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OCOPOMO in a nutshell

OCOPOMO is defining and demonstrating an "off the mainstream" approach to policy modelling. The project integrates lessons and techniques from complexity science, agent based simulation, foresight scenario analysis and stakeholders' participation. The approach supports in understanding alternative points of views of different

Consistent Conceptual Description (CCD) in OCOPOMO

OCOPOMO is based on a multi-disciplinary approach aimed at eliciting opinions and viewpoints from stakeholders, for analysing and mining large text sources; for conceptualizing policy contexts, and for developing and running simulation models. The overall OCOPOMO policy development process is described in [1]. In order to bridge the gap between narrative texts of stakeholder-generated scenarios and formal policy models, OCOPOMO introduces the Consistent Conceptual Description (CCD) as a "modelling middle-layer". OCOPOMO's CCD enables different stakeholders to better understand the policy context and greatly improves the creation of formal statements and agent descriptions. The CCD is:

Consistent: By relying on visualization and ontological structures, modelling decisions are made understandable and traceable for stakeholders. In the CCD, text phrases from source scenarios and background texts are linked with the conceptual descriptions, while simulation results can be linked with original text phrases. The result is the development of consistent policy models.
Conceptual: The CCD provides a conceptual model of a policy case by conceptualizing all relevant elements of the case: actors, policies, beliefs, aims etc. and their relations. Concepts are then transferred into a concrete programming code based on a Model Driven Development (MDD) approach. **Description:** To obtain formal policy models, the CCD acts as an intermediary between scenarios and simulation models. Several scenarios are inputs to the CCD of a policy domain and can lead to a formal simulation model. Likewise, expertise of policy analysts may lead to particular knowledge constructs in the CCD. The CCD is even able to visualize knowledge gaps in the existing scenario descriptions, and its content may be revised or enriched - based on input from analysing simulation results (model-based scenarios, i.e. interpretations of simulation outcomes, and supportive graphical representations of model outcomes).

The following elements are the building blocks of the CCD structure: **Concepts with Actors, Objects** (representing particular entities or sets), **Attributes** and **Relations**. Facts for the simulation model are encoded with Instances of a concept Actor or Object. Dynamic aspects are encoded as Action. Each concrete Action has an actor, inputs and outputs (ActionInputOutput). This allows model behavior and interaction to be included in a single model. All elements can be linked with each other. The following figures are a snapshot of the CCD functionalities.

A more detailed description of the CCD concept is published in [2]. The subsequent two screenshots indicate how the CCD concept and tool work.



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parties. Policy operators and stakeholders collaborate in scenario development. Based on this, an agent-based simulation model is developed, visualized and used for exploring the effects of policies. The approach is tested through three pilot applications. The project is co-funded by the European Commission under the 7th Framework Programme, Theme 7.3 -ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling).

The OCOPOMO newsletter

This newsletter aims at staying in touch with relevant stakeholders and at providing updates about the project developments. In addition, interesting and relevant news and articles in the context of policy modeling supported by innovative ICT tools are posted here

