



#### The "Open Altra Economia" (OAE) project: Open Data and Open Source Software for a sustainable economics



Stefano Puglia

#### Davide Lamanna

WLAB Srl. stefano.puglia@w-lab.it http://www.w-lab.it

*Binario Etico* davide.lamanna@binarioetico.it http://www.binarioetico.it

## Stefano Puglia

- Education
  - MSc in Computer and Software Engineering, SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
  - MEng in Cooperation Engineering for Development, SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
- Experience
  - Research scientist at Telcordia (ex-Bellcore), USA
  - Volunteer at "Ingegneria Senza Frontiere", Italy, Kosovo and Bolivia
  - Consultant at FAO-UN, Italy and Bolivia
  - Visiting research assistant and lecturer at SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
  - Researcher and supervisor of R&D at WLAB, Italy



## WLAB – Wireless Lab

- Research intensive SME in the area of wireless technologies, pervasive computing, open data and software
- Professional consultancy, novel ideas and new prototypes/products
- Member of international R&D associations (e.g. ARTEMIS Industry Association ARTEMIS-IA)
- <u>Research partner</u> for universities and ICT organisations in both EU funded and national research projects

## D. Davide Lamanna

- Education
  - MSc in Telecommunication Engineering, SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
  - MEng in Cooperation Engineering for Development, SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
  - PhD in Computer and Software Engineering, SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
- Experience
  - Research assistant at University College London, UK
  - "Ingegneria Senza Frontiere", Italy, Kosovo and Bolivia
  - Consultant at FAO-UN, Italy and Bolivia
  - Visiting research assistant and lecturer at SAPIENZA Uni, Italy
  - Researcher at WLAB, Italy
  - Founder of Binario Etico, Italy



## **Binario Etico**

- GreenIT enterprise founded in 2006, working exclusively on Free Software
- Promotes adoption and responsible use of technologies, in particular Free Software, (re)use of hardware and lowenvironmental-impact systems (GreenIT)
- Projects and implements migration plans to Free Software and Open Standards and develop Open Source solutions for Cloud Computing and Open Data
- Networks and initiatives
  - Rete Italiana Open Source (RIOS)
  - Apribili Campagna del Terzo settore per i formati aperti nella PA
  - Rete Altra Economia

## Our <u>co-authors</u> and friends

- WLAB
  - <u>Francesco Ficarola</u>
  - <u>Alessandro Leoni</u>
  - <u>Simone Leoni</u>
- Binario Etico
  - Stefano Buscaglia
  - Fabrizio Nasti
- Laboratorio Urbano Reset (\*) e comune-info (\*\*)
  - Riccardo Troisi
  - Annarita Sacco

(\*) Social economics and ecological reconversion of territories(\*\*) Independent information on commons, degrowth and Atra Economia

#### The project: Open Altra Economia



## Socio-economic context

- "Participatory" and ecological economics as drivers towards degrowth's promise (!?)
- "Altra Economia Lazio" (AEL): equity, solidarity, efficiency and sustainability
  - > Organic agriculture
  - > Eco-friendly goods/services
  - Fair trade
  - Critical consumption
  - Sustainable lifestyles
  - Ethical finance and banking
  - Maintenance and repair

- Energy conservation
- > Renewable/green technologies
- Reuse, recycling, redistribution
- Non monetary systems
- > Open/free ICT
- Sustainable tourism/travelling
- Recreation and sport

## Legal framework

- National/local legislation
  - Legge Regionale Altra Economia: "Disposizioni per la diffusione dell'Altra Economia nel Lazio", approvata in giunta il 28-11-2008 (legge 20)
- International policies
  - European Commission Decision C (2013) 8631 of 10 December 2013. HORIZON 2020 WORK PROGRAMME 2014–2015 5
  - Council of Europe. Rethinking consumer behaviour for the well-being of all -Reflections on individual consumer responsibility, 2008
  - Council of Europe. Well-being for all Concepts and tools for social cohesion, 2008
- Novel (information and communication) technologies to:
  - Address grand and societal challenges
  - Support social innovation and behaviour change

# Green (infocom) technologies

- Open Data
  - "...certain data should be freely available to everyone to use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control" (Wikipedia)
- Open Source Software
  - "gives users the freedom to run the software for any purpose as well as to study, modify, and distribute the original software and the adapted versions"
  - "appropriate technology, designed with special consideration to the environmental, ethical, cultural, social, political, and economic aspects of the community it is intended for" (Wikipedia)
- Rules and legislation (national/international)
  - "Disposizioni in materia di dati aperti e riutilizzo di informazioni e dati pubblici e iniziative connesse", legge Regionale n. 7/2012, approvata dal consiglio regionale il 23/05/2012
  - Open Government initiatives (e.g. US federal and state-wide, UK)

#### **Open Data**

#### Tim Berners-Lee's 5 star deployment scheme

Available on the web (whatever format) but with an open licence, to be Open Data

Available as machine-readable structured data (e.g. excel instead of image scan of a table)

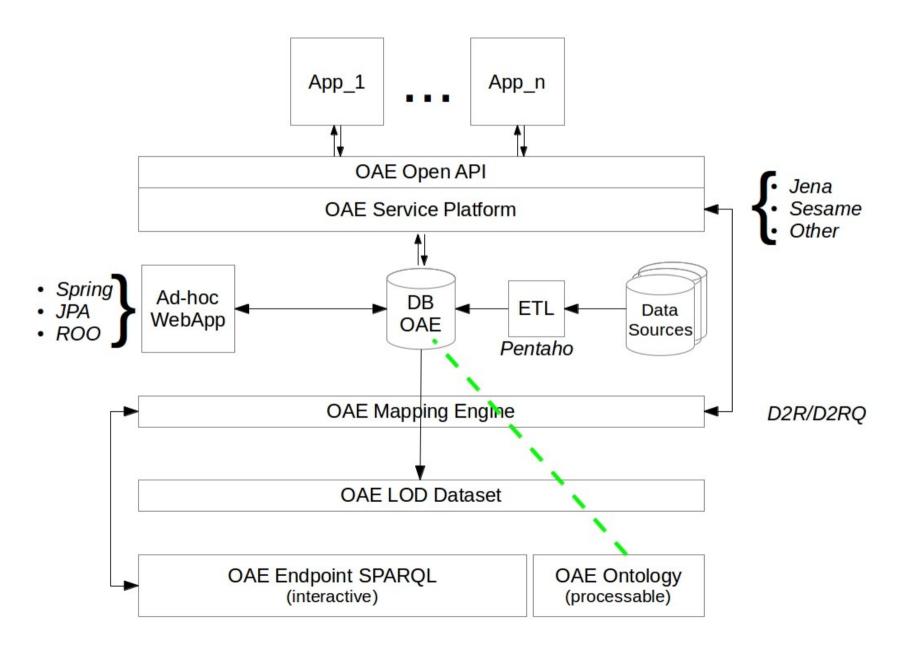
+ + + as (2) plus non-proprietary format (e.g. CSV instead of excel)

★ ★ ★ ★
 All the above plus, Use open standards from W3C (RDF and SPARQL) to identify things, so that people can point at your stuff
 ★ ★ ★ ★
 All the above, plus: Link your data to other people's data to provide context

