

GLASS Partner Spotlight: University of Patras



Dr. Dimitrios K. Tsolis is an Assistant Professor at the University of Patras, which is delivering a novel e-governance model based on AI, blockchain and deep learning technologies for the GLASS project. He explains how the University is involved in implementing 18 projects that are directly relevant to GLASS.

Please introduce the University of Patras?

In 2014, the University of Patras celebrated 50 years of academic operation, marked by continuous development and constantly emerging new achievements. The University presently stands well ahead of its original goal, which was to set “a firm model of an academic institution providing Greece with a highly qualified alumnae contributing to the society’s development and growth”.

Today, the University of Patras enjoys recognition as an academic institution with a worldwide impact, attracting thousands of students and a large number of academic and research Personnel actively involved in the cutting-of-edge science, innovation and excellence. The University offers an exciting and dynamic educational and research environment that provides students with high level study programs.

What experience does the University have collaborating on European projects?

The experience of the University in relevant European Projects is very high. The University is implementing numerous EU multidisciplinary projects from various funding lines (Horizon2020, Erasmus+ and many more). Amongst these projects 18 EU projects are directly relevant to the GLASS’s

objectives, results and key proposed technologies. In addition, there are many national projects which the University implements in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Digital Governance. Finally, professors and senior and junior researchers are active in the GLASS's research and scientific fields.

What is the University's involvement in the GLASS project?

The University of Patras is active in nearly all the work packages of GLASS. Its main contributions is concentrated on WP2 GLASS eGovernance Methodology and Ecosystem Definition, for which the University is the lead beneficiary.

WP2 aims to define, structure and propose a novel eGovernance model suitable for public and private organisations, that hosts common public services and activates the digital by default priority of the EC. The main objectives of WP2 are to...

- (i) Investigate in detail the legal and constitutional framework in which a digital by default governance model will be established
- (ii) Scrutinise user's requirements and provide service specifications guidelines for the different types of services among cross-sector (public, private, third-party) stakeholders
- (iii) Analyse existing international and EU eGovernance frameworks and policies
- (iv) Define the GLASS eGovernance model and its adoption action plan
- (v) Specify the actions which will ensure its sustainability.

In addition to WP2, The University is participating actively into WP6 which will design and develop the components that will bring to life the GLASS vision of eGovernance functionalities. The University is developing two deliverables D6.4 and D.65 and provides the heterogeneous data structure types - training set and the AI data schema transformer.

Regarding WP1 the University develops the data management plan and all the necessary managerial activities as required by the project's needs. Moreover, the University will contribute to the WP 3, 5, 7 supporting the design of the overall architecture, the technical specifications setting, the definition of the use cases as well as the implementation of the distributed environments and backend services and the GLASS integrated framework and demonstrators. Finally, the University will contribute to WP8 regarding the dissemination of the project's activities and results.

Why has the University chosen to participate in the GLASS project?

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The University has a rich experience with numerous research and development projects in eGovernance and the use of high-end technologies (such as AI, blockchain and deep learning) in eGovernment information systems and services. The University's team is consisting of experienced professors and senior researchers in the topics which GLASS is aiming at. The University was chosen to deliver a novel e-governance model which is based on AI, blockchain and deep learning technologies.

What do you hope the project will achieve?

The project will introduce a new and innovative citizen-centric e-governance model that will enable beneficiaries to participate in a network for big data exchange and service delivery, which is by design digital, efficient, cost-effective, interoperable, cross-border, secure and promotes the once-only priority. GLASS will deliver a novel e-governance model and address the challenges that governance structures in the EU are currently facing - from divergent and legal groundwork to physical and technological limitations - towards the democratisation and openness of the public administration.

For more information about University of Patras visit: www.upatras.gr