



Invitation to join The Ontology Outreach Advisory Human Resources Chapter

Dear Colleague,

We hereby invite you to join us as member of the **"European Ontology Outreach Advisory Board"** (OOA) and to play an active role in the human resources chapter of this advisory board.

The OOA board is an initiative of KnowledgeWeb, the world's largest research network on Semantic Web Technology in general and on ontology's in particular, funded by the European Commission. KnowledgeWeb is also the first research network with a specific focus on bringing its research results to industry.

The main instrument for achieving this "outreach to industry" is the "Ontology Outreach Advisory" (OOA), an industry-sector-led community board that will help promote greater awareness and faster take-up of ontology's and at the same time act as an *"recommending body"* of industry domain specific ontologies.

Semantic Interoperability

Now that XML-based standards are abundant, the world is starting to realize that syntax alone is not enough. Fortunately the EC through its 5th and 6th Framework Programme has directly and indirectly spent tens of millions of euros in semantic research funding. This leaves us with the task of scaling up the transfer of technology and research results to industrial and governmental best practice.

The **Healthcare and Life Sciences domain** is one of these areas where the need for and benefits of semantic technology start to be well understood. Semantic web technologies have the potential to shorten the drug discovery and development



cycle by linking genotype to phenotype data and providing accurate reasoning algorithms for it. Medical mistakes may be prevented by a better semantic representation of clinical data in electronic patient records and the decision support facilities that may come true by linking patient data to ontologies and epidemiologic databases. Researchers and scientists will have better and more efficient access to literature databases using advanced text mining tools. These are not just far fetched claims made by developers or early adopters of semantic web technologies, but true beliefs that are reflected already in political decisions as witnessed by the Action Plan for the European e-Health area. The OOA HC board intends to investigate & promote the use of ontology's in the HC and LSc domain.

The OOA will be organized into domain specific sector boards. The first two will cover (1) Human resources & Employment and (2) Healthcare & Life Sciences. Additional strategic sectors being planned are: Regulatory Compliance, Telecom, Education, etc... Each of these domains is the focus of currently ongoing and representative ontology and Semantic Web research and application efforts. **More details about the goals and the organization of the OOA are provided in the attached presentation material.**

For this reason, KnowledgeWeb is looking for thought leaders and innovators active in these sectors both within industry and government, who are willing to assist their sector in making the next step towards "meaningful computing", by signing on to the European Ontology Outreach Advisory.

"What is in it for me?"

Being on the forefront of semantic computing, you will have first-hand knowledge, deep insight and high level academic contacts to lead your industry sector or governmental organization into the age of "meaningful computing".

The **Ontology Outreach Advisory** board will be a non-profit member organization that consists of industry, government, and research leaders and innovators in their respective fields.



What is needed?

At this stage, we need representatives from companies and organizations active in these sectors who are ready to show interest to the goals and activities of the OOA. Little or no technical knowledge is required. Instead we ask to bring a thorough understanding of your sector and its interoperability needs (different languages, meaning, and processes). We also appreciate the willingness to promote and disseminate the potential (awareness, services, tools) made available through the OOA.

As a member (no membership costs involved) and after being trained, you will be expected to help promote and introduce the use of semantics and ontology's for use in your professional environment.

How can I join?

Just sign this document and return it to the address below. Once accepted you will get an invitation to attend our next meeting (2 June, Crete), receive the OOA email newsletter and you will be contacted to help start the "meaningful computing" era in your company, sector or region.

Kind regards,

Werner Ceusters
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The Ontology Outreach Advisory
Healthcare and Life Sciences Chapter
Letter of interest

From :

Company name:

Company Representative Name:

Email:

Tel:

Fax:

To: Professor Dr. Robert Meersman, OOA Chair, VUB/Starlab
OOA Board
VUB - STAR Lab
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Dear Professor Meersman

I hereby declare that (company name) _____

is interested in joining the "Ontology Outreach Advisory" initiative as member.

_____ (company name) accepts to help promote
the use of semantics and ontology's in the HC and LSc domain within my industry
sector or governmental organization. The OOA activities will be attended by:

_____ (company representative name).

Name:

Date:

Signature: