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for immediate release

European Data Forum 2014

The meeting place of the Data Economy

The European Data Forum (EDF) is an annual meeting place for industry, researchers, policy makers, and community initiatives to discuss the challenges and opportunities of the Data Economy in Europe.

The next EDF will be held in Athens, Greece on March 19-20, 2014. The program will consist of presentations and networking sessions by industry leaders, academics, policy makers, and community organisers, and will cover a diverse range of topics, including research and technology development, training and knowledge transfer, and commercialisation.

The Data Economy, an emergent field of business based on the publication and use of data, is a key enabler for sustainable growth in Europe. Initiated by technological leaps, such as Big Data and Linked Data, and supported by several EU policy actions, such as Open Data and the Digital Agenda, the Data Economy engages a variety of stakeholders from across thematic domains and disciplines in the data value chain.

The potential benefits of the Data Economy are well documented. **Open Data** will reportedly lead to economic benefits of up to € 40 billion a year in the EU (see: <http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/open-data-0>) and Open Data can help unlock \$3-5 trillion in 7 sectors (McKinsey: <http://bit.ly/Hv9OgH>). **Big Data**, another game changer for growth, competes these days with investments in traditional infrastructure in terms of impact and thereby fosters investments in data management solutions. **Linked Data** is behind the new generation of web- and knowledge management solutions as well as behind the web of data (linked open data). Moreover, the Data Economy can act as a catalyst for solutions in a number of societal challenges and empower all aspects of government and industry as an integral component of ICT (Information and Communication Technology).

However, supporting and implementing the Data Economy so that it will result in tangible benefits is not straightforward. It is said that '**data is the new oil**'. But do **engines** exist that use this oil? Do we have **factories** that are powered by these new engines? Do **workers** understand how such engines work? Where is the oil **coming from**? What **else** can be produced with oil? Are there any **side-effects** of using oil? What happens to the **horses** I previously used?

Such critical questions from the Data Economy will be discussed at the European Data Forum, by the multi-disciplinary and ever growing community of stakeholders, in order to assess progress, discuss the emerging challenges, propose solutions, and collaborate to implement them.

- **Is Europe ready for the Data Economy?**

What are the innovation and business models for Open Data, Linked Data and Big Data? What platforms, marketplaces, policies, and strategies for the development of data ecosystems should be targeted? What sectors will lead the demand and drive the market's growth? Is the private sector ready to integrate new tools, hire data experts, and potentially alter business models? What is the lifecycle of these new business ventures?

- **Will Europe lead the Data Economy?**

European researchers have delivered innovation and the early seeds to establish Europe's competitive advantage; how do we sustain and extend this edge? Is research focused on core technologies or diluted across low gain goals? What are the unexplored areas and thematic domains? Do we need targeted multi-disciplinary actions? Are the pathways for commercial exploitation in place?

- **Is the Data Economy inclusive?**

Is the public sector working fast enough to deliver open data? How do we deal with the varied progress in EU member states, and the multilingualism challenge? Are we moving towards a new digital divide? Are all research, technological and industrial sectors aware of the new opportunities? Are we leveraging the Data Economy as a competitive advantage for all? How do we handle change in various business sectors?

- **How do we empower our Data Innovators?**

As expressed in the StartupManifesto (<http://startupmanifesto.eu/>), '*Europe doesn't create new businesses destined for growth as well as other parts of the world, or produce entrepreneurs as confident about the environment their own country provides for start-ups*'. How can we turn this situation around and promote the Data Economy as the generator of new jobs? Who should teach, mentor and nourish our aspiring youth? What are the tools, mentality, and support actions required for this change?

EDF2014 Facts

What: European Data Forum 2014 (EDF2014)

Where: Athens, Greece

When: March 19 to 20, 2014

More Information: <http://2014.data-forum.eu/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/EUDataForum> , hashtag: #EDF2014

Press Area: <http://2014.data-forum.eu/about/press-area>

LinkedIn Group: <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/European-Data-Forum-4356346>

Get in touch: edf2014@data-forum.eu

EDF 2014 (Press) Contacts

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EDF2014 Press Area: <http://2014.data-forum.eu/about/press-area>

----- *End of official press release* -----
(Please see further information on EDF2014 on the following pages)

EDF2014 - Call for Contributions

We are seeking inspiring presentations addressing fundamental technical, application, socio-economic and policy-related topics related to **Open, Linked and Big Data**, in addition to position talks for **Data visions** for the future. The presentations will vary in format and focus depending on the anticipated audience and their contributors. Proposals will be reviewed by the Organising Committee of the EDF2014 according to their relevance to the scope and purpose of the event.

