Press release –

Information Management Lab (InfoLab) @ University of Piraeus

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Successful kick-off European FP7 project DATA SIM

On 19-21 October, a three-day kick-off meeting of the European FP7 project DATA SIM was organized in Hasselt University. DATA SIM stands for *'DATA science for SIMulating the era of electrical vehicles'* and targets at two goals: on the one hand, it tries to gain new insight in people's travel behaviour so as to predict traffic flows more accurately while, on the other hand, it investigates the impact of this insight on society as a whole with an application in the domain of electric vehicles. In this project, the Information Management Lab. of the University of Piraeus will work together in a consortium of 9 partners from 7 different countries (Belgium, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy and Spain).

40 leading researchers from various sectors apply their expertise to the domain of travel behaviour

On 19-21 October, over 40 international leading researchers came to Hasselt University to set the research goals of the project during an intensive three-day kick-off meeting. Apart from InfoLab's expertise in the domain of data management and mining, other partners also brought expertise from various sectors, such as transportation, physics, network science, energy and smart grids. In the DATA SIM project, these research directions are integrated and applied to the domain of travel behaviour.

A better understanding of travel behaviour in order to study the large-scale implementation of electric vehicles

Prof. Dr. Davy Janssens, professor in travel behaviour within the Transportation Research Institute, co-ordinates the project. Prof. Janssens: *"Before this project, people's travel behaviour was mainly investigated by means of the so-called 'diaries'. In this project we will use extensive data sets, a.o. collected through GPS and mobile phone technology. When used in an intelligent way, GPS and mobile phone data offer a wealth of information with respect to people's travel behaviour. This allows us to understand and predict traffic flows better than ever before. It also offers quite a lot of perspectives. Using these new insights, we will for example be able to study the possible impact of a large-scale implementation of electric vehicles. In this project, we will for example verify the effect of location and time-specific charging of electric vehicles on the energy network. Another possible application is determining the optimal locations of charging stations for electric vehicles. The methodology that will be developed will most likely have an important market value since it will offer a management tool to the energy and transportation sector which will allow the prediction of all types of complex issues related to transportation and energy to an extremely high level of detail".*

More information on the project can be found in the following website: www.datasim-fp7.eu