The LinkedUp project is promoting the use of open data through a range of activities. Where the research and development stream of the project is curating Web data in order to enable developers and third parties to find and use open data (see http://linkedup-project.eu/resources/linkedup-dataset-catalog/ for details), the LinkedUp Challenge promotes and rewards innovative open data applications, particularly in the field of education. On 17th September, the first installment of the LinkedUp Challenge ("Veni Competition") came to a highly regarded ending with a serious of LinkedUp sessions and the official awards ceremony which took place in front of a 900 people audience at the Open Knowledge Conference, OKCon in Geneva.

The LinkedUp Veni competition received a wide range of submissions from 12 different countries, which offered innovative ideas in areas from mobile education, knowledge sharing and museum visits, to politics and sustainable development. While the evaluation process followed elaborated procedures, 8 submissions where shortlisted for presentation and participating during the OKCon festivities.

A recording of the LinkedUp awards ceremony can be watched.

All applications provide outstanding examples of the use of open data for educational scenarios, while the following ones were specifically rewarded.

- **Third Place** (€1000): We-Share - a social annotation application for educational ICT tools.
- **Second Place** (€1000): Globe-Town - a "fun to use" tool that lets users explore interdependencies of countries across dimensions society, environment and economy.
- **First Place** (€2000): Polimedia - lets users explore political debates of over 50 years together with related news items and uses and exposes a wide range of open data.

In addition, the audience voted on the LinkedUp People's Choice Award which was awarded to the WeShare team. A full list of shortlisted candidates and all submissions can be found here. Building upon the success of the Veni Competition, the LinkedUp project will launch the next competition ("Vidi") in November. The Vidi Competition will involve additional datasets curated by the LinkedUp team and a set of specifically designed challenge tracks to tackle open technical challenges.

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**L3S and LinkedUp promoting innovative Open Data applications**