Preface to the EVALITA 2026 Proceedings

Francesco Cutugno[1], Alessio Miaschi[2], Alessio Palmero Aprosio[3], Giulia Rambelli[4], Lucia Siciliani[5] and Marco Antonio Stranisci[6,7]

[1]*Department of Electrical Engineering and Information Technology, University of Naples Federico II, Naples, Italy*

[2]*Institute for Computational Linguistics "A. Zampolli" (CNR-ILC) - ItaliaNLP Lab, Pisa, Italy*

[3]*University of Trento, Trento, Italy*

[4]*Aix-Marseille University | ILCB, Aix-en-Provence, France*

[5]*Department of Computer Science, University of Bari Aldo Moro, Bari, Italy*

[6]*Università degli Studi di Torino, Torino, Italy*

[7]*aequa-tech, Torino, Italy*

1. Preface

EVALITA 2026 is an initiative of AILC (Associazione Italiana di Linguistica Computazionale)[1], and it is endorsed by the Italian Association for Artificial Intelligence (AIxIA)[2] and the Italian Association for Speech Sciences (AISV)[3]. As in the previous editions (http://www.evalita.it/), EVALITA 2026 is organized along a set of selected tasks, which provide participants with opportunities to discuss and explore both emerging and traditional areas of Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Speech for Italian. The participation is encouraged for teams working both in academic institutions and industrial organizations.

This volume includes the reports of both task organizers and participants to all of the EVALITA 2026 challenges. In the 2026 edition, we coordinated the organization of 10 different tasks belonging to five research areas, being:

Authorship Analysis

- *DeSegMa-It: DEtection and SEgmentation of MAchine generated texts in Italian* (G. Puccetti, A. Pedrotti, A. Esuli)

Computational Ethics

- *GSI:detect – Detecting Gender Stereotypes in Italian* (G. Comandini, M. Speranza, S. Brenna, D. Testa, S. Cavagnoli, B. Magnini)
- *MultiPRIDE: Multilingual Automatic Detection of Reclamation of Slurs in the LGBTQ+ Context* (C. Ferrando, L. Draetta, M. Madeddu, M. Sosto, V. Patti, P. Rosso, C. Bosco, J. Mata, E. Gualda)

Emerging Tasks

- *Cruciverb-IT: Crossword Solving* (C. Ciaccio, G. Sarti, A. Miaschi, F. Dell'Orletta, M. Nissim)
- *SVELA: Selective Verification of Erasure from LLM Answers* (C. Savelli, M. La Quatra, A. Koudounas, F. Giobergia)

[1]https://www.ai-lc.it/en/

[2]https://aixia.it/en/

[3]https://www.aisv.it/

Multimodality

- *EVWSD-ITA: Enhanced Visual Word Sense Disambiguation for Italian* (E. Musacchio, L. Siciliani, P. Basile, G. Semeraro)

New Challenges in Long-Standing Tasks

- *ATE-IT: Automatic Term Extraction – Italian Testbed* (N. Cirillo, G. M. Di Nunzio, F. Vezzani)
- *PFB: Prometeia Financial Benchmark – Benchmarking Language Models in the Financial Domain* (A. P. Bardelli, T. Çekiç, I. Demirtaş, M. Filannino, S. Scala, A. Galassi, G. Pappacoda, P. Torroni)

Pragmatics

- *FadeIT: Fallacy Detection in Italian Social Media Texts* (A. Ramponi, S. Tonelli)
- *IMPOLS: IMplicit contents in POLitical Speech* (L. Gregori, W. Paci, V. Saccone)

The workshop took place in Bari on 26–27 February 2026 and provided a valuable opportunity for participants from both academia and industry to present their work, exchange ideas, and discuss results within task-oriented sessions as well as during the final plenary discussion. As in previous editions, we continued the tradition of the Best System award, which this year was dedicated to the memory of Federico Sangati. The award aimed to encourage students, developers, and researchers to explore innovative approaches and to challenge the current state of the art, regardless of the final outcome.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our supporters, AI2B[4], Aptus.ai[5] and Prometeia[6], and to the University of Bari "Aldo Moro" for hosting the event. We are also grateful to the members of the "Federico Sangati" Best System Across Tasks Awards committee (Dominique Brunato, Camilla Casula, Alessandro Mazzei, Marco Polignano) for their commitment and expertise. Our thanks also go to the AILC Board for their continued trust and support. We warmly thank our invited speaker, Paolo Rosso, for sharing his experience and insights, and we finally acknowledge all task organizers and participants whose enthusiasm and creativity made this edition particularly successful.

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[4] https://www.ai2b.it/
[5] https://aptus.ai/it/
[6] https://www.prometeia.com/it

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Bari, February 2026