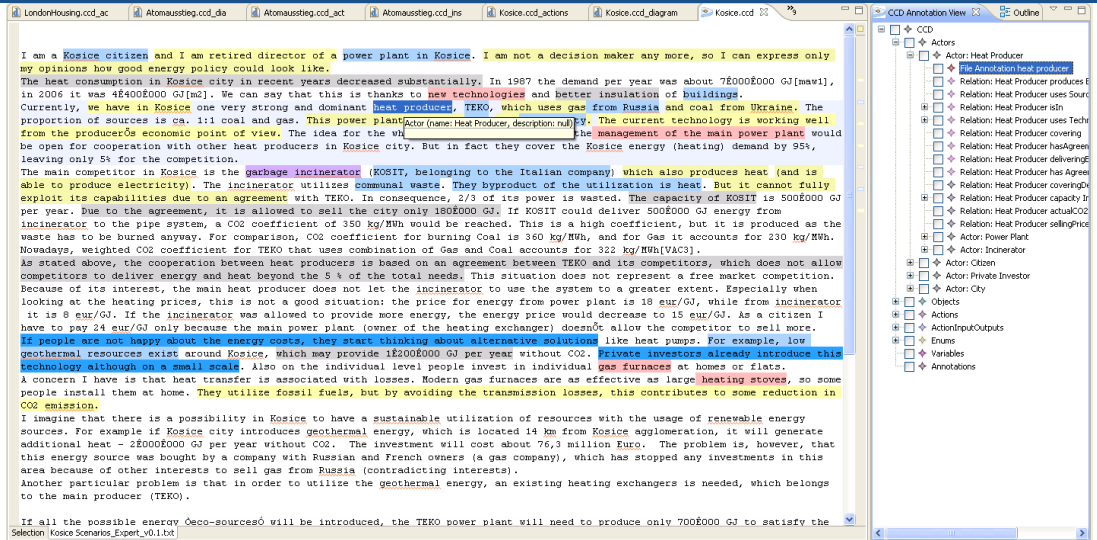


Figure 1: CCD Tool supporting data extraction

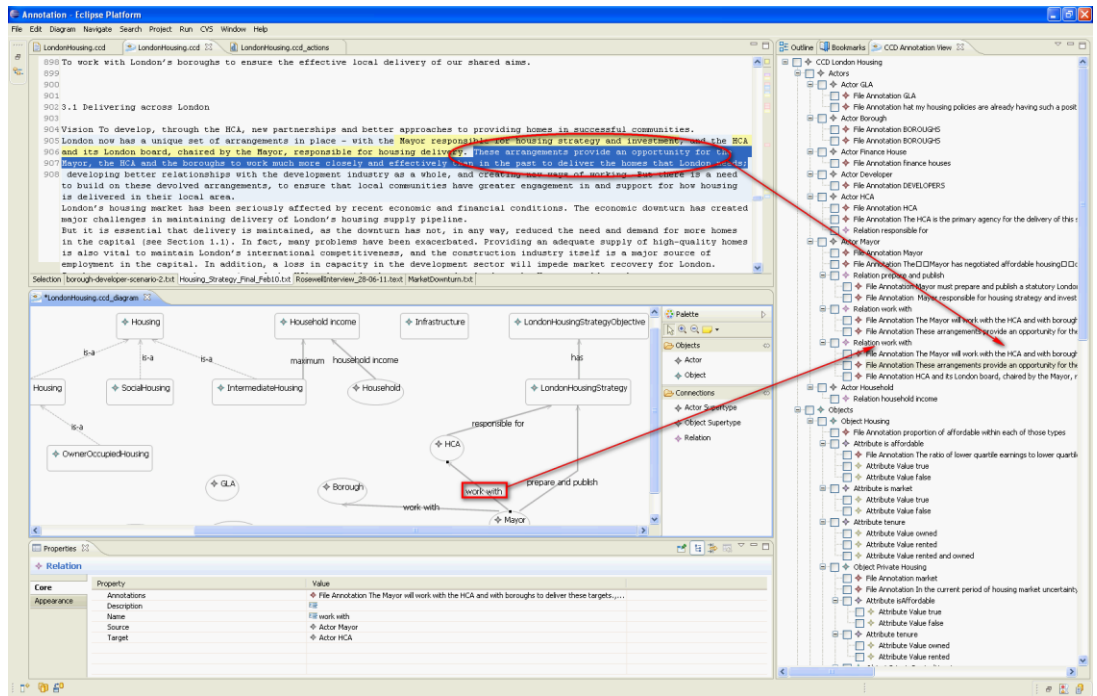


Figure 2: CCD Tool supporting traceability



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Interested parties shall contact Claudio Delrio

claudio.delrio@unisob.na.it

If they wish to publish such relevant information through this newsletter.

Best regards,

The OCOPOMO consortium

OCOPOMO in
social
networks:



**Register to our
LinkedIn group:**

<http://linkd.in/9yG3qv>

Stay tuned for more updates!

[1] Scherer, S, and Wimmer, M. (2011), "Consistent Conceptual Descriptions to Support Formal Policy Model Development: Metamodel and Approach" in Wyner, A. and Benn, N. (2011), Proceedings of the Workshop on Modelling Policy-making, pp. 23--28.

[2] Wimmer, M. et. al. (2012), "Open Collaboration in Policy Development: Concept and Architecture to integrate scenario development and formal policy modeling in Charalabidis, Y. and Koussouris, S. (2012), Empowering Open and Collaborative Governance. Berlin: Springer Verlag. pp. 199--219

From unstructured data to ontologies in the political discourse

Automated annotation of the Web documents is a key challenge of the Semantic Web [3]. Semi-automatic solutions focus on creating semantic metadata for further computer processing, thus making it possible for Web-based tools to understand and satisfy the requests of people and machines to exploit Web content [4]. These solutions rely on the one hand on ontologies, i.e. knowledge structures representing the semantics of domain concepts and their interrelations in a machine-readable way. On the other hand, text annotations represent a specific sort of metadata that provides references between entities appearing in resources and domain concepts modelled in an ontology. In this area Telecom Italia-Innovation & Industry Relations, Research & Prototyping is currently elaborating an R&D project aiming to structure the political discourse starting from news about politics in the Italian media. The following picture illustrates in synthesis the TELECOM Italia project overview.

