

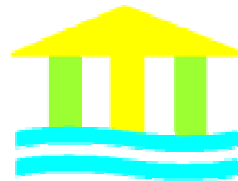


EASE: The European Association For Semantic Web Education



*Semantic Web Education and Training Workshop (SWET'06)
Beijing, China*

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Knowledge Web



- Motivation: Problems in Semantic Web Education
- The EASE association
 - Objectives + Main activities
 - Requirements on the organizational structure
- The bodies of EASE
- Related Work: IVIMEDS, ARIADNE, SWSA
- Summary and Future Work

Motivation: From Research to Industry



- Semantic Web technologies maturing and spreading out of the research labs
 - Example domains: Bio-Informatics, job recruitment
- ➔ Need for education and training in Semantic Web Technologies to educate staff in industry

- Several scenarios:
 - Internal: Self-study of company staff
 - External: Company staff visiting external courses; companies employing students having learned about Semantic Web in University
- ➔ Different ways for supporting these scenarios

Current Problems



- No permanent forum for discussion
 - Example: Semantic Web Curriculum / Topic Hierarchy, currently discussed on internal EU project mailing lists
- Difficult to find information about institutions offering educational events (e.g. courses) about Semantic Web
 - Hindering external education, but also cooperation of course providers
- Few existing learning resources about Semantic Web, also difficult to find
 - Search engines don't evaluate target groups
 - Notion of popularity of search engines (based on other web pages linking the material) not useful in industrial settings
 - Typically no personal homepages of industry staff to 'recommend' good learning resources / resource providers

The EASE Association



EASE
European Association for
Semantic Web Education

Main contribution: Foundation of the European Association for Semantic Web Education (EASE)

- Initiative of the EU NoE KnowledgeWeb
(with participation of the NoE REWERSE)

High-level Objectives:

- Promote Education and Continuing Education in the area 'Semantic Web'
 - Along the objectives of the Bologna declaration
- Support community-building activities
 - E.g., provide a forum for discussions
- Disseminate high-quality educational resources and information about educational events
- Fostering co-operation among educational bodies
- Using technological innovation pursuant to its goals

→ Bundle all activities on a (at least) European level

Activities of EASE



- EASE web page: Single entry point for information about Semantic Web Education
 - Educational resources, educational events,...
- Support infrastructure for discussions (mailing lists as forums)
- Creation and maintenance of REASE, the repository of EASE for learning resources about Semantic Web topics
- Accreditation of educational resources on REASE as ‘supported by EASE’ → Quality management process to ensure high quality of the resources
- Support structure for running educational events
 - Take over summer schools of both projects
- Support for students in the Semantic Web domain (e.g., travel grants)

REASE: The Repository of EASE



- Portal with currently > 60 learning resources
 - > 190 users from > 100 institutions registered
- Started within KnowledgeWeb and REWERSE, to be continued after the end of both projects
- <http://rease.semanticweb.org>
- Advantages:
 - Offer permanent space for publication of material
 - Pre-defined set of licenses (creative commons like)
 - Quality management mechanisms
 - Better search results than conventional search engines, specific for target groups (industry, academia)
 - More advantages:
<http://rease.semanticweb.org/ubp/PUSH/baseapp@aboutUseCasesAndBenefit>

REASE: The Repository of EASE



Repository of EASE

REASE

for Learning Units

► [Home](#)

[Members & Registration](#)

[My Contributions](#)

[My Communities](#)

[About](#)

[Help & Support](#)

[Links](#)

[Contact](#)

[Your Feedback](#)

[Privacy Statement](#)

Supported by



REVERSE
reasoning on the web

English ▼

User: Anonymous → [Login](#)

Search catalogue



[Advanced Search](#)

[Browse Catalogue](#)

Welcome to REASE, the repository of EASE for learning units in the area of Semantic Web! REASE supports sharing knowledge for Higher Education as well as for **industrial education in the area of Semantic Web** and is open to any member of the academic, research, or professional community.

This platform fosters collaboration among educators and researchers, allowing you

- To communicate with experts in your field
- To exchange Learning Resources
- To work together on the production of Educational Material: Textbooks, lecture notes, case studies, simulations, etc.
- To deliver distributed Educational Activities: lectures, courses, workshops, case study discussions, etc.
- To distribute electronic content under license
- (further [benefits](#))

Currently, REASE comprises more than 90 **registered Institutions** from all over the world.

News:

- 2006-07-05, REASE is now building upon version 2.1 of the Educanext technology (<http://www.educanext.org>)
- 2005-09-01, To increase the usability of the resources stored in REASE, all uploaded resources, which are only provided in one proprietary Microsoft Office format, are automatically converted to PDF using the Linbox converter (<http://www.linbox.com/en/converter>).
- 2005-09-01, An updated version of the small REASE manual for how to insert learning resources in REASE is now available at <http://www.l3s.de/~diederich/kweb/REASE-manual.htm>
- 2005-08-25, The catalogue of REASE was extended to match the **Semantic Web Topic Hierarchy**, as developed jointly by REVERSE and KnowledgeWeb participants.

- [Basic Web Information Technology \(13\)](#)
- [Knowledge Engineering / Ontology Engineering \(19\)](#)
- [Knowledge Representation and Reasoning \(16\)](#)
- [Ontologies for the Semantic Web \(19\)](#)
- [Proof in the Semantic Web \(0\)](#)
- [Resource Description Framework \(RDF\) / RDFSchema \(10\)](#)
- [Security / Privacy / Trust in the Semantic Web \(1\)](#)
- [Semantic Web Applications \(13\)](#)
- [Semantic Web Query and Update Languages \(3\)](#)
- [Semantic Web Rules + Logics \(6\)](#)
- [Semantic Web Special Topics \(33\)](#)

Topics for Professionals from Industry

Requirements on the Organizational Structure of EASE



Problem: What organizational structure to choose for EASE?

- Currently difficult to foresee the development of EASE, e.g.
 - Focus on dissemination of information → little financial involvement, or
 - Focus on organization of educational events → potentially high financial involvement

Requirements:

- Light-weight and flexible structure
- Non-profit status
 - Ability to accept donations for tax-favored purpose 'education'
- Independence of other legal bodies
- Simplicity of founding with little financial efforts
- ➔ Non-profit association according to German law
 - ➔ There is no European association yet...

The Bodies of EASE



Members' Assembly
Main executive body,
meeting once per year

elects

Managing Committee
Running the association
Meetings on demand, even
virtual (teleconference, email)

President: Wolfgang Nejdil, L3S
Research Center, Hanover

Vice-presidents: Asuncion Gomez
Perez, UPM Madrid, Luis Moniz
Pereira, UNL Lisbon

Treasurer: Enrico Franconi, FU
Bozen-Bolzano

Secretary: Jörg Diederich, L3S
Research Center, Hanover

Scientific Advisory Board
Help in strategic decision

Guus Schreiber
Enrico Motta,
John Davies
Robert Tolksdorf
Jerome Euzenat
Jose Alferes

Auditors
Check activities of
the treasurer

Marco Ronchetti,
Francisco Martin Recuerda



- **IVIMEDS: Organization in the health care domain**
 - Provide a business-oriented market place for educational resources
 - High need for education in this domain
 - Long tradition of education in this domain
 - Semantic Web Education just starting, very early for 'business model' Semantic Web education
 - **ARIADNE foundation: Improvement of educational system in general by sharing and reusing existing educational material**
 - Focusing on the technical distribution platform
 - Statutes partially used as template for EASE statutes
 - Financial model as template once interest in SW Education high
 - **SWSA: Semantic Web Science Association**
 - Domain "Semantic Web"
 - Focusing on running the ISWC conferences
 - Good example how to run educational events
- None could fulfill the tasks of EASE, new organization needed

Summary and Future Work



- Foundation of EASE to promote education and continuing education in the domain “Semantic Web”
- Main activities:
 - Provide information about Semantic Web education
 - Collecting learning resources in REASE
 - Forum for discussion (e.g., about the curriculum)
- EASE organizational structure
 - Non-profit association
 - Highly flexible to adapt to future needs

Future work:

- Promote the association
- Continue main activities
- Be a driving force in Semantic Web Education