

## ESPERANTO: Exchanges for SPEech ReseArch aNd TechnOlogies



This is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (MSCA-RISE-2020) project that was awarded to Le Mans University, France to lead 18 other universities and research labs around the world in exchanging knowledge on speech processing techniques and addressing issues related to low-resourced languages. ESPERANTO project aims at pushing speech processing technologies to their next step in order to enable the diffusion of these technologies in European SMEs and to maximize and securize their use in the civil society for forensic, health or education. A consortium has been realised to foresee that the next generation of artificial intelligence algorithms for speech processing should be more accessible : via a larger number of spoken languages, and for applications where resources are strongly limited (health, education, robotics ...), integrate a human in the loop to guaranty a higher usability and ease of deployment and maintenance and be explainable in order to enable sensitive applications related to forensic or health and contribute to personal data preservation by detecting and characterizing existing biases due to the data-driven nature of current speech technologies. Among universities involved are, University of Sheffield, Grenoble-Alpes University, University of Yaounde 1, Universidad de Chile, University of Avignon, John Hopkins University and many more. Joining them from Malaysia are USM and UNIMAS, to collaborate with speech technology researchers in working on under-resourced languages, student and staff exchange and training. UNIMAS team is led by Dr Sarah Samson Juan along with Dr Suhaila Saeed and Associate Professor Dr Fitri Suraya Mohamad Hapni Joblie.