the following a mission report within 30 working days of their return. It is a requirement of the grant agreement that a mission report is submitted; otherwise, the EU may refuse to reimburse the cost of the mission.

Delegate

(Name, Surname, Position, Name of the Employer)

Dr. Tony Veale, PROSECCO partner, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland

Host organization

(Name, location, Name and position of the main representative)

Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia, to visit Prof, Nada Lavrač

Duration of the mission in months

(0.25 months) 1 week

Provide a summary of your initial main objective

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

To attend and speak at a Symposium on Machine Learning and Creativity held at Jožef Stefan Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia on Thursday, 4 July 2013
To visit with the host of the event, Prof, Nada Lavrač, and to promote computational creativity to a wider audience during the week.

Provide a summary of your mission goals

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

- 1. To speak at a symposium on machine learning and creativity .**
- 2. To discuss the running of PROSECCO with the host, Nada Lavrač, and other PROSECCO attendee Simon Colton.**
- 3. To introduce the field of computational creativity to a public audience**
- 4. To promote the goals of the PROSECCO project**

Describe your agenda of activities during the mission in detail

I spoke at the public seminar on Thursday, July 4th. At other occasions during my visit I held discussions with PROSECCO member Simon Colton about the set-up of the official PROSECCO web-site (at this point the official web-site was still largely a stub). I also availed of the opportunity to discuss a new educational outreach project with Simon (the project has since culminated with the launch of the web-site *RobotComix.com*)
At this time I wrote the specifications for the web-site, to enable us to seek tenders for its construction.

Describe the general outcome of your mission (detailed)

The public seminar was well-attended by an enthusiastic audience. The event was a success.
Meetings regarding the PROSECCO web-site also proved to be informative and useful.

List your mission output (Please attach evidence, such as copies of papers, where possible)

(E.g. prototypes/resources developed, publication writing undertaken, co-written publication undertaken, seminar presentations, student projects supervised, data set, other resources,...)

My introductory talk on CC was designed for a public audience and made substantial use of illustrations and cartoons. I have since turned my talk into longer lectures, and these lectures into an online book, which can be read here: *RobotComix.com*
Specifications for the PROSECCO web-site has since been implemented at *PROSECCO-network.eu*

If a publication is in preparation, by which date do you intend to submit and where? (Please ensure that you submit a copy of the finished article when it is ready.)

As noted above, I have since turned my lectures into an online book, which can be read here: *RobotComix.com*
RobotComix.com will continue to grow in size and breadth. It now contains over 300 pages of illustrated content on *Computational Creativity*.

Has the mission achieved its main objective?

Yes/No

The outcome turned out to be different from the original expectation (describe)

All goals were met by a very successful event.

Have your mission goals been achieved?

Yes/No

Achieved a different set of goals (describe)

Yes. See above

In conclusion, how would you rate the success of your mission?

Poor/Average/Good/Very good

Could your mission have taken place without the support of PROSECCO?

Yes/No (unlikely, at least to this standard)

Please summarize briefly how your mission has promoted the study of computational creativity

The event facilitated productive discussion on issues central to PROSECCO's remit, and allowed us to reach a public audience with accessible talks about computational creativity

Signed:



Expenses

claimed:

Flights: Air France Dublin to/from Ljubljana via Paris = 640 euros

Accommodation (covered by Nada Lavrac's PROSECCO budget): 0 euros

Subsistence (2 days/nights at 100 euros per day): 200 euros

(note: I am opting for a flat rate of 100 for just two days of the journey. Meals were provided by my host on some other days of the visit)

Taxis to/from airports: = 39 euros

Total: 640 (flights) + 0 (accommodation) + 200 (subsistence) + 39 (taxis) = 879 euros

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Delegate

(Name, Surname, Position, Name of the Employer)

Dr. Tony Veale, PROSECCO partner, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland

Host organization

(Name, location, Name and position of the main representative)

Universidade Complutense de Madrid (UCM), Spain, to visit Dr. Pablo Gervás

Duration of the mission in months

Tuesday 9th July to Thursday 18th July (9 days, 0.3 month)

Provide a summary of your initial main objective

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

To begin formal planning and venue assessment for the 1st PROSECCO International Contact Forum (for which Madrid was chosen as a host city), to explore the development of mutually important web services for computational creativity (and to proselytize for same via a public seminar), and to explore possible synergies between our approaches and our systems, and thus find a way of bridging metaphor-generation systems on the one hand and story-generation systems on the other.