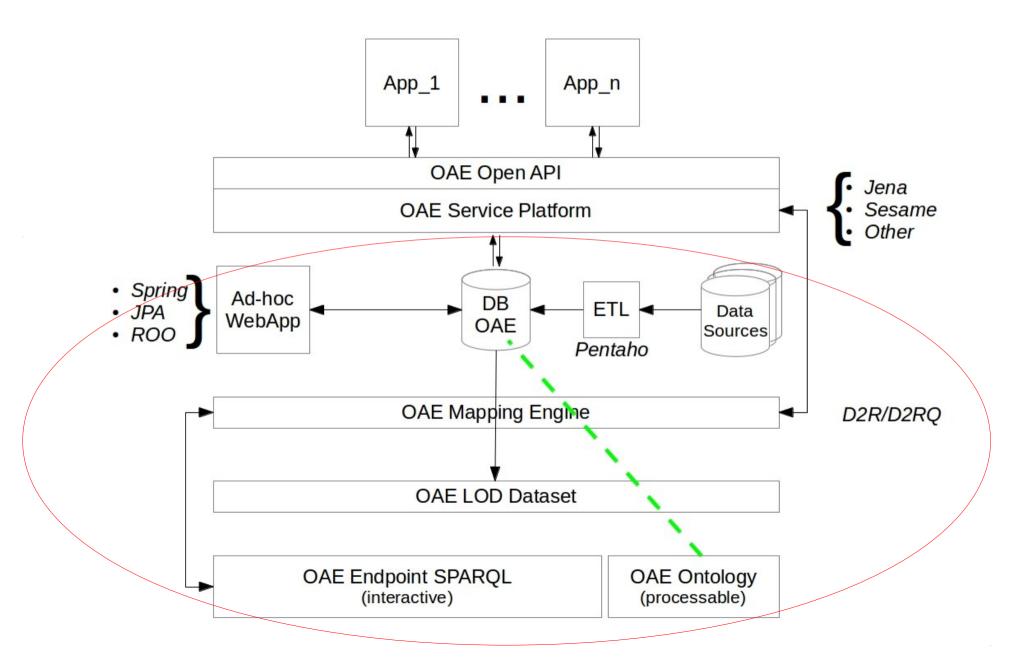
## Expected outcomes/benefits

- "Fresh" and up-to-date data on AEL in a common, open, standard format available to anyone in the Semantic Web of Data
- Better assessment and appraisal of the AEL consortium (e.g. AEL's stakeholders and local regulators/administrators)
  - non-obvious hidden interpretations and phenomena of interest on people's behaviours/consumption patterns
  - general AEL's inner relationships and dynamics
  - existing connections and alliances
  - movement's cause, ideas, objectives

### System architecture



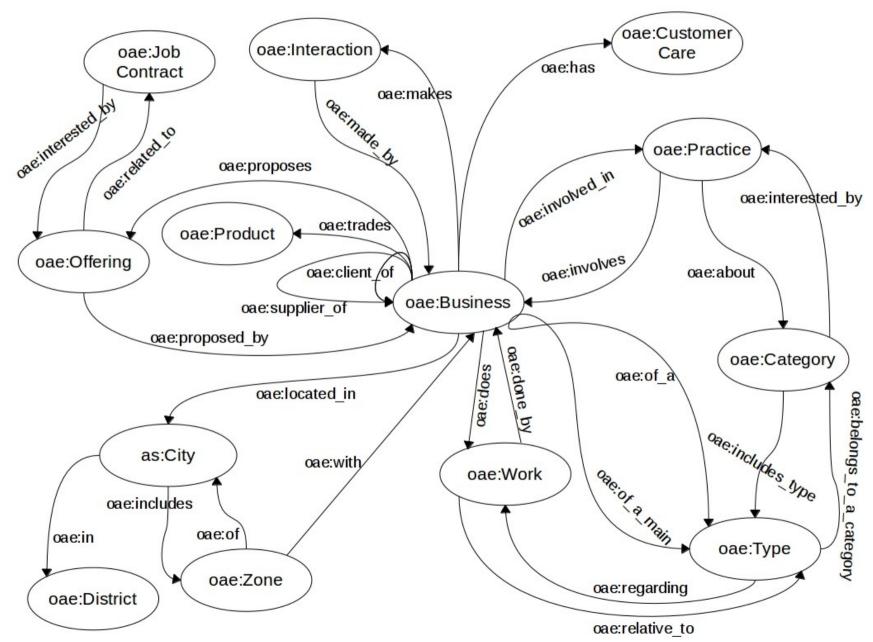
## Linked Open Data



## Linked Open Data

- Adoption of existing methodologies
  - Identification of heterogeneous data sources
  - Design of a "data reconciliation" structure
    - E.g. Relational model, Ontology
  - Use of extract, transform and load (ETL) OSS tools
  - Data management via OSS Web-based tools
  - Data publication as Linked Open Data
  - CC-BY-SA license
    - Copy and redistribute
    - Remix, transform and build upon

