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Open and Big Data Partnerships for Public Good: Interactive Live Polling of Influential Factors

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Abstract. There is much potential for open and big data to be used for addressing societal challenges of today. This drives a new kind of partnership called “data collaborative” emphasizing the value of data for public good. Data collaboratives stand for cross-sector partnerships, whereby organizations in the private or public sector disclose their data, as an act of good will, in order to contribute to a societal cause (such as e.g. healthcare, humanitarian, or other policy issues). In this workshop we focus on this emerging topic which so far has deserved little attention in research. In our previous research an initial framework of influential factors for data collaboratives was introduced. The workshop objective is to validate and refine this initial framework by inviting participants to take part in an interactive live polling exercise and assess a number of propositions about influential factors.

Keywords. Big Data, Open Data, Collaboration, Public Private Partnership

1. Introduction

There is a general understanding that the data revolution can deliver tremendous value for the public good, and some high-level pathways for progress have been laid out by international actors [1, 2]. Enhanced collaboration between stakeholders in various sectors is crucial in this respect to accelerate data sharing and the use of data for public good [3]. This new type of partnership was labeled “data collaboratives” [4] and stands for the practice of organizations donating data for analysis in order to contribute to a societal cause. For example, in 2015 Uber shared their anonymized trip-level data with the city of Boston to help future development of the city.

While in practice an increasing number of examples of data collaboratives can be found, scientific research is yet to explain and understand this phenomenon fully. Focusing on influential factors can help accelerate the adoption of this new kind of partnerships in different contexts.

2. Workshop objectives and structure

First we will share the findings of our previous research outlining the proposed taxonomy of data collaboratives, alongside several examples from practice. One of the examples

concerns a project about Virtual Research Environments (the VRE4EIC project¹) in which researchers can collaborate in data analysis and discussions about datasets concerning different societal challenges. The taxonomy will provide participants with insights into the different types of data collaboratives found in various sectors and into the dimensions and characteristics distinguishing them. Using the taxonomy as a point of reference, we will then present our initial framework of influential factors for data collaboratives. The workshop objective is to validate and refine this initial framework of influential factors by asking participants to assess the importance of different factors based on their expertise.

This will be carried out by inviting participants to take part in an interactive live polling exercise using Mentimeter². The participants will be offered a series of propositions about various influential factors for data collaboratives and asked to indicate to which degree they agree or disagree with them. We therefore invite researchers with expertise in the field of information sharing, public-private partnerships, and/or open and big data to attend this workshop. The live polling exercise will be followed by a panel discussion, during which the participants can provide feedback on the framework of factors and brainstorm about additional issues not yet considered.

The workshop participants can benefit from the workshop by gaining insights into this cutting-edge topic and into the influential factors characterizing data collaboratives in practice. Thanks to using interactive live polling, results of the poll will be available to the workshop participants instantly. The participants can take away from the exercise a snapshot of importance of various factors according to their opinions.

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¹ www.vre4eic.eu

² <https://www.govote.at/>