If you are interested in participating as a guest speaker for the EDF2014, please read the Call for Contributions (<http://2014.data-forum.eu/calls/contributions>) and submit your presentation proposal no later than **December 10, 2013 (22:00PM CET)**.

Call for Exhibits

The EDF 2014 exhibition space is an outstanding opportunity to showcase the advances you have made to solve **real-world data challenges** in the marketplace of tomorrow, in front of a pan-European audience of policy-makers, industrial executives and leading researchers.

Whether commercial products or academic contributions, we solicit exhibits showcasing completed work. Particularly welcome are exhibits showcasing how the public sector are making use and benefiting from Open Data, Linked Data, and Big Data. Submissions will be reviewed by the Organization Committee of EDF2014 regarding their relevance to the scope and purpose of the event, and the novelty and maturity for adoption of the proposed exhibit.

If you are interested in submitting an exhibit for the EDF2014, please read the Call for Exhibits (<http://2014.data-forum.eu/calls/exhibits>) and submit your proposal no later than **February 14, 2014 (22:00PM CET)**.

Sponsoring of EDF2014

The European Data Forum is a focal point for the top leaders and advocates of Open Data, Linked Data and Big Data technologies, thus offering key opportunities to increase the visibility of your company or organization. Sponsoring packages for the EDF2014 are especially designed to help you spread your message to a wide range of attendees from European industry, researchers, policy makers and user communities alike.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of the EDF2014, please consider the available sponsoring opportunities (<http://2014.data-forum.eu/sponsor-information>) and contact the sponsor chairs of the EDF2014 via sponsoring2014@data-forum.eu.

Programme Outreach EDF2014

The final EDF2014 programme will be announced by **January 2013** and will consist of **two parallel tracks**, comprising thematically-driven **sessions**, an **executive panel on big data** as well as an **open data panel**, and a **workshop** focusing on innovation aspects for the data economy.

Several meetings of industry networks as well as of EC-funded research projects, volunteer networks and NGOs will be **collocated** with EDF2014, harnessing the heightened opportunities for collaboration and networking the European Data Forum provides. If you wish to organize an event collocated with the EDF2014, please send your proposals via e-mail to edf2014@data-forum.eu

Highlights of the EDF2014 Programme include:

- Welcome message by **Greek Government** representatives (TBA)
- Welcome message by **Neelie Kroes**, Vice President of the European Commission, in charge of the Digital Agenda
- Welcome message by Prof. **Giorgos Kaminis**, Mayor of Athens and former Greek Ombudsman
- Announcement of the winner of the **European Data Innovator Award for 2014**, in recognition of exemplary actions for innovation in the Data Economy
- **Executive Panel on Big Data** and a panel on **Open Data**
- An **exhibition area** over the two days duration of EDF2014

The EDF2014 is an associated event of the **Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union**.

Registration – Travel Grants

Registration and participation in the EDF2014 is free of charge, and will open in **January 2014** at <http://2014.data-forum.eu/registration>. Given the already high interest for participation, early registration is advised.

There is also a limited opportunity for financial travel support (mainly for SMEs and NGO/NPO). Please watch the EDF2014 website for further details.

Organisation

The European Data Forum 2014 is supported by the European Commission and organized by leading Greek Data Economy stakeholders:

- Institute for the Management of Information Systems / “Athena” Research Center (www.imis.athena-innovation.gr)
- Department of Informatics & Telecommunications, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens (www.di.uoa.gr)

Organizing partners of the EDF2014 include the following EC-funded research projects:

- LOD2 (<http://lod2.eu/>)
- BIG (<http://big-project.eu/>)
- PlanetData (<http://planet-data.eu/>)
- Optique (<http://www.optique-project.eu/>)
- Euclid (<http://euclid-project.eu/>)
- IQmulus (<http://www.iqmulus.eu/>)
- vistaTV (<http://vista-tv.eu/>)
- PublicaMundi (<http://bit.ly/16Zeqak>)
- SemGrow (<http://www.semagrow.eu/>)
- LEO (http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/110225_en.html)
- OpenDataMonitor (http://cordis.europa.eu/projects/rcn/110761_en.html) and
- LIDER
- ... more EDF2014 organising projects / partners coming soon.

If you have any questions, feel free to [contact us](#) and we will follow-up with you.

The EDF2014 conference team is looking forward to meeting you in Athens, Greece in March!