Joint Conference Programme of IFIP EGOV2015 and IFIP ePart 2015
August 31 – September 2, 2015
University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece

Workshop
"Enabling Effective Policy Making - Coupling the Power of the Data with the Wisdom of the Crowd"

Monday, 31 August 2015 @ 13:30-17:30

Workshop's Objectives

It can be taken for granted that present socio-economic systems are more complex than ever before, as the involved stakeholders have dissimilar (and sometimes contradicting) agendas and, most important of all, might even understand the success (or failure) of specific initiatives in a different way. Thus, the concept of including all interested parties in a structured and active dialogue is constantly gaining momentum and can heavily aid the policy making process. In addition, the wealth of available data of the Web2.0 era can also constitute a very effective weapon towards coping with the aforementioned problem; however, the non-unified nature of the data, accompanied by the different approaches of their publishing and exploitation have not yet revealed their full potential.

Along the above lines, having a set of proper instruments able to aggregate and interpret this dispersed information in an aggregated and timely manner, can be of great help in supporting prompt and effective policy decisions, offering institutions and organizations in charge of policy modelling and policy making a considerable advantage in their policy design and governance. Related methods and systems either leverage the social web and mine information from discussions in social networks, blogs and news streams while inferring sentiments and opinions, or directly involve stakeholders through online participatory and crowdsourcing platforms.

Workshop Agenda and Structure

The purpose of this workshop is to present and discuss the up-to-date methodologies and findings of projects of the Global Systems Science (GSS) cluster and promote active dialogue among the participants. In more detail, the agenda of the Workshop will be as follows:

13:30-13:55	***Policy Modelling in the data deluge age*** (by EC Project Officer of GSS Cluster - TBC)
13:55-14:20	***CONSENSUS Project: Identifying publicly acceptable policy implementations*** (by Dr. K. Tserpes). Even though it is unrealistic to expect citizens to pinpoint the policy implementation that they prefer from the set of alternatives, it is still possible to infer such information through an exercise of ranking the importance of policy objectives according to their opinion. Assuming that the mapping between policy options and objective evaluations is a priori known (through models and simulations), this can be achieved either implicitly through appropriate analysis of social media content related to the policy objective in question or explicitly through the direct feedback provided in the frame of a game. The session will focus on the demonstration of the latter expecting to steer a discussion about the impact of such indications to policy making as well as to the education of citizens about policy decisions.
14:20-14:45	***EU Community project*** (by Dr. A. Ramfos). EU Community will present its approach to provide decision makers with better policy options by combining social media interactions, qualified contributors, document curation, visual analysis plus online and offline trust-building tools. The discussion will focus also on the innovations brought by project through

	the open source platforms developed, alongside with re-usable data that could serve third party developers. Moreover, EU Community will present early results of the three pilots selected (Future of EU, Renewable Energy and Innovation Strategy)
14:45-15:10	***Policy Compass project: Open Data Driven Policy Analysis and Impact Evaluation*** (by Dr. S. Koussouris). The presentation will demonstrate the underlying concepts and the technical infrastructure of a research prototype put in place that enables citizens and public officials to easily create, apply, share, embed, annotate and discuss causal models (Fuzzy Cognitive Maps - FCMs), charts and graphs of historical data from trusted open data sources. The aim is to develop methods and tools that facilitate more factual, evidence-based, transparent and accountable policy evaluation and analysis.
15:10-15:45	***Coffee Break***
15:45-16:10	***SENSE4US project: Data Insights for Policy Makers and Citizen**s* (by V. Koulolias). The presentation will provide an overview of the SENS4US project and the components focusing on its added value to users, starting from the point of analysing social media to inform policy making and talking about modelling and simulating public policy problems of our age, resulting in the presentation of how the current toolkit of SENSE4US is applied in a selected case study.
16:10-16:35	***SYMPHONY project: Nowcasting Policy Indices with Information Markets*** (by Dr. E. Bothos). The availability of appropriate methods and tools to aggregate scattered pieces of information and stakeholders' expectations is becoming increasingly important for policy making officials. This presentation will show how to use 'Information Markets' as a tool to collect, aggregate and analyse stakeholders' expectations on policy indices in order to support public policy design and implementation. We will discuss various types of Information Markets, as well as cases where both human and computational agents participate in such markets.
16:35-17:00	**GRACeFUL** "Global systems Rapid Assessment tools through Constraint FUnctional Languages (by P. Pharow). GRACeFUL is working towards a universal language to communicate about the dynamics of global systems and the complex decision making necessary to produce good policy advice. Such formal domain-specific language will be employed by Rapid Assessment Tools supporting a visual and participatory way of modelling, which can be used in situations involving the participation of different stakeholders in decision making and policy design. Constraint Technology will support active, goal-directed problem solving.
17:00-17:30	**Round table discussion** with comments, propositions, future research directions, possible synergies etc. among all participants.

Acknowledgements

More info

For more information, registration and further issues, please visit http://egov-conference.org