Thanks to the elaboration of ontologies modelling Italian politics, Telecom Italia is developing a solution which enables the user to move from unstructured text to structured text by performing automatic text annotation and classification. Direct contacts have been established between OCOPOMO representatives and key actors involved in this research project and potential ground for collaboration has been identified.

In particular the OCOPOMO approach to text annotation leading to the consistent conceptual description of policy issues and the infovisualization module of the OCOPOMO toolbox could be relevant areas on which to foster dialogue and pursue further exchange of practices. Indeed the dialogue with key industrial stakeholders active in the field of government 2.0 is extremely beneficial for the OCOPOMO consortium in view of the elaboration of the project exploitation strategy and the identification of possible follow ups.

[3] Michal Laclavik et alia (2007) Ontology based Text Annotation, Proceedings of the 2007 conference on Information Modeling and Knowledge Bases XVIII, IOS Press Amsterdam, The Netherlands

[4] Berners-Lee T, Hendler J, Lassila O (2001) The semantic web—a new form of web content that is meaningful to computers will unleash a revolution of new possibilities. Sci Am 284:34–43].



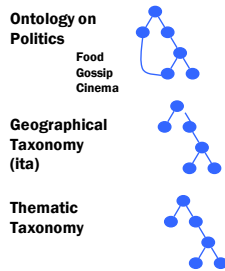
Updates from the LinkedIn group

eGovPoliNet organises joint events for FP 7 projects funded under ICT for governance and policy modelling or dealing with similar topics

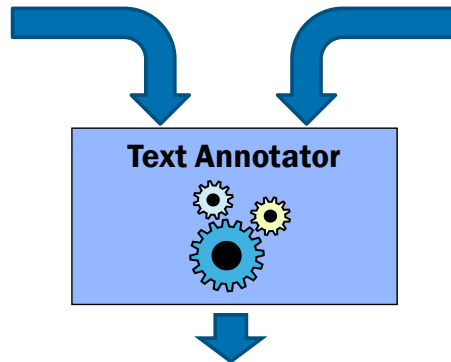
eGovPoliNet (see www.policy-community.eu and LinkedIn group <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/eGovPoliNet-Policy-Community-4076798>) will organise three events to facilitate cross-fertilisation and community building among communities and projects dealing with topics funded under the EC objective of ICT for governance and policy modelling. These events are:

- tGov - transforming Government, 8-9 May, Brunel University, London: <http://www.iseing.org/tgovwebsite/tgovmainpage.html>

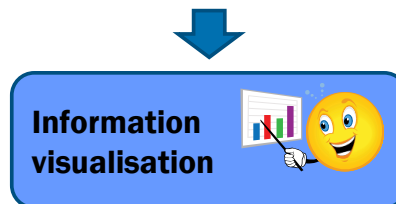
Structured data ontologies/taxonomies



Unstructured data/ text



ROMA - Il Consiglio dei Ministri ha appena approvato i provvedimenti per l'emergenza carceri messe a punto dal ministro della Giustizia, Paola Severino.
(ANSA) - **ROMA, 16 DIC** - Oggi alla Camera voto di fiducia alla manovra anti-crisi del governo. Voteranno sì Pdl, Pd, Udc, no Lega e Idv. 'Senza questa manovra', ha detto Monti, ci sarebbero 'sacrifici molto piu' gravi'. Ieri nuova bagarre della Lega alla Camera, con ostruzionismo, cartelli, urla e insulti. Per Berlusconi 'Monti e' disperato', 'ha dovuto cambiare tutta la manovra' e 'non e' detto che arrivi al 2013'. Il premier in serata ha incontrato Napolitano.



ICT and innovation in policy making: an interview with a policy stakeholder

Pierluigi Boda, press officer at the Committee of Regions



How did you know about OCOPOMO?

I was involved in the project preparation and in the negotiation process. At that time the Campania Region, beyond the required expenditures certification procedures, needed ICT tools to better monitor the usage of structural funds and the implementation degree of funded projects.

What was your first impression about the project?