Provide a summary of your mission goals

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

This mission was conducted to further the following goals:

- 1. To plan the first annual contact forum of the PROSECCO network.**
- 2. To lay the foundations of future collaborative efforts around the framework of open creative web services.**
- 3. To discuss and explore the relationships between, on the one hand, computational models of metaphor generation and conceptual blending, and on the other, computational models of story-telling and narrative generation.**

Describe your agenda of activities during the mission in detail

To achieve the first goal of the mission, Dr. Gervás and I arranged several meetings over the course of my visit, usually at UCM. Our discussions revolved around the timing, venue and composition of the guest list for the 1st PROSECCO international contact forum. We decided that this first event should focus on those academic researchers whose goals are closely aligned to those of the computational creativity field yet who do not explicitly consider themselves to be computational creativity researchers. It was decided that future contact fora would be used to draw in speakers from more distant fields, as well as practitioners from industry and the arts.

Dr. Gervás and I used this mission to explore venue/accommodation possibilities in and around Madrid. Top of our list was the ancient town of Alcala, just outside Madrid (birthplace of Cervantes and culturally/creatively relevant). We undertook a tour of the facili-

ties in the local Parador to assess its suitability and its costs for the event. Having obtained prices and plans from the hotel we were confident that it would be an ideal venue for the contact forum. Unfortunately the venue was not to be without bureaucratic hurdles, such as the need to pay a substantial deposit in advance, and ultimately we decided to look elsewhere. Second on our list was the ancient town of El Escorial, which proved to have an excellent venue and a more attractive cost profile. We thus confirmed this venue after receiving an official response to our bid for tender.

Regarding the second goal of the mission, Dr. Gervás and I arranged several technical discussions during my visit, which allowed me to demonstrate the various software services that have been designed and implemented by my Dublin group. Our discussions centered on the benefits and drawbacks of using a service-based architecture for building creative systems. I feel our talks were advantageous to me, as it allowed me to assess the needs of the kind of CC researchers my services will be targeting. I also feel our talks were advantageous to Dr. Gervás, as the potential utility of the offerings were presented in the context of his specific research agenda. This goal was also furthered, to a wider audience, by a seminar given by myself on July 17 (discussed later).

With regard to the third goal of the mission, Dr. Gervás and I had several fruitful discussions on the possible inter-connections between our research. In particular, I sought to find a productive link between the outputs of my metaphor systems and the input requirements of his story-generation systems. The context of our discussions was given concrete requirements by our joint involvement in the WHIM project – the What-If Machine – a recently launched STREP project in which we shall together explore the processes of novel ideation and subsequent story-generation.

Describe the general outcome of your mission (detailed)

Since this mission, my research has taken a distinct story-oriented direction. My group and I are now working on services that exploit our expertise in metaphor generation to provide interesting story ideas to a third-party story generation system like those designed by Dr. Gervás.

List your mission output (Please attach evidence, such as copies of papers, where possible)

(E.g. prototypes/resources developed, publication writing undertaken, co-written publication undertaken, seminar presentations, student projects supervised, data set, other resources,...)

Tony Veale spoke to the students of Dr. Gervás to proselytize for the adoption and creation of creative web services as part of the vision of *A Creative Web* that he has been promoting in recent years. To this end, he also gave the following public seminar at UCM:

TÍTULO: *Divergent Thinking for Convergent Similarity Judgments:*

Harnessing The Diversity of Competing Viewpoints in a Creative Web Service

PONENTE: Tony Veale (Computer Science, University College Dublin)

FECHA: miércoles 17 de julio de 2013, a 10h30

ABSTRACT

Just as observing is more than merely seeing, comparing is far more than merely matching. It takes attention, understanding and even inventiveness to discern a useful basis for judging two ideas as similar in a particular context, especially when our perspective is shaped by an act of linguistic creativity such as metaphor, simile or analogy.

Structured dictionary-like resources such as WordNet offer a convenient and frequently-used hierarchical means for converging on a common ground for comparison, but offer

little support for the divergent thinking that is needed to creatively view one concept as another. WordNet -- and similar resources -- offer a traditionally convergent view of word/concept description, by focusing on just one narrow sliver of meaning. Rather than privileging this narrow normative viewpoint, a computational model of semantic similarity must embrace the many diverse (and competing) viewpoints that one can have on a topic from one context to another. In this talk I will show how the Web can be used to harvest many divergent viewpoints for many familiar ideas.

