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INTER UNIVERSITY CENTRE DUBROVNIK, CROATIA, OCTOBER 3-6, 2010
Second International Workshop on Knowledge Federation

Self-organizing collective mind

We invite you to join us at the Second International Workshop on Knowledge Federation, where we will be exploring the existing patterns of collaboration and co-creating new systemic solutions in knowledge work.

Invited researchers are encouraged to submit a one-page abstract by June 5th to one of the workshop federators:

➤ **Dino Karabeg**, UCSC/University of Oslo:
dino.karabeg@gmail.com

➤ **Jack Park**, The Open University:
jackpark@gmail.com

WORKSHOP THEME

In the quest for deeper understandings of complex issues facing humankind, we stand to gain ground if and when we develop a means by which more and more people can participate in the social processes necessary to learn from each other and to distill our collective knowledge, experience, and wisdom. There already exist many different ways to come together on the web; Wikipedia, for instance, serves aspects of knowledge accretion already well organized by the topics covered. The climatecollaboratorium is one of many web sites devoted to the collection of structured conversations; world cafe instances posed on the web are similar structures where people gather to aggregate their thoughts. Social bookmarking sites provide marked trails for research and organization of resources. Semantic Web and Topic Maps technologies enable new ways of organizing knowledge. Blogs and other platforms encourage storytelling in ways that support evolving wisdom. Live streaming video will soon allow everyone to broadcast and view events from a mobile phone.

Still, we believe there is more to do, and we are ready to start the process of evaluating and improving these federation processes. Our aim is to develop not only new patterns of interaction, but also complete new systemic solutions, by using

existing patterns and technologies as building blocks, and by creating new ones as needed. Our motivation is to contribute to key areas:

➤ In **journalism** or public informing to co-creation of critical insights that can be a basis for concerted public action. We are encouraged by Douglas Engelbart's observation that the best investment of our creative ability might be into improving our collective ability to understand and solve problems. We adopt his method called bootstrapping, where a community of knowledge workers use their own tools and ways of working together as a sandbox to develop and test improvements. We envision an informing that combines crowd sourcing, scientific research, innovative visual presentation and democratic curatorship with good journalism and the power of new media.

➤ In **scientific communication** to overcoming disciplinary divisions and enabling researchers to cooperate on urgent contemporary issues. We find a precursor in corporate business, where configurable globally distributed value chains are replacing static brick-and-mortar production models. And as sociologist Pierre Bourdieu observed, even in a traditional field such as sociology, better social organization of production and communication may be the best way to enable progress..

➤ In **education** to co-creation of learning resources by a federation of field experts and media professionals. Learning may be more interesting than games. Re-organization is a way to implement new learning theories and models; also to provide continually evolving, state-of-the-art knowledge resources to learners worldwide. In federated learning, learners become not only recipients of knowledge, but also organizers and producers, completing a healthy and effective knowledge ecosystem.

Join with us in Dubrovnik in October, 2010 to begin this evolutionary improvement process.









TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Instead of providing a large conference where the focus would be on presenting articles, we have chosen to provide a situation where an ad-hoc community of knowledge workers can emerge and create together. The design of our workshop is part of a creative process; this program is a suggestion.

The first day of the workshop is planned as a series of inspiring social events during which we will be acquainted with Dubrovnik and with one another. Each of the remaining three days will be a self-contained workshop where we will be designing a specific aspect of our target federation. The mornings are reserved for seven-minute Pecha Kucha presentations followed by a discussion. In the afternoons we will be creating together, first in small groups, and then in plenum. Time and ambients are provided for conversation and recreation.

-  **Day 1** Sunday, October 3th. 11am **Introduction to Dubrovnik** by Suad Ahmetovic, author of *Curiosities of Dubrovnik*. Walking tour of Dubrovnik and the Lokrum island. 7pm private **Welcome Concert** in Villa Doda garden. Reception.
-  **Day 2** Monday, October 4th. **Opening Keynotes:** **John Wilbanks**, vice president for science of Creative Commons and executive director of Science Commons; **Paddy Coulter**, Oxford University Fellow, co-founder and partner of Oxford Global Media, formerly Director of Studies at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford. **Global Mind Workshop**. We will design and begin among ourselves a knowledge federation that will enable journalists, scientists and other knowledge workers to co-create the insights and impulses that are vital to global society.
-  **Day 3** Tuesday, October 5th. **Post-Discipline Workshop**. We will design and begin a federation that enables researchers from distinct disciplines to combine their knowledge and expertise, and to identify key insights and communicate them to the public.
-  **Day 4** Wednesday, October 6th. **Federated Course Workshop**. We will design a federated course, where the learning resources will be created by experts and students globally, and used by learners worldwide. This course will be offered in Fall 2011 as an accredited graduate course to students from international universities, through the Inter University Centre, Dubrovnik.



CONTRIBUTIONS






In your abstract please describe the type and the substance of your proposed contribution. Of particular interest are recognizable building blocks in the knowledge federation theory and practice we are creating together, and contributions to our three workshop themes. The authors of accepted abstracts will be invited to complete their contributions and participate in the workshop. Contributed articles will be peer reviewed, submitted to a federation process and published in a proceedings after the workshop.

VENUE

Our workshops are staged at the Inter University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia (see <http://www.iuc.hr>). Established in 1972 as the place where scientists and humanists from the political East and West could meet and federate ideas, this center now offers the meeting space for the researchers from its member institutions, which include some 200 leading international universities, and accredited courses to their students. Behind the center is a cypress grove that extends to the Adriatic Sea.

Dubrovnik is a Renaissance town and a historical monument on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The town has a well-connected international airport. For social interaction we have Villa Doda – an authentic Dubrovnik villa with terraces and a garden – for exclusive use. Special rates for participants are arranged in five-star Hotel Argentina. Restaurants Sesame and Rozarij will provide authentic local cuisine.

TIME SCHEDULE

-  **June 5, 2010:** Abstracts due.
-  **June 12, 2010:** Abstract acceptance/Invitation to participate.
-  **September 4, 2010:** Articles due.
-  **October 3-6, 2010:** Dubrovnik conference.
-  **November 6, 2010:** Final version of the article due.

DETAILS

The workshop fee is 300 Euro.

For more information please visit www.KnowledgeFederation.org.