



## **OPAALS PROJECT**

Contract n° IST-034824

### **WP10: Sustainable research Community Building in the Open Knowledge Space**

#### **Del. 10.2 – A matrix plan of research experience exchange among OPAALS partners**



Project funded by the European  
Community under the "Information Society  
Technology" Programme

**Contract Number:** IST-034824

**Project Acronym:** OPAALS

**Deliverable N°:** 10.2

**Due date:** M26

**Delivery Date:** M33

**Short Description:**

This deliverable presents the procedure and a plan of the researcher exchanges that occurred among partners in the first 2 years of the OPAALS project. All the reports have been delivered already and presented as part of WP9 at the Review in September.

**Author:** Gabriella Lombardo

**Partners contributed:** All

**Made available to:** all the partners

**Versioning**

Version	Date	Name, organization
1	March 09	

**Quality check**

**Internal Reviewers:**

Fernando A. B. Colugnati (IPTI)

Runa Sarkar (IITK)

### **Dependences:**

<b>Achievements</b>	<p>Objectives of WP10 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish collaborative research activities and work towards their sustainability and continuation after the end of the funded phase</li> <li>• Support the development of a well-integrated interdisciplinary meta-research field, with the ultimate goal to realise an open and constructive dialogue between the philosophical traditions that relate to associative autopoietic digital ecosystems</li> <li>• Support the process of intellectual and community integration; community building activities will be theoretically framed by social constructivist approaches.</li> </ul> <p>So far the researcher exchanges supported all these objectives successfully, but also contributed to the technical developments via the direct migration of human resources together with knowledge acquired over time. We expect that in the last phase the researchers' reports, structured on the basis of key guidelines can delivered reports which will have a significant impact on the final findings of the project.</p>
<b>Work Packages</b>	<p>The deliverable will have an impact on all the Workpackages at different stages of its implementation. The aim of the deliverable is to frame the procedural aspects of the research exchange and to demonstrate how this activity successfully bridged the research across geographical and discipline boundaries</p>
<b>Partners</b>	<p>All partners have benefited already from all the reports in the wider aim to communicate broader topics which link different parts of the project. Also as an activity all partners could apply for their researchers to work at another partner institution and therefore all partners benefit from this OPAALS infrastructure</p>
<b>Domains</b>	<p>All three domains</p>
<b>Targets</b>	<p>The main targets are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To create a flow of researchers who can share and exchange knowledge and skills in order to develop their findings further</li> <li>2) To enhance the impact of individual research findings across different partners</li> <li>3) To create a space where knowledge could be exchanged beyond traditional means of communication</li> <li>4) To increase coordination across different disciplines and specific research areas of the project</li> </ol>

	5) To produce collaborative reports and mini-project as spin offs of OPAALS philosophies
<b>Publications</b>	At the present none of the reports produced during the exchanges has been published, although one has been presented at the conference in Rome in 2007. We expect that the new reports could be drafted bearing in mind the possibility to integrate the text in on going publications
<b>PhD Students</b>	Three of the researchers in exchange are PhD students. They have a considerable input and their reports are integrated in their on-going research as well as in the deliverables of the work packages in which they are working.
<b>Outstanding features</b>	There are two aspects about these exchanges: one internal to the OPAALS project and one outside the project. In the project researchers in exchange actively contribute to building the OPAALS community and to merge findings from different domains and specific aspects of the project which would have less opportunities to exchange ideas and achievements. The integration of the domains is crucial for OPAALS success and researchers face-to-face contact and collaboration supported a significant improvement of the understanding of Open Knowledge. Outside the project the exchange offered an unusual environment within OPAALS where the researchers could travel and contaminate each other finding in an open and fluid interexchange. In a context where higher education institutions tend to maintain some rigid boundaries for researchers exchanges, the OPAALS has created an exceptionally flexible model which has supported not just its own community but in general the concept of scientific cooperation across countries, institutions and above all intellectual areas. This is very unusual and considering the successful results so far, a model that could be implemented more regularly in the pattern of scientific collaboration in HE institutions.
<b>Disciplinary domains of authors</b>	Social Sciences



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## **Research Exchange**

The two overarching aims of OPAALS are to build an interdisciplinary research community in the emerging area of Digital Ecosystems (DE), and to develop an integrated theoretical foundation for Digital Ecosystems research spanning three widely different disciplinary domains: social science, computer science, and natural science. Together, these two aims will result in a global Network of Excellence (NoE) in Digital Ecosystems.

The OPAALS project includes a programme of Research Exchanges in order to support the development of the community through the implementation of common projects executed jointly at partner institutions. This exchange is based on the ability of the consortium to identify contiguous fields of research and institutions that can integrate their research activities. The researchers are travelling to partners' locations in order to ensure that such "contamination process" takes place. The Research Exchange programme aims to create a bigger interaction between partners and higher integration of the different work packages of the project.

So far this activity has supported its main objectives: create a better integration of researchers across the project, particularly among different domains; support an increasing integrations among people working in different work packages and in particular integrate findings from different work packages; finally create a series of reports and short projects available to the whole consortium, which often contribute to the OPAALS research.

In Phase I the exchanges produced the following reports and they are part of the D9.10 presented at the September 2008 review:

1. Overview of SBVR
2. A framework for Digital Ecosystems: the 'First' of Theoretical Interpolations
3. Open innovation and Inner Sources
4. Usability of OKS and set of proposals for the user interface of the web-based OKS
5. Knowledge Services and OKS

The Report on Open Innovation and Inner Sources was presented at the first OPAALS conference in Rome, November 2007.