These lateral perspectives complement the narrow vertical view offered by WordNet, and support a Web service for creative idea exploration called Thesaurus Rex. I will show how Thesaurus Rex is used to support a novel, generative similarity measure for WordNet that accords well with human intuitions about similarity. To computationally model the link between creativity and attention on the Web, our systems must embrace divergent thinking, and see ideas as humans see them: not through a narrow representational model, but in all their rich diversity.

If a publication is in preparation, by which date do you intend to submit and where? (Please ensure that you submit a copy of the finished article when it is ready.)

No joint publication is forthcoming at this stage, though our research has moved closer to such a degree that I feel future joint publications are likely.

Inspired by my discussions with Dr. Gervás during this mission to Madrid, I have recently written a research paper for submission to the 2014 International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC-2014). The paper is entitled *Coming Good and Breaking Bad: Generating Transformative Character Arcs For Use in Compelling Stories*, and describes how a metaphor/blend generation system can be used to generate transformative character arcs (e.g. in which a slave becomes a king, a prostitute becomes a nun, etc.) that can later be fleshed out into compelling narratives.

Has the mission achieved its main objective?

Yes/No

The outcome turned out to be different from the original expectation (describe)

Goals were largely met, the meetings were productive and inspiring, the mission provided an opportunity to proselytize (via demos and a public seminar) and fruitful planning of the 1st contact forum took place.

Have your mission goals been achieved?

Yes/No

Achieved a different set of goals (describe)

See above

In conclusion, how would you rate the success of your mission?

Poor/Average/Good/Very good

Could your mission have taken place without the support of PROSECCO?

Yes/No

Please summarize briefly how your mission has promoted the scientific study of computational creativity

By allowing us to fulfill the three goals of the mission, I believe the mission has promoted the scientific study of computational creativity in a variety of ways. First, it allowed us to

plan an important meeting on the PROSECCO calendar, whose principle goal is the promotion of computational creativity to non-CC researchers. Second, it allowed us to discuss ways in which code may be meaningfully and robustly shared by research groups (via web services) and thus, ways in which a critical mass in CC research may be attained. Third, it planted the seed of future collaboration by directing my own research in the direction of story-generation.

Signed:



Expenses

claimed:

Expense claim for Travel Mission to UCM Madrid

Flights: *Aer Lingus* Dublin to/from Madrid = 237 euros

Accommodation (9 nights in short-let apartment): 654 euros

Subsistence (9 days/nights at 100 euros per day): 900 euros

(note: I am opting for a flat rate of 100 and not the higher rate of 130 per night)

Taxis to/from airports: 30 + 41 = 71 euros

Total: 237 (flights) + 654 (accommodation) + 900 (subsistence) + 71 (taxis) = 1862 euros

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Delegate

(Name, Surname, Position, Name of the Employer)

Dr. Tony Veale, PROSECCO partner, University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland

Host organization

(Name, location, Name and position of the main representative)

University of Helsinki / 2nd Autumn School in Computational Creativity (Porvoo, Helsinki, Finland)

Duration of the mission in months

(0.25 months) 1 week

Provide a summary of your initial main objective

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

To deliver a course on Computational Creativity at the 2nd International Autumn School in Computational Creativity (Porvoo, Helsinki, Finland).

Provide a summary of your mission goals

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

- 1. To deliver an introductory course on Computational Creativity to the students / attendees of the Autumn school. To establish accepted terminology and survey established methods in CC and thus promote coherence of the field.**
- 2. To proselytize on the use, creation and composition of Creative Web Services**
- 3. To discuss the running of PROSECCO with fellow partners, to calibrate the activities planned or on-going, to ensure clarity on objectives and deliverables**
- 4. To identify potential students for the field and for specific CC research projects**
- 5. To introduce my new PhD student (Mr. Aniruddha Ghosh) to the field of CC.**

Describe your agenda of activities during the mission in detail

The 2nd International Autumn School in Computational Creativity (Porvoo, Helsinki, Finland) comprised a week of intense lecturing and audience interaction, for myself and for other speakers.

Several additional meetings were held throughout the week to discuss the running of PROSECCO, to plan for the upcoming contact forum, and to explore ideas for the planned code-camp.

Describe the general outcome of your mission (detailed)

The Autumn school was a notable success, due in large part to the efforts of the organizer Hannu Toivonen (who organized a similar, if smaller, event in 2011) and to dedication of the invited speakers, most of whom are also PROSECCO members.

