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GeoKnow consortium works on making the Web an exploratory place for geospatial data

EU, researcher and industry partners working together adding spatial dimensions to the Web in order to improve search, reuse and interlinking of data.

Athens, January 24, 2013: GeoKnow, an EU FP7 funded project started as scheduled in December 2012. The research shall address the problem of geospatial data, in particular, the linking of such data from different domains, scalable reasoning over billions of geographic features within the Linked Data Web and the efficient crowd-sourcing and collaborative authoring of geographic information. Geographic dimension of information is typically available, but a) *dispersed* among a multiplicity of information sources such as isolated GIS (Geographic Information Systems), enterprise warehouses, web pages and b) often in proprietary formats, such as Excel spreadsheets. The aim is to make information seeking easier by allowing exploration, editing and interlinking of heterogeneous sources with spatial dimensions. The research project will develop open source tools that will help users, companies and government organizations to expose and utilize structured geospatial information on the Web. The project addresses various stakeholders that will benefit from the research results. Use cases from supply chain management and e-commerce (travel industry) will supplement the research. For example, the aim within the supply chain use case is to provide a unified spatial view on logistics. In order to achieve this, information from RFIDs will be connected to the Data Web allowing for better observation of material flow in real-time and providing better analytics, bottleneck discovery and improved decision making.

The GeoKnow consortium met on January 16 and 17 for the kick-off meeting in Leipzig. The community can be informed about the progress and results of the project using actual channels such as LinkedIn, Google+, Facebook, Twitter and the GeoKnow web page.

GeoKnow in a nutshell

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| What | Bring geospatial knowledge integration to the Linked Data Web <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Billion-triple geospatial reasoning and data provenance- Qualitative interlinking and fusing of geospatial and semantic information- Adaptive geospatial exploration, authoring and curation |
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Why	Unlock isolated islands of geographic information - 80% of all data has some spatial dimension, most of it is not processable today - Geographic data authoring with millions of users requires powerful tools
For whom	Added value for the companies and the Linked Data Web community - Cost-effective data integration for SMEs - Enterprises can add value to their data with volunteered geographic information - Users from travel industry will benefit from more background information

The GeoKnow consortium. Working towards the achievement of the ambitious project goal in the consortium are six partners representing four different countries. The consortium assembled leaders from industry and research that will work in the next three years on the EU funded project. The project coordinator is InfAI (Institute für Angewandte Informatik) from the University of Leipzig (Germany) and the other partners are Athena Research and Innovation Center (Greece), Open Link Software (United Kingdom), Unister (Germany), Brox (Germany) and Ontos (Switzerland).

Background.

"Athena" Research and Innovation Centre in Information, Communication and Knowledge Technologies (www.athena-innovation.gr) is a research and technology body, which was founded under the auspices of the Greek Ministry of Development in 2001. R.C. "Athena" participates in the project through the Institute for the Management of Information Systems (IMIS). IMIS was founded in 2007, with the mission to conduct research in the area of data management and large scale information systems. Research at IMIS has a strong collaborative aspect and ranges from basic to applied research. The collaborative aspect is expressed in that research is conducted with national and international partners from industry as well as academia, often also in the context of novel and innovative projects. IMIS has already attracted funding from the European Union as well as from national funding agencies. IMIS activities focus on: Information integration and interoperability, Distributed Information Systems, Web Information Systems, Management of spatial and spatiotemporal data, and Privacy preservation.

More information

About the project: <http://geoknow.eu>

About Athena R.C., IMIS: <http://www.imis.athena-innovation.gr>

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