



Experiences from a Horizon 2020 Marie Curie Innovative Training Network

Ginevra Castellano
Department of Information Technology,
Uppsala University

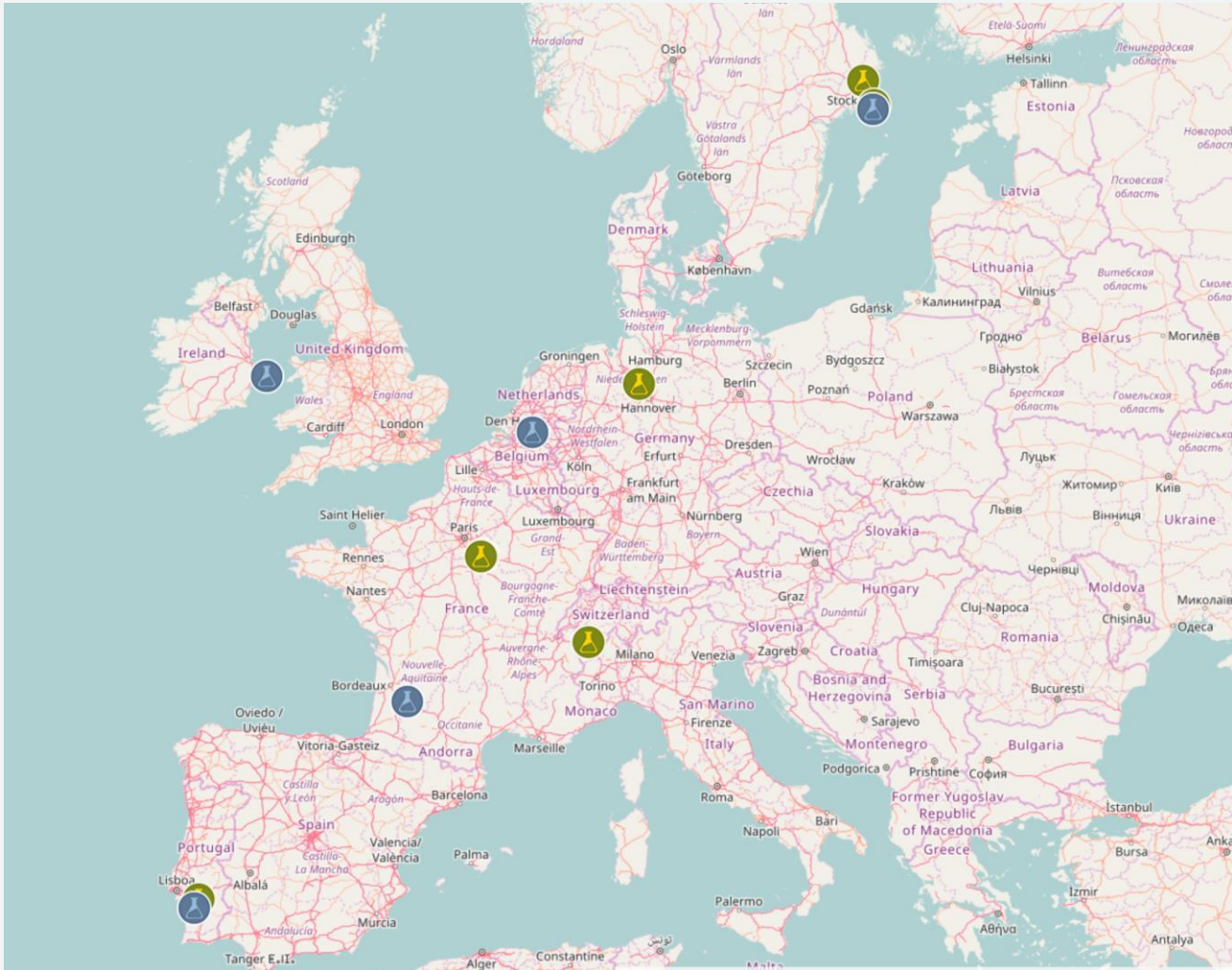


**ANIMATAS:
Advancing intuitive human-machine interaction
with human-like capabilities for education in
schools**

Doctoral training for Europe's next generation of innovative research leaders

ANIMATAS Network

8 BENEFICIARIES



Slide credit: Mohamed Chetouani, Sorbonne University



Introduction

Focus:

- Development of computational capabilities that allow robots and virtual characters to establish and maintain intuitive and natural social interactions in unstructured and dynamically evolving environment
- Operationalizing different pedagogical roles (e.g. tutor, motivator, peer...) in schools



Cross-fertilization of state-of-the-art insights and methods:

