

Press Release

RENDER is an EU-funded research project having a three-year mission to enhance the discovery, understanding and representation of knowledge on the Web, thus better “reflecting knowledge diversity”.

The Web has proved to be an run-away success for facilitating the publication, use and exchange of information, at planetary scale, on virtually every topic, and representing an amazing diversity of opinions, viewpoints, mind sets and backgrounds. Nevertheless, the Web is also confronted with fundamental challenges with respect to the purposeful access, processing and management of these sheer amounts of information, whilst remaining true to its principles, and leveraging the diversity inherently unfolding through world wide scale collaboration.

RENDER will engage with the challenges of diversity on the Web by developing methods, techniques, software and data sets that will leverage diversity as a crucial source of innovation and creativity. It will provide enhanced support for feasibly managing data at very large scale, and for designing novel algorithms that reflect diversity in the ways information is selected, ranked, aggregated, presented and used. The information management solutions proposed within the project will scale to very large amounts of data and hundreds of thousands of users, but also to a plurality of points of view and opinions. This will be demonstrated through the usage of real data sources through three high-profile case studies.

RENDER will help to realize a world where information is acquired and shared in a fundamentally different manner than the consensual approach promoted by movements such as Web 2.0, and where communication and collaboration across the borders of social, cultural or professional communities are truly enabled via advanced Web technology, supporting one of the credos of European society: “United in diversity”.

The project started in October 2010 with a consortium of seven partners from six European countries and a total budget of 4.4 Million Euros. The research partners are KIT - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany (the project leader), JSI - Jozef Stefan Institute, Slovenia, STI2 - Semantic Technology Institute Innsbruck, Austria and Ontotext AD, Bulgaria, while the case studies are provided by Wikimedia Deutschland e.V., Germany, Google Ireland, Ltd and Telefonica, Spain.

Jozef Stefan Institute's role, as one of the research project partners, is to first analyze various forms of textual information on the Web, with the purpose of identifying and aggregating structured patterns that reflect knowledge diversity. To this end, JSI will develop novel algorithms and applications that can process large-scale data sets, employing machine learning, data mining and natural language processing techniques.

More information related to the RENDER project can be found on its web page: <http://render-project.eu>