



Press information 19.03.2014  
for immediate release

## European Data Forum 2014 **The meeting place of the Data Economy**

***Summary:** The 2014 European Data Forum, an annual event focusing on Europe's Data Economy is taking place in Athens, Greece. More than 700 industry leaders, researchers, and policy makers, are meeting to discuss the challenges and opportunities of data-driven innovation. With expert speakers in two parallel tracks, an executive panel on Big Data, several networking sessions, a poster session, a 2-days exhibition area, the awarding of the European Data Innovator Award 2014 and 5 specialised collocated events, EDF2014 is the greatest ever assembly of data experts in the EU.*

### **Athens - Wednesday, 19 March, 2014**

The 2014 European Data Forum is taking place in Athens, Greece. **EDF2014** is co-organized by the European Commission and two leading Greek research and technology institutions, the **Institute for the Management of Information Systems (IMIS)** of "Athena" Research Center ([imis.athena-innovation.gr](http://imis.athena-innovation.gr)), and the **Department of Informatics and Telecommunication (DI)** of the NKU Athens ([di.uoa.gr](http://di.uoa.gr)). IMIS and DI, one of the youngest and one of the oldest research institutions in Greece, represent the established **Greek excellence** in data-driven innovation, with diverse technology contributions and research distinctions on an international level. The beautiful City of Athens is delighted to welcome all EDF2014 participants, and to host a new generation of data entrepreneurs as EDF becomes a hub of innovation and creativity.

The focus of EDF2014 is the **Data Economy**, an emergent field of business based on the publication and use of data, a key enabler for **sustainable growth** in Europe. Initiated by technological leaps, such as Big Data and Linked Data, and supported by several EU policy actions, such as Open Data and the Digital Agenda, the Data Economy engages a variety of stakeholders across thematic domains and disciplines along the data value chain.

The EDF2014 program includes presentations and networking sessions by industry leaders, academics, policy makers, and community organisers, and covers a diverse range of topics, including research and technology development, training and knowledge transfer, and commercialisation.

**Neelie Kroes**, the Vice President of the European Commission, in charge of the Digital Agenda, opened EDF2014 and addressed a warm welcome to all participants: “It is an inspiring event today, it is important for Greece, it is important for Europe”. She pointed out that we are in the Big Data era which means more data and more ways to collect, manage, manipulate and use it, making an impact and difference to people’s life: “Data to empower people”.

The Minister of Administrative Reform and eGovernance of Greece, **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**, addressed the EDF2014 and reinforced the focus of the Greek Government in core Data Economy areas as means to promote transparency, government efficiency and growth: “The open data revolution is a trend which my country cannot simply afford to ignore”.

**Evy Christofilopoulou**, the Deputy Minister of Administrative Reform and eGovernance of Greece, elaborated on specific Data Economy areas that are targeted by the Greek Government and presented several commitments towards establishing Open Data in Greece. She reported that since October 2010, 3677 public services in Greece have adopted the diavgeia program and upload their decisions on the Internet. The deputy minister announced an Open Data Hackathon to take place in April in Greece and invited everyone to participate.

The General Secretary of Research and Technology of Greece, **Christos Vasilakos**, congratulated the Greek EDF2014 organizers and acknowledged their leading role on data-driven innovation across EU.

The **Eccenca European Data Innovator (EDI) Award for 2014**, in recognition for exemplary actions and innovations in the Data Economy, was awarded to **Johann Mittheisz, former CIO of the City of Vienna, Austria and the Open Government team of Vienna** for the outstanding work on Open Data and Open Government in the City of Vienna, in Austria and the whole D-A-CH region. The award was handed over by Commissioner **Neelie Kroes**, the Deputy Director General of DG CONNECT **Robert Viola**, and **H.C. Brockman CEO of Eccenca**. Neelie Kroes congratulated him: “You are not preaching but practicing. Go on and inspire all of us” and pointed out that Vienna can be a role model for other cities in Europe.

Mr. Mittheisz received the award and highlighted the significance of Local Administrations in promoting the Open Data agenda: “I'm working 41 years for the city of Vienna. It's a great pleasure to receive this prize”.

The opening keynote of EDF2014 was delivered by **Stefan Wrobel**, Director of Fraunhofer IAIS, emphasizing the value of Big Data for the Data Economy: “Big Data is here to stay”, and outlining the trends of Big Data, namely digital convergence, ubiquitous intelligent systems, user content and Open Data. “Big Data brings us from a model-driven approach to a data-driven one”.

The program of EDF2014 continued with:

- **Two parallel tracks** with presentations from experts on all aspects of Data Economy and data-driven innovation
- An **executive panel** on **Big Data** and **PPP on Data**
- An **exhibition area** over the two days duration of EDF2014
- A **poster session** showcasing research and technology advancements
- The first **Linked Data Europe Workshop** ([www.linkeddataeurope.eu](http://www.linkeddataeurope.eu))
- A **Linked Data for Language Technology** (LD4LT) workshop.

With over 700 participants that joined EDF2014 in Athens from 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2014, more than 50 talks, 30 poster presentations and 30 exhibition stands the European Data Forum 2014 was a great success and supported the idea of an active European data community! The next European Data Forum – EDF2015 – will take place in Luxembourg in autumn 2015 along the EU presidency of Luxembourg.

----- End of official press release -----

## EDF2014 Facts

**What:** European Data Forum 2014 (EDF2014)

**Where:** Athens, Greece

**When:** March 19 to 20, 2014

**More Information:** <http://2014.data-forum.eu/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/EUDataForum> , hashtag: #EDF2014

**Press Area:** <http://2014.data-forum.eu/about/press-area>

**LinkedIn Group:** <http://www.linkedin.com/groups/European-Data-Forum-4356346>

**Get in touch:** [edf2014@data-forum.eu](mailto:edf2014@data-forum.eu)

The EDF2014 is an associated event of the **Greek Presidency of the Council of the European Union**.

The European Data Forum 2014 is supported by the European Commission and organized by leading Greek Data Economy stakeholders:

- Institute for the Management of Information Systems / “Athena” Research Center ([www.imis.athena-innovation.gr](http://www.imis.athena-innovation.gr))
- Department of Informatics & Telecommunications, National & Kapodistrian University of Athens ([www.di.uoa.gr](http://www.di.uoa.gr))

Organizing partners of the EDF2014 include the following EC-funded research projects:

- LOD2 (<http://lod2.eu/>)
- BIG (<http://big-project.eu/>)
- PlanetData (<http://planet-data.eu/>)
- Optique (<http://www.optique-project.eu/>)
- LEO (<http://www.linkedeodata.eu/>)
- GeoKnow (<http://geoknow.eu/>)
- PublicaMundi (<http://www.publicamundi.eu/>)
- IQmulus (<http://www.iqmulus.eu/>)
- LDDB (<http://www.lddb.eu/>)

- OpenDataMonitor (<http://project.opendatamonitor.eu/>)
- ENGAGE (<http://www.engagedata.eu/>)
- DIACHRON (<http://www.diachron-fp7.eu/>)
- vistaTV (<http://vista-tv.eu/>)
- Euclid (<http://euclid-project.eu/>)
- SemGrow (<http://www.semagrow.eu/>)
- LIDER (<http://www.lider-project.eu/>)
- INSIGHT (<http://www.insight-ict.eu/>)

If you have any questions, feel free to [contact us](#) and we will follow-up with you.

## **EDF 2014 (Press) Contacts**

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EDF2014 Press Area: <http://2014.data-forum.eu/about/press-area>