

Title of the project: Collaborative intelligence – combining the best of machine and human

Duration of the visit (in days): 20

Start date of the visit: 10/10/2023

End date of the visit: 29/10/2023

Visitor: Emmanuel Senft (esenft@idiap.ch)

Hosting VU staff member: Kim Baraka (k.baraka@vu.nl)

Visitor affiliation: Idiap Research Institute, Martigny, Switzerland

Research problem (As described in the proposal or adapted if changed over the course of the visit)

The goal of the research visit was laying the groundwork for an EU project for the call HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-01-07: Collaborative intelligence – combining the best of machine and human. The initial intention was to use knowledge in cognitive science, ethology, education science, and other fields to inform how artificial systems such as robots can successfully learn from humans. However, during the visit the intended submission call was canceled, and as such, we had to explore other collaboration opportunities through bilateral agreements.

Performed activities:

- Organization of a NI Research lunch on the topic of Human-Interactive Agent Learning (12/10).
- Invited talk in the Social AI group (19/10)
- Personal discussion with VU members (Mauricio Verano Merino 11/10, Daniel Preciado 19/10, Ivano Malavolta 23/10, Mike Ligthart 25/10, Koen Hindriks 25/10)
- Discussions with PhD students
- Participating in the Design&AI Symposium 2023 at TU Delft (18/10)
- Participating in the 4TU.Federation Design United Dialogues on AI at the Dutch Design week in Eindhoven (26/10)
- Selection of an updated research topic to submit a collaboration project with the help of the VU Grant Office
- Brainstorming collaboration opportunities (both on paper and collaborative research projects)

Results:

Overall, this visit was highly instructive, it allowed the visitor (Emmanuel Senft) to interact with a wide range of VU staff members, discussing research ideas and topics in depth with the VU host and in interactive sessions with other VU staff and more general audiences in the research lunch. In addition to these discussions, this visit will lead to the submission of a joint Open Competition Domain Science - M2 in the coming months, building on groundwork that was laid during the research visit.