

The consortium of the current application consists of the following members:

*Wikimedia Sverige (WMSE)*, the Swedish chapter of the Wikimedia Foundation, is a non-profit organisation working towards making knowledge freely accessible, especially by supporting Wikipedia and its sister projects. A main focus of the chapter's work is to make knowledge available to as many people as possible and it has worked on diversity and accessibility of the Wikimedia projects. WMSE's staff are experts in crowdsourcing, have a strong background in developing online solutions and have worked together with the aid sector in Sweden, with e.g. open data.

*The Department of Speech, Music and Hearing (TMH) at KTH Royal Institute of Technology*, is a renowned research lab, active in the area of speech technology. The history of THM's speech technology research goes back all the way to the 1950's.

*Södermalms talteknologiservice (STTS)*, is a company active in the speech technology business since 2002. The company mostly acts as a subcontractor to other companies, and has worked extensively with speech and language data for a large number of different languages.

Together, the three participants are experienced in a number of relevant topics, such as collaborative dissemination of information, research, web development, speech technology, programming, and more. Their combined network covers many different organisations.

These three groups are currently collaborating in the open-source Wikispeech software project. The project started in 2015, and is funded by The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority.

The goal of Wikispeech is to add a text-to-speech option to the Wikipedia website. In other words, with the help of Wikispeech, a user will be able to listen to an article, read aloud by a synthetic human voice, a speech synthesis. This way, it is possible to make the articles of Wikipedia accessible to users that for different reasons cannot easily read written text (for example, people with impaired Wikimedia Sverige - sight, dyslexic users, or people who cannot read well for other reasons).

A feature that sets Wikispeech apart from other text-to-speech initiatives is the collaborative aspect. For a text-to-speech system to work properly for non-trivial texts such as Wikipedia articles, an electronic pronunciation dictionary, covering all words of the text, is crucial. Wikispeech includes a pronunciation dictionary editing component, making it possible for interested users to add to and update the dictionary. This way, it will be possible to produce a good spoken rendering of any text through crowdsourcing efforts.

The first stage of the Wikispeech project is coming to an end, resulting in an open-source demo system with the necessary components in place.