



Live+Gov present at the eGov and ePart conferences

The Live+Gov project has been prominently represented at the EGov and EPart conference at the University of Koblenz in Germany from September 16th – 19th 2013. The project was represented at the conference stand of the Web Science and Technologies (WeST) Institute and discussed by Live+Gov consortium partners like EuroSoc and Yucat in a number of conference sessions and discussions about state of the art research and the latest projects in the context of eParticipation and eGovernment.

The particularity of the EPart / EGov conference is that it is bringing together technically oriented researchers from the fields of computer science, software development and engineering with scholars from the domain of social science and political research. This setup exemplifies the fundamental challenge of eParticipation and eGovernment: harmonizing the societal and political demands for citizen participation and governmental output efficiency with technical solutions.

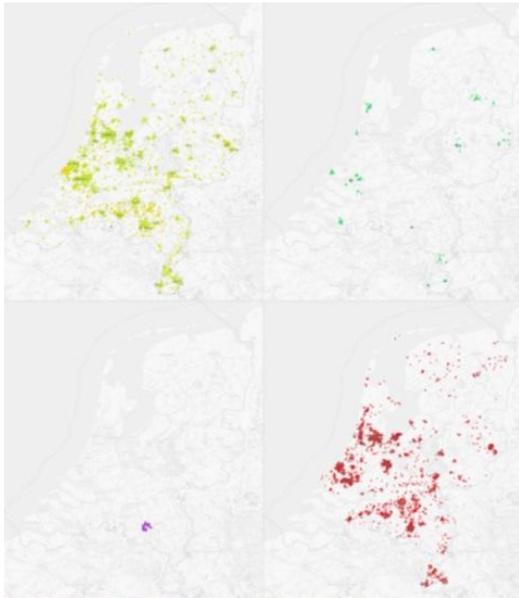
The main lesson learned from a Live+Gov perspective is that there seems to be a general lack of clear concepts consolidating the demand in the society and the offer made by information technologies in a coherent research agenda. In this context, the Live+Gov project follows the promising strategy of developing concrete applications for improving the connectedness of the citizens and the public authorities that are rooted in sound social scientific research. In this respect, the EGov and EPart conference has encouraged the Live+Gov consortium to continue on this demanding and challenging pathway.



Live+Gov's mobile augmented reality making its way to the museums

Based on the technologies developed in the context of Live+Gov and in collaboration with a company specialized in Architecture Design, we have developed an application for mobile augmented reality that was installed in the exhibition Aegeon "the birth of an archipelago", hosted in the Science Center and Technology Museum "NOESIS". ()

The developed application allows the visitors of the exhibition to scan an exhibit with their camera phone and, depending on the recognized content, obtain a 3D representation of the exhibit. The application allows the visitor to interact with the 3D model and view it from many different perspectives. The application has received great attention as testified by the fact that our video presenting the functionality of the mobile application was included in a recent article (3/10/2013) about Museums, Art, and Smartphones and the way augmented reality is changing our Museum experience (<http://mobileworldcapital.com/en/article/195>).



Geographical Analysis of Geo-Tagged issues reported by citizens in the Netherlands obtains interesting categorization results

Researchers from the University of Koblenz have analyzed a BuitenBeter dataset consisting of 13,811 geo-tagged issues about urban maintenance that have been reported by citizens to the office of public order in the Netherlands between July and September 2012. Each issue is assigned by the citizen to one of 16 categories such as "poor road conditions", "Dirt on the street" or "Graffiti". Interestingly, the reports show patterns in the co-occurrence of categories - for instance, areas where graffiti are reported typically also see many reports of the category "Dirt on the street".

Modeling the patterns based on an initial clustering of reports based on their geographic location, topics are detected by analyzing the co-occurrences of categories within geographical clusters and capturing dependencies. Therefore interesting results have been extracted for creating comprehensible reports, characterizing the most likely categories.

The positions of documents with an above-average probability for each topic are shown in Figure 1-4. We see that Topic 1 ("Dirt on the street", "Other", "Graffiti") is only observed in the area of larger cities, whilst Topic 4 ("Other", "Weed", "Loose paving stones", "Bad road", "Damaged street light", "Idea / wish") is present across the whole country. Topic 2 ("Damaged street light", "Bad road") occurs mostly within city centres. Topic 3 ("Obstacle by trees", "Weed", "Loose paving stones", "Bad road", "Idea / wish") is observed in the area of Eindhoven which saw a heavy storm within the collection period.



InsideAR 2013 - "Always on, always augmented". The world's largest AR industry event took place in Munich on the 10th and 11th of October.



How Urban Planning made one city better for women



E-participation: what it means and what might it look like

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