## Ontology



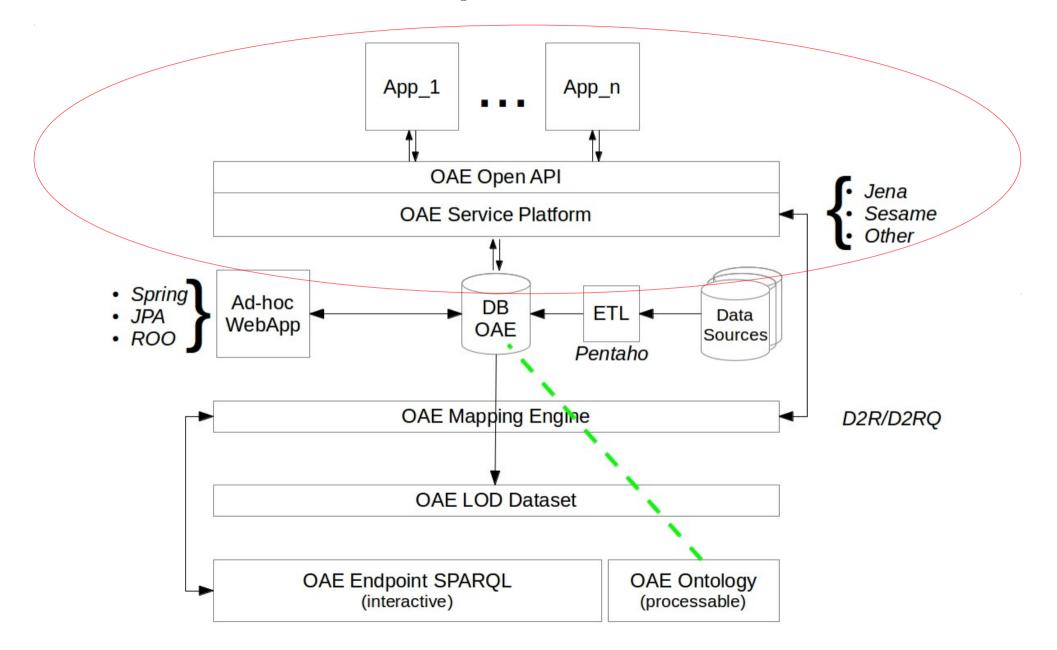
#### **RDF**

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## Linked Open Data

- Ready to be queried via SPARQL
- (Re)used, explored, reasoned upon according to the ontology
  - Consistency check
  - New discoveries and future inferences
- Knowledge generation and sharing
  - Semantic Web of Data to reach out to people on AEL's practices

#### Free Open Source Software



## Free Open Source Software

- Service platform
  - User management and profiling
  - Open API "on top of" LOD
    - REST calls
    - JSON format
- Abstraction on LOD-based information and knowledge
- Have (more) technologists/programmers/computer scientists involved
- GPL licence

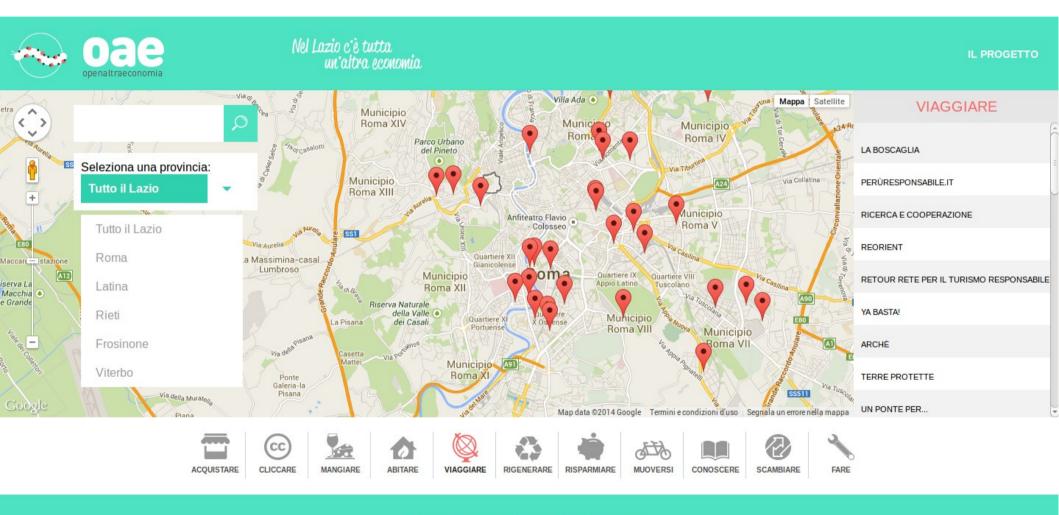
#### Service Platform

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## Free Open Source Software

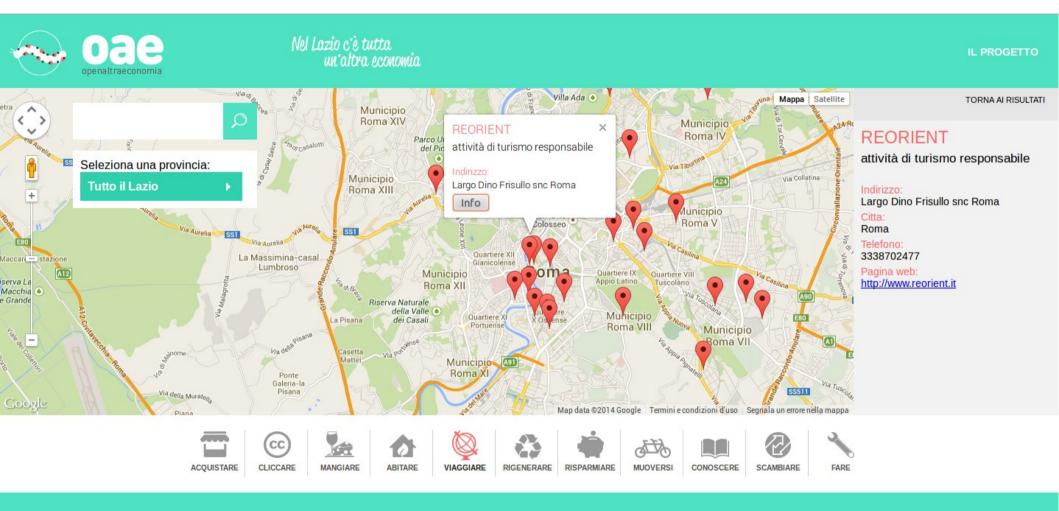
- End-user applications on top of the service platform
  - Web
  - Android
- Examples of how to "practically and fruitfully" exploit LOD on AEL
- Simple and traditional use
  - User-friendly data representations
  - Data crowd-sourcing
- Advanced use
  - "Measuring" graph-based data
  - In-depth study of AEL domain
- GPL License

## Web Application

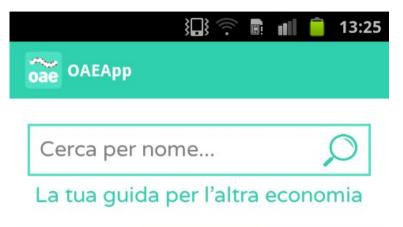


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## Web Application



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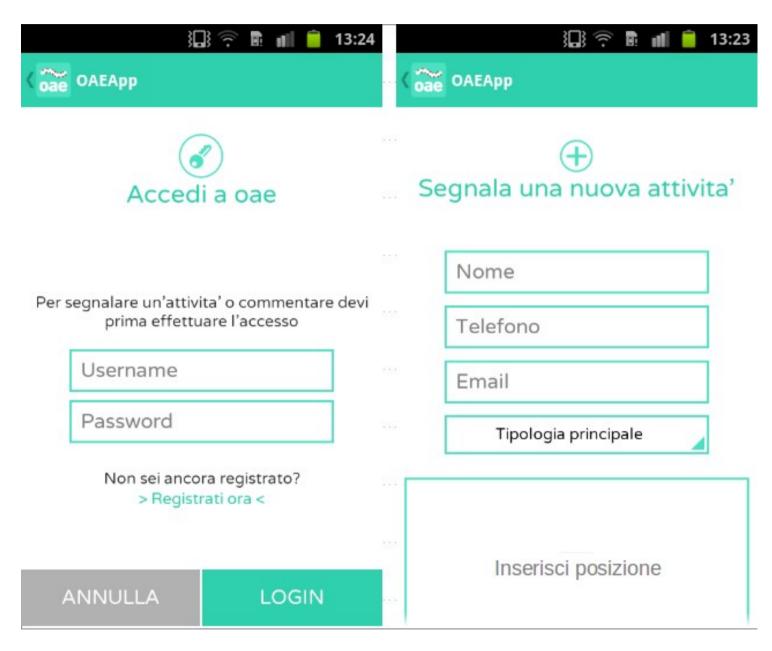
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#### Summaries

- "Open Altra Economia" (OAE): 1 year R&D project
  - Local (though it can be replicated/enhanced everywhere)
- ICT to advance good social and ecological cause
  - Fairer businesses and sustainable consumption patterns
  - Keep as many "people in the loop" as possible
    - Citizens, stakeholders, administrators, technologists
- Open and green technologies
  - Linked Open Data (CC-BY-SA)
  - Free Open Source Software (GPL)
    - Service platform with open API
    - Web application
    - Android app

# Ongoing and future work

- Business development
  - Donations, foundations and crowd-funding
  - Ethical advertising?
  - Freemium model?
  - Projects in additional domains (e.g. energy, transport, water)
  - Public funds (EU/national/local)
- Further system testing, maintenance and administration
- Focus on data
  - Quantity
  - Quality (e.g. "freshness" and consistency)
- Measuring
  - Quantitative (e.g. analytics software)
  - Qualitative (e.g. questionnaires)
- Networking
  - E.g. Conferences, symposia
  - Events and media



#### www.openaltraeconomia.it

Thank you!

#### Backup

## System architecture - Triplestore