The reports for Phase 2 are due in May 2009 and will be part of Work Package 9 output

The table below shows all the exchanges occurred so far in a chronological order

<b>EXCHANGE</b>	<b>PARTNER</b>	<b>HOST INSTITUTION</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
THOMAS KURZ	SUAS	TI	JUNE 07	REPORT SUBMITTED
PRABHAKAR	IPTI	BCU-LSE-TI-T6	JUNE-JULY 07	REPORT SUBMITTED
MEHITA IQUANI	LSE	TI	JULY 07	REPORT SUBMITTED
NAGARAJ KONDA	BCU	LSE	SEPT 07	REPORT SUBMITTED
FRAUKE	UNIKASSEL	LSE	SEPT-OCT 07	REPORT SUBMITTED
ANTONELLA PASSANI	T6	LSE	DEC 07	REPORT SUBMITTED
GARY GAUGHAN	UL	LSE	FEB 08	REPORT IN PROGRESS
OXANA LEPTOVA	UNIKASSEL	TI	MAY-JUNE 08	REPORT SUBMITTED
MARCO BRAEUER	UNIKASSEL	LSE	JUNE 08	REPORT SUBMITTED
PAULO SIQUEIRA	IPTI	SURREY	SEPTEMBER 08	REPORT SUBMITTED
RENATA PIAZZALUNGA	IPTI	LSE	NOV 08- JAN 09	REPORT SUBMITTED
THOMAS KURZ & RAIMUND EDER	SUAS	IPTI	FEB 09	REPORT IN PROGRESS

## **OPAALS Research Mobility Plan –**

### **2 Formal procedure**

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Researchers working with the OPAALS project are allowed to spend some time with one of partners. There are two kind of exchanges allowed:

- From one partner institution to another partner
- From a sub-contracted institution to a partner

#### Operative and financial plan

This document drafts the operational and financial plan for the implementation of the researcher exchanges. The researcher exchange is implemented with a degree of flexibility and it started in Phase I rather than in Phase II.

The exchange is based on a flexible system where researcher can apply for a minimum stay of 1 week and a maximum stay of 8 weeks (or 3 months in exceptional cases). Any exchange below 1 week can be paid by the travel fund available to each partner. Each researcher with the support of their institution can apply for the exchange presenting to the coordinator (LSE) and the domain coordinator the following documentation:

1. Role in the OPAALS project
2. A short work plan with:
  - a. A timetable,
  - b. rationale for the exchange and reasons to choose the host institution
  - c. focus of studies to be developed in the host institution
  - d. targeted milestones/deliverables of the visit
3. Letter (or e-mail) of invitation by the host institution
4. Letter (or e-mail) of permission for leave of absence from original institution (in case of a PhD student, a letter/email from the supervisor is also needed)
5. An estimate of the costs of the exchange

If the dossier fits with the project's needs, then the coordinator will authorise the exchange. Refund for the exchange will vary depending on the nature of the exchange:

- Partner to partner: the researcher will be refunded by their own institutions and according to their own financial regulations (documented expenses or per diem allowance). The institution that sent a researcher will then make a simple claim for reimbursement to the coordinator
- If the researcher comes from any other institution or any subcontractor then the host institution would reimburse the researcher according to their own financial regulations. The host institution will then claim the expenses from the coordinator.

It is assumed that host institutions will support the incoming researcher and will

provide help and guidance in the choice of accommodation and other needs to settle in a new country.

LSE has established a maximum amount of money that can be refunded per exchange (a table is available to the partners as guidelines. The figures include a fixed amount for travelling (€1,000 within EU and €2,000 from outside EU) and a flexible amount for accommodation and daily subsistence (including transports).

The flexibility will allow at least 40-45 exchanges over the life of the project based on the budget currently allocated to this activity (€200,000). The exchange researchers will create a bigger interaction between partners and higher integration of the different work packages of the project.

The coordinator has the responsibility to monitor the exchanges and report to the management team, so that a high level of fairness and balance of the exchange can be guaranteed.

For any question please contact Gabi Lombardo ([g.lombardo@lse.ac.uk](mailto:g.lombardo@lse.ac.uk)) who maintains the guidelines and can provide any clarifications and assistance to any partner

## **2 Guidance notes**

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The reports of the OPAALS Researcher Exchange Programme are a contractual deliverable. In order to make them more useful and coherent as a collection of reports with a consistent structure, we ask that you use this template to format your report.

The aim is not to constrain the report, but simply to structure it in a way that is consistent with the other reports. Please keep the section titles the same and add something in each section. Not every item has to be addressed in the notes, and add sub-titles can be added freely, but we need some information to be consistent for example: the researcher in exchange, Purpose of the exchange, reasons to work with the specific institution and who within that institution

Please find below the template designed for the report:

Of course all the texts between angled <brackets> are there just to help to complete the report.



## ***Administrative details***

### **1.1 Researcher**

<Name, organisation, discipline>

### **1.2 Host**

<Organisation name, location, discipline>

### **1.3 Duration**

<Dates 'from' and 'to', or number of days and over what period>

### **1.4 Purpose**

<Description of objectives in terms of the OPAALS project>

## ***Background***

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<the need for the exchange>

<why you wanted to make this particular project>

<the detailed aims and objectives>

<who was involved and their comparative expertise and experience>

<plans and preparations that were made>

## ***Conduct***

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<how well the exchange went>  
<any difficulties encountered>  
<what went well, what went badly>  
<any changes to the original plan>

## ***Outcomes***

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<what you learned>  
<what you achieved>  
<what you would do differently>  
<how the project will help OPAALS>  
<list any specific outputs and who will use them>

2

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## ***Project description***

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<Use this section to hold the technical work of the project that you carried out.>

## ***Appendix***

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<This section is optional in case you have supporting data or other useful items to include, such as a paper you have written>

**<INSERT HERE TEMPLATE OF REPORT FOLLOWING REVIEWERS RECCOMENDATIONS>**