Social Robotics, Embodied Virtual Characters, Social Sciences and Educational Sciences

Development of machines with advanced social capabilities:

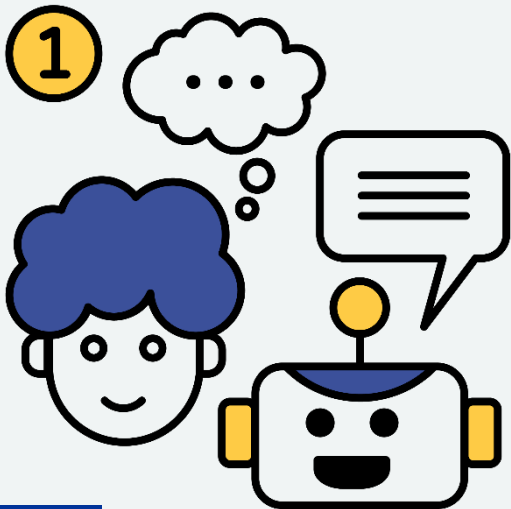
Engage in intuitive, natural, sustained encounters with individuals and groups of children and adults



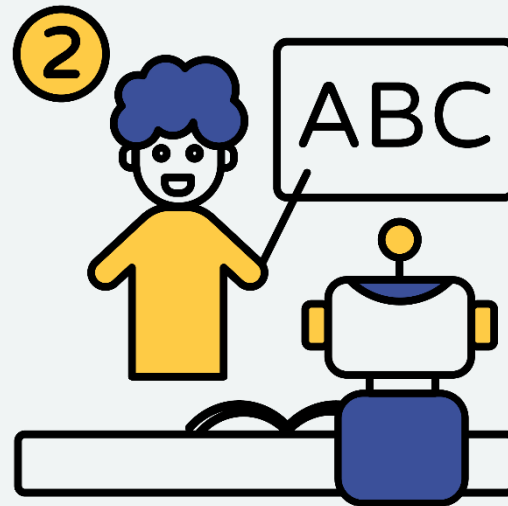
Scientific Objectives



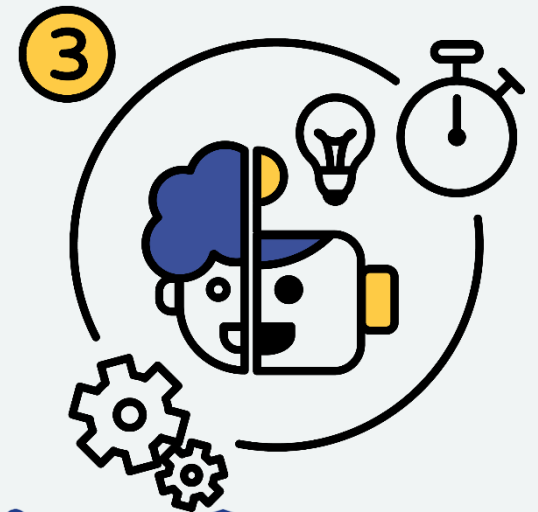
Embodiment



Social Learning



Personalized adaptation



15 PhD students



Rebecca Stower
ESR 1



Sooraj Krishna
ESR 2



Natalia Calvo Barajas
ESR 3



Karen Tatarian
ESR 4



Sahba Zojaji
ESR 5



Sina Shahmoradi
ESR 6



Utku Norman
ESR 7



Sebastian Walkötter
ESR 8



Manuel Bied
ESR 9



Ramona Merhej
ESR 10



Tanvi Dinkar
ESR 11



Jauwairia Nasir
ESR 12



Sera Buyukgoz
ESR 13



Silvia Tulli
ESR 14



Maha El Garf
ESR 15

Link to the ESR web page:

<http://www.animatas.eu/network/esr/>

Training



- Computational, Social and Behavioural Sciences
- Experimental Methods in Psychology
- Ethics
- Developing technologies in educational settings
- Virtual Agents
- Innovation in Social Robotics, Embodied Conversational Agents and EdTech



Proposal preparation: some tips

- Start early
- Look at other successful proposals
- Speak with other coordinators
- Key role of companies, not only in training but also secondments
- It takes time to get companies onboard (agreements, support letters, etc.)
- Agreement re: project management



Some thoughts and lessons learnt

- Advantages

- Large international research network and collaborations
- More flexible than other EU collaborative projects
- Extensive development opportunities for PhD students
- Building a long lasting network of peers
- Interaction with both academia and industry
- Large funding for training and research

- Challenges

- Many training events
- Project's overall research contribution vs focus on individual PhD
- No funding for supervision time
- Funding only for 36 months of a PhD

