Images to be used:

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SmartOpenData	

Linked Open Data for environment protection and sustainable development

Institute of Mathematics and Computer Science of the University of Latvia (IMCS) is participating in top-level research project SmartOpenData with big potential future impact to provide opportunities for SMEs to generate new innovative products and services that can lead to new businesses in the environmental, regional decision-making and policy areas among others.

IMCS contribution mainly is based on semantic web technologies and tools (OWL graphical editor, graphical tool-building framework) that has been developed under supervision of Prof. Janis Barzdins since 2008.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration and the Governance Model is specially oriented to establish long-term relationships and alliances between potential stakeholders and leverage new synergies in protected areas between policy makers, citizens and companies -with special focus on SMEs- for example through the creation of public-private partnerships.

SmartOpenData project is focused on how Linked Open Data can be applied generally to spatial data resources and specifically to public open data portals (GEOSS Data-CORE, GMES, INSPIRE…) and voluntary data (OpenStreetMap, GEO-WIKI...), and how it can impact on the economic and sustainability progress in European Environment research and Biodiversity Protection.

Technically, SmartOpenData is creating a Linked Open Data infrastructure (including software tools and data) fed by public and freely available data resources. These existing sources are datasets regarding biodiversity, environment protection, research in rural, European protected areas and European National Parks.

The project will take a bottom-up and user-driven approach with a strong initial focus on rural regions, forestry and environmental protected areas such as National Parks and Smart Regions with the aim to be able to cope with wider European areas of interest and have a broader impact by eventually involving any area with relevant data subject to join the open infrastructure, models and governance proposed. Demonstration of impact will be carried out through the implementation of 5 pilots, driven by strategic partners in Spain, Italy, Ireland, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

The SmartOpenData consortium is made up by 16 partners as Public bodies (16%), Academic institutions (29%), Industries (14%) or SMEs (41%) from nine European countries (Latvia, Norway, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Italy, United Kingdom, Spain, Portugal and Ireland). The consortium is working closely with researching institutions and organizations like JRC - Joint Research Centre or OGC- Open Geospatial Consortium.

Some members of the SmartOpenData consortium (for further information see www.smartopendata.eu) are:

TRAGSA Group, coordinator of the project, is a state owned company which provides the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture and Environment and other public bodies with engineering and infrastructure services, consultancy services and management-related technical and administrative support.

IMCS was established in 1959 and is is the leading R&D institution in Latvia playing the role of an incubator for rearing of leading specialists in Computer Science and Mathematics in Latvia, now they are University professors and top managers in software companies.

Help Service Remote Sensing (HSRS) is a Czech SME that has been for more than 18 years involved in the Czech and European Spatial Data market.

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international consortium where over 300 member organisations, a full-time staff, and the public work together to develop Web standards.