Meetings regarding the conduct of PROSECCO also proved to be informative and useful.

List your mission output (Please attach evidence, such as copies of papers, where possible)
(E.g. prototypes/resources developed, publication writing undertaken, co-written publication undertaken, seminar presentations, student projects supervised, data set, other resources,...)

As the Autumn school lectures were videotaped to a professional standard, the event yielded a small trove of high-quality instructional videos (over 20 hours of computational content).

I have since turned my lectures into an online book, which can be read here: *Robot-Comix.com*

If a publication is in preparation, by which date do you intend to submit and where? (Please ensure that you submit a copy of the finished article when it is ready.)

As noted above, I have since turned my lectures into an online book, which can be read here: *RobotComix.com*

RobotComix.com will continue to grow in size and breadth. It now contains over 300 pages of illustrated content on *Computational Creativity*.

Has the mission achieved its main objective?

Yes/No

The outcome turned out to be different from the original expectation (describe)

All goals were met by a very successful event.

Have your mission goals been achieved?

Yes/No

Achieved a different set of goals (describe)

Yes. See above

In conclusion, how would you rate the success of your mission?

Poor/Average/Good/Very good

Could your mission have taken place without the support of PROSECCO?

Yes/No (unlikely, at least to this high standard)

Please summaries briefly how your mission has promoted the study of computational creativity

The Autumn school introduced a new generation of students and researchers to the goals and technologies of Computational Creativity.

Signed:



Expenses

claimed:

I additionally paid for the flights (from Dublin to Helsinki and back) for my PhD student Aniruddha Ghosh to attend the Autumn school. My student's hotel and meal expenses were provided directly by the Autumn school organizers as part of a student grant given to all student attendees. His flights cost me 343 euros.

My hotel costs (not covered by any grants) came to 390 euros.

I additionally claim for 5 nights of subsistence at 110 per night, or 550 euros.

My total claim then is $500 + 343 + 390 + 550 = \underline{1,783}$ euros

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Delegate

(Name, Surname, Position, Name of the Employer)

Michael Cook, Imperial College, London

Host organization

(Name, location, Name and position of the main representative)

University College Dublin, School of Computer Science and Informatics, to visit Tony Veale (PROSECCO member)

Duration of the mission in months

(0.1 months) 3 days

Provide a summary of your initial main objective

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

Mike was scheduled to present his work at the Dublin Computational Linguistics Research Seminar Series (DCLRS) on February 28, 2014

Mike was also asked to provide input to the planning of the 2014 PROSECCO code-camp

Provide a summary of your mission goals

(As stated in the mission agreement form)

- 1. To speak at on computational creativity at the Dublin Computational Linguistics Research Seminar (specifically on the ANGELINA system designed by Mike)**
- 2. To provide inputs to the planning of the 2014 PROSECCO code-camp.**
- 3. To introduce the field of computational creativity to a public audience**
- 4. To promote the goals of the PROSECCO project**

Describe your agenda of activities during the mission in detail

The DCLRS was scheduled for 4pm on February 28th.

A dinner meeting on the 27th and the 28th was scheduled to discuss the 2014 code-camp

Describe the general outcome of your mission (detailed)

Public seminars introduce computational creativity to a wider audience on non-CC academics Meetings regarding the PROSECCO code-camp prove to be informative and useful.

List your mission output (Please attach evidence, such as copies of papers, where possible)

(E.g. prototypes/resources developed, publication writing undertaken, co-written publication undertaken, seminar presentations, student projects supervised, data set, other resources,...)

An interesting talk on the ANGELINA system

Productive meetings regarding the 2014 PROSECCO code-camp.

If a publication is in preparation, by which date do you intend to submit and where? (Please ensure that you submit a copy of the finished article when it is ready.)

None at time of writing

Has the mission achieved its main objective?

Yes/No

The outcome turned out to be different from the original expectation (describe)

All goals were met by a successful event.

Have your mission goals been achieved?

Yes/No

Achieved a different set of goals (describe)

Yes. See above

In conclusion, how would you rate the success of your mission?

Poor/Average/Good/**Very good**

Could your mission have taken place without the support of PROSECCO?

Yes/No **(unlikely)**

Please summarize briefly how your mission has promoted the study of computational creativity

The event facilitated productive discussion on events central to PROSECCO's remit, and allowed us to reach a public audience with an accessible talk about computational creativity

Signed:

