

 OPAALS	OPAALS PROJECT Contract n° IST-034824
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WP9: Communication and Dissemination

Del9.12.1 – Project Media Release

 Information Society Technologies	Project funded by the European Community under the "Information Society Technology" Programme
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Contract Number: IST-034824

Project Acronym: OPAALS

Deliverable N°: D9.12.1

Due date: 30 June 2009

Delivery Date: 30 July 2009

Short Description: This deliverable provides to journalists, technology writers and the general public a major feature or accomplishment of the OPAALS project in easily understood, digestible and non-academic terms.

Author: Niall Brennan, Mehita Iqani

Partners contributed: LSE

Made available to: General public

Versioning

Version	Date	Name, organization
1.0	17 July 2009	Mehita Iqani, LSE
2.0	28 July 2009	Niall Brennan, LSE

Quality check: Ilaria Lener, T6

Internal Reviewers: Anne English, Neil Rathbone

Dependences:

Achievements*	This deliverable, in tandem with Phase III, embarks on a new public-facing campaign for the project, which has not been a focus of the project until this point.
Work Packages	<p>This contributes to public dissemination of the efforts of all Work Packages, but primarily those concerned with the Computer Sciences.</p> <p>Each of the proceeding Media Releases (D9.12.2 – D9.12.4) will focus on various other aspects of the entire project, and therefore disseminate to journalists, writers and the public information on other WPs and knowledge domains within the project.</p>
Partners	All partners.
Domains	Social Sciences domain as contributors with direct benefit to Computer Sciences domain.
Targets	Technology journalists and writers, as well as the general public.
Publications*	The work was not published, but will be publicly disseminated.
PhD Students*	Two PhD students: Mehita Iqani (LSE), Niall Brennan (LSE).
Outstanding features*	This work reflects unprecedented efforts by the consortium to articulate and disseminate its work in terms that are understandable to a broad readership and interest base.
Disciplinary domains of authors*	Mehita Iqani, Social Sciences; Niall Brennan, Social Sciences.

The information marked with an asterisk () is provided in order to address Recommendation n. 4 from the Year 2 review report*



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MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

Open Knowledge Space offers demonstration of Digital Ecosystem for knowledge communities

London, 30 June 2009:

A European Commission-funded project led by the London School of Economics and Political Science has announced a new vision for the future of the Internet: collaborative Open Knowledge Spaces based on Digital Ecosystems.

A new peer-to-peer, open-source environment that will enable communities of interest to work together online – termed “digital ecosystems” – has been developed by a consortium of computer and social scientists in the Open Philosophies for Associative Autopoietic Digital Ecosystems (OPAALS) research project. OPAALS was established in 2006, and built upon the research of previous projects, including Digital Business Ecosystems of 2004 – 2006. The aim of OPAALS research is to develop the technology and theoretical framework for Digital Ecosystems and by so doing contribute to a radically different vision for the future of the Internet society. With members who have regional economic development responsibilities and direct contact with small businesses and end-user communities, OPAALS brings together viewpoints that range from the theoretical bases of Digital Ecosystems to the use cases of the final application. Known as Regional Catalysts, these individuals provide a direct link to end-user communities and have the contact and the social capital to involve such communities in early-stage Digital Ecosystem research and use.

The central output of OPAALS, which concludes in May 2010, is the online technology for Open Knowledge Spaces, the first of which has been developed as a collaborative knowledge creation and sharing space for Digital Ecosystems researcher communities. This online environment – in some ways similar to social networking sites, yet integrating business oriented, collaborative document creation and management, conferencing tools and also online transaction functionality – will sit on a truly peer-to-peer network. The distributed nature of the environment avoids the risks associated with the proprietary, central server style networks that govern the Internet at present. The avoidance of a central point of control and failure is therefore a key advantage to small players, such as academics, small businesses or entrepreneurs.

All of the research outputs created by OPAALS are available for use by other communities or researchers. The models created and lessons learned in contributing to the development of an open-source, peer-to-peer information technology system that facilitates productive exchange among communities of interest is available here: <http://wiki.opaals.org/DeliverableAbstracts>

All of the technologies developed by OPAALS are open source, and are therefore not only free to use, but open for contributions and adaptation by other computer scientists (on the condition that the outcomes of that adaptation is similarly made available to others in an open source manner).

In fact, anyone can join the Open Knowledge Space and use it to share their research, connect with other researchers, establish communities and learn from others.

Digital Ecosystems technology is not therefore a proprietary model, and can be used by any community or network of interested parties to service their own socio-economic goals.

Note to Editor:

OPAALS is a research Network of Excellence funded under the European Union's 6th Framework Programme for Research and Development. OPAALS' main aims are to develop an integrated theoretical foundation for digital ecosystems research, the technology of Digital Ecosystems and a sustainable and open community of research. As an open, global network, OPAALS is characterised by a radically interdisciplinary research agenda combined with the emergence of a new paradigm that requires the development of new ways of working across discipline boundaries, in particular between social science, computer science and natural science.

Definitions of some of the terms used:

Digital Ecosystem	A peer-to-peer, open-source environment that enables communities of interest (academic, entrepreneurial, development, etc) to work and grow together online
Open source:	The design, development and distribution of software that makes available its source code to developers and users
Peer-to-peer (P2P):	Distributed network architecture made of participants who make their resources (processing, storage, bandwidth, etc) available to their peers without intermediary hosts or servers
Regional catalysts:	Individuals with the regional contact bases and social capital to be able to link local end-user communities with Digital Ecosystem research and use

Media release issued on behalf of OPAALS by its internal Communication and Dissemination Team. For more information contact:

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