I felt the OCOPOMO project could enhance this effort in a highly innovative framework, providing the Region's policy makers with a set of tools capable to support:

- collaboration with trade unions, entrepreneurial representatives, environmental associations, etc. In this perspective the economic crisis has



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- ECMS - European Conference on Modelling and Simulation, 26-29 May, University of Koblenz-Landau, Koblenz:
<http://www.scs-europe.net/conf/ecms2012/>

- joint IFIP EGOV and ePart conferences, 2-6 September 2012, Kristiansand:
<http://www.egov-conference.org/> and
<http://www.epart-conference.org/>

The Project particularly invites the FP 7 projects funded to submit papers and to meet there with other projects to discuss commonalities and complementarities of projects. The conferences give also good opportunities to publish works from the projects.

CfP: Complexity in the Real World @ ECCS 2012

Complexity in the Real World @ ECCS 2012
- from policy intelligence to

deeply modified the context in which the programme has been set up and the regional government is dealing with the need to preserve the ratio of a structural strategy while answering to the needs of a social and economic environment hardly hit by the crisis.

- monitoring of stakeholders expectations and evaluation of policy impact
- management of diverging interests related to policy implementation (i.e. conflict between the need to concentrate funding on large projects with a deeper impact on the competitiveness of the region economy and the request coming from local administrations to use structural funds for interventions of a smaller entity but considered crucial by local communities).

What are in your view the potential strengths of the OCOPOMO toolbox?

E-governance applications, policy modelling, model-generated scenarios can improve the quality of the decision process, providing a wider knowledge base to support the democratic debate and the decision making processes. The OCOPOMO solution, as I see it at the current stage of development, could provide flexible and original readings of the Campania policy on technology transfer (with clear possibility to deploy results in other regions). The same applies to social housing and renewable energies.

In which areas should OCOPOMO developments concentrate?

Considering the different target groups involved and their different level of ICT literacy, a crucial role will be played by the quality of the HMI design. The quality of the interaction design of the cooperative environment dedicated to stakeholders participation as well as the way complex data, models and scenarios are made available for the final users of the platform (which can be very close to most relevant actors of the regional decision making process) will play a significant role for the successful deployment of the pilot project.

Any further suggestions?

The OCOPOMO consortium is well aware of the fact that the decision making process takes place with many problems: the creation of consensus on the interventions, overcoming the fragmentation of these actions, the need to ensure transparency. The Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture has put online all the data on beneficiaries of agricultural funds, and so citizens can check them. However, there is no information as to whether the funds meet real needs, and on the usefulness of the results. OCOPOMO can go in this direction.

OCOPOMO presented at..



ePolicy technical meeting (Bologna, Italy, 6-7 Feb 2012) The ePolicy project aims at deriving social impacts through opinion mining on e-participation data extracted from the web. Maria Wimmer from UKL has been invited to be a member of the Advisory Board and has been invited to ePolicy's technical meeting to present the OCOPOMO approach.



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intelligent policy
Brussels, 5th & 6th
September 2012
<http://crweccs.wordpress.com/>

Call for Doctoral Colloquium at Digital Government Conference

Final call for
applications to the
Doctoral Colloquium
at the 2012 Digital
Government Research
Conference
(<http://www.dgo2012.dgsna.org/>)



Citadel Statement Lecture (Brussels, 14 December, 2011) In autumn 2011, the IES organized a lecture series in Brussels, the Citadel Statement Lecture, which was supported by the Flemish Government. The topic was "Making Malmö Real: E-Government in the EU".



Workshop on Modelling Policy-making (MPM 2011) (Vienna, 14 December, 2011) —

The workshop dealt with applications of ICT to the early phases of the policy cycle, namely those before the legislators fix the legislation: agenda setting, policy analysis, and lawmaking. Sabine Scheerer from UKL gave a presentation on Conceptual Models Supporting Formal Policy Modelling: Metamodel and Approach

On the agenda: technical meeting in Koblenz

An OCOPOMO technical meeting took place in Koblenz, 8-9 March 2012. It defined a detailed implementation agenda for the remaining technical work, with specific regards to: annotation, modelling and simulation process, traceability of the simulation outputs, graphical representation of the simulation outputs.

Tell us what you think...

If you want to know more about the project, contact us via LinkedIn - <http://linkd.in/9yG3qv>



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www.unisob.na.it



Technical University of Kosice

www.tuke.sk



The Manchester Metropolitan University

cfpm.org

Volterra

Volterra Consulting

www.volterra.co.uk



University of Warsaw

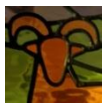
www.iss.uw.edu.pl



InterSoft, a.s.
Košice, Slovakia

Intersoft A.S.

www.intersoft.sk



Scott Moss Associates

www.scott.moss.name



Kosice Self-governing Region

www.vucke.sk



Campania region

www.regione.campania.it

Link to the project website: www.ocopomo.eu

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