

# What's happening in CLEF and what's the Covid-19 @ MLIA Initiative

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## ABSTRACT

The initial part of this talk will discuss the achievements and happenings in CLEF, the European initiative whose main mission is to promote research, innovation, and development of information access systems with an emphasis on multilingual and multimodal information with various levels of structure. We will focus on the just concluded CLEF 2020 edition (<https://clef2020.clef-initiative.eu/>) and the just started CLEF 2021 edition (<http://clef2021.clef-initiative.eu/>).

The second part of the talk will present the Covid-19 MLIA @ Eval initiative (<http://eval.covid19-mlia.eu/>), a voluntary effort supported and promoted by several communities, among which CLEF. Covid-19 MLIA @ Eval is a community effort to boost the development of (language) resources and Multilingual Information Access (MLIA) systems specifically tailored on Covid-19. In particular, we organise evaluation tasks that steer the development of systems

and resources in the following areas: information extraction, multilingual semantic search, and machine translation.

## BIOGRAPHY

Nicola Ferro (<http://www.dei.unipd.it/ferro/>) is full professor of computer science at the University of Padua, Italy. His research interests include information retrieval, its experimental evaluation, multilingual information access and digital libraries and he published more than 350 papers on these topics. He is co-organizer of the Covid-19 MLIA @ Eval initiative and he is the chair of the CLEF evaluation initiative, which involves more than 200 research groups world-wide in large-scale IR evaluation activities. He was the coordinator of the EU 7FP Network of Excellence PROMISE on information retrieval evaluation. He is associate editor of ACM TOIS and was general chair of ECIR 2016, and short papers program co-chair of ECIR 2020.