OCOPOMO

Open
COllaboration for
POlicy MOdelling

Project co-funded by the
European Commission

URL: http://www.ocopomo.eu/

SEVENTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME

In this issue

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 parties. Policy operators and stakeholders collaborate in scenario development. Based on this, an agent-based simulation model is

Information visualization and decision making in OCOPOMO

In the Fifties a famous book written by Darrell Huff was entitled "How to lie with statistics". Using nice drawings by the famous cartoonist Irving Geist, who used to illustrate many well-known magazines such as Scientific America, the book demonstrated how the influence in a perception of a diagram, graph and chart was strongly related to its aspect. For instance, the more the improvement of a certain value was strong, the more the perception by the reader was to have a strong improvement, not matter if the actual and mere figures say a different story. From this preliminary and pioneering experience, the idea that the way the information displayed could influence data interpretation and, as a consequence, decisions to be taken has become a discipline. Today it is called "Information Visualisation" (or in short InfoViz) and it is increasingly applied in business support applications as a way to display graphically information. The rationale behind is that the support to decision-making processes through appropriate visualisation techniques has a significant deployment potential in the decision process [1]. More and more studies have shown that the way the information are shown, an histogram instead of a pie-based chart, are dramatically influencing the effectiveness and accuracy of the decision process. [2] In ICT and computer science, many libraries, suite and platform are providing solutions for information visualization. An example is presented below.

Figure 1 Gap minder snapshot

In the development of the OCOPOMO platform a strong attention is paid to information visualization. In fact, as soon as the information collected in the CCD model are elaborated into a DRAMS based model and some

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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.

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

simulation are proposed into scenario, these raw data are taken and reprented into a user-friendly representation scheme that are expected to help decision makers to be more active in the e-particiaption, having a clear idea of the consequences of their information, and having chance to better improve them in the cyclic revision of these models. In the project we are approaching to the issue in two ways, as reported in the introductory part of this article. Firstly, identifying the most suitable architecture (based on XML) for turning data coming from simulation software into a articulated graph-based layout; secondly, trying to study how the users ad stakeholders are actually interpreting such data for providing the most accuracy intervention. For reaching second issue, some users' studies based on usability are planned and they will be carried on when the first release of the platform will be completed. Finally, also in the FP7 and in future FP8, a strong attention to this topics is paid by the research. Many EU projects are focusing on this topic as e-Policy and FUPOL [3], and also the current priority of Intelligent Information Management in the ICT Work Programme of the 7th Framework Programme makes explicit reference to the potential of Information Visualization in supporting Large Data Management.

[1] Zhu, B. and H. Chen, Information visualization for decision support, in Handbook on decision support systems 2. 2008. p.699-722.
[2] Roller Colleen (2011) Decision Architecture: Designing for Decision-Making ARTICLE NO. 776 UX magazine, December 22, 2011.
[3] The first project is a FP7 project funded under the Objective 5.6 ICT solutions for Governance and Policy Modeling www.epolicy-project.eu. The second one, FUPOL, supports the policy domains in urban regions with appropriate ICT technologies including a new governance model to engage all stakeholders in the whole policy design lifecycle, www.fupol.eu .

Eagle or ostrich: policy modelling supporting organizational strategies

Open collaboration tools provide any organization with the chance to engage their target groups on all sorts of issues and topics. These tools can create greater buy-in to new policies, generate innovative ideas about new programs, and leverage the time, energy and resources of the public to help agencies reach their goals [4].
What should your organization do to respond to the change in how the public wishes to be engaged with your organization?
One of the first steps for many organizations is to make the shift from being an ostrich to being an eagle. The ostrich organization tends to bury its head, but the problem for this type of organization is that it is thinking too close to the ground. The eagle organization, instead, looks at the big picture far above the ground. It thinks strategically on where to best

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focus its efforts and swoops in once it has made its choice. Like it or not, web 2.0-like thinking has made the ostrich organization an endangered species.

Interest from stakeholders

A Senior Health Studies and Policy Manager based in London wrote to us:

"I'm interested to know more about your project. I've been involved in policy modelling/making and stakeholder engagement in the NHS for many years with a special interest in health informatics. You may be interested in the (…) domestication of ICT in staff in general practices (drs, nurses and admin staff) and the issues with taking ownership of ICT and ensuring it was used appropriately and actively.

I'm really looking forward to hearing more about the project as it progresses!"

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[4] Adapted from "Is Your Organization an Eagle or an Ostrich?" Peters, J., Goldman J. ascentum.com, Fall 2011

OCOPOMO's Integrated Methodology for Participation and Open Government

Tracking and mapping tools and systems allow citizens to examine government activities and expenditures. Citizen engagement platforms and tools allow governments to reach out and incorporate the perspectives and ideas of citizens in decision-making and policy-making. Still others are building networked relationships between the public and private sectors to solve challenging problems that cannot be addressed by either sector working alone. An increasing number of countries are building transparency and accountability and driving public and private innovation through the use of information and communication technologies such as those utilized in the OCOPOMO toolbox. [5] Here are some ways "eagle" organizations are taking the road towards openness and transparency on public issues. [6]

Input on Policies, Programs and Rules. Public areas, both offline and online, should have an easily recognizable space where people can go to join participatory and collaborative processes on policies, programs and rules.

Policy frameworks that facilitate transparency, participation, and

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![Seventh Framework Programme logo]

Interest from stakeholders

A researcher on climate change mitigation policy based in Norwich shared his opinion with us:

"Looks very interesting. Would also be interested to know more about the simulation modelling, as far as I understand one of the reasons this has not been more widely adopted is because it generates outcomes which vary widely based on small initial differences. Would be very interested to know more about what you are doing".

collaboration. The policy framework should take into account established principles of public engagement which should be visible, for example, on institutional websites – see IAP2 [7] and NCDD [8] principles – to provide a clear sense of the standards that each organization is holding itself to. Evaluations of participation and open government activities should be directly linked to these principles.

[5] "The Future of Government, Lessons Learned from around the World. Global Agenda Council on the Future of Government". July, 2011
[6] Adapted from "Participation and Open Government Websites" Peters, J., Goldman J. ascentum.com, December 2009
[7] http://www.iap2.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=4
[8] http://ncdd.org/

OCOPOMO presented at…

ECMS 2011, **25th EUROPEAN Conference on Modelling and Simulation** (8th June 2011, Kraków , Poland). Ulf Lotzmann from University of Koblenz-Landau presented a paper on DRAMS A Declarative Rule-based Agent Modelling System
http://www.scs-europe.net/conf/ecms2011/

MeTTeG'11 5th International Conference on Methodologies, Technologies and Tools enabling e-Government (30 June - 1 July 2011 Camerino, Italy) Karol Furdik, Peter Butka and Marian Mach (from Technical University of Kosice and Intersoft) presented a paper titled: Architecture design of a system for collaborative policy modelling" Illustrating the architecture of the OCOPOMO collaboration space
http://conferences.cs.unicam.it/metteg11/

Workshop Evaluating Decentralized Policies: Challenges, Evaluation techniques and Policy impacts (Clermont-Ferrand 27 - 28 October 2011) This event has been promoted by the PRIMA project consortium. Prof. Dr. Maria A. Wimmer from University of Koblenz-Landau made an intervention titled: OCOPOMO Stakeholder participation through scenario generation and development of a conceptual model of policy https://prima.cemagref.fr/

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OCOPOMO in social networks:

Register to our

LinkedIN group:

http://linkd.in/9yG3qv

Stay tuned for more updates!

On the agenda…

Project meeting in Brookcliff

The 5th OCOPOMO plenary project meeting took place in Brookcliff, 23-25 November 2011. The main objectives were to discuss, progress and plan work in the running work packages. The developments of the policy models, scenarios and ICT toolbox were presented and the discussion focused on the first round of pilot evaluations in the project, as well as on dissemination and exploitation of results.

OCOPOMO is launching its first iteration of online collaboration with stakeholders using the OCOPOMO platform

In the beginning of 2012, interaction with stakeholders and representatives of OCOPOMO consortium will take place in Kosice city, in London and in Campania to support the scenario generation process foreseen. Stakeholders concerned with the focus of policy models (renewable energy in Kosice, technology transfer in Campania, social housing in London) will be invited to describe their views on current and future polices in their region via narrative text descriptions in the OCOPOMO platform.

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	Suor Orsola Benincasa University	www.unisob.na.it
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	University of Warsaw	www.iss.uw.edu.pl
	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

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