Fwd: [Data+Service] Newsletter 12/2019

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Welcome to this month's Newsletter!

The year is coming to an end and we are ever so much grateful for your contribution and collaboration. Please read below to know our new member, topic leader and some exciting news for the new year!

Mark your calendars and register now for the upcoming events & Expert Group meetings.
Questions, remarks or contributions for the newsletter? Reach out to the editors.

Non-members of the Alliance can now subscribe to our external newsletter. Visit our website and find the subscription tab in the page footer.

Warm wishes to you and your family for Christmas and new year!

Happy reading!

The Editors
Make sure to scroll all the way down -- don't-miss-it-goodie at the end!

Upcoming Expert Group Meetings

13.02.2020 - Machine Learning Clinic Expert Group meeting, Zurich

Details of all Expert Group meetings have been moved to the Member Area, only snippets of information will be provided on the main website events page. If you can not access the Member Area, write a short email to us.

Upcoming Alliance/Member Events

There are several events coming up in the next weeks. Please check our website for all information.

21.01.2020 - [Smart Maintenance Network Event](#), Zurich

12-13.02.2020 - [Smart Maintenance Conference](#), Zurich

18.03.2020 - [Service Lunch](#), Zurich

As we come to an end of 2019

Dear colleagues, friends, and co-creators within the Swiss Alliance for Data-Intensive Services!

The year is slowly coming to its end, and the Holiday Season is approaching - a healthy break before we start into the new year in a few days from now.

Again, during the last 12 months, together we initiated several new activities, created new ideas, pushed them forward and realized many of them. We are proud of what we have achieved together as a community which is dedicated to deepen mutual inspiration, facilitate tangible innovation, and to strengthen education on the way to our digital future.

I want to thank every single one of you who was involved in one of our many activities and events. Through your contribution, be it small or big, you have enriched our community in one way or another, and you have helped to shape and develop our Alliance during the last years. It is the continuous engagement and involvement of so many people that makes our network as valuable, vibrant and lively as it is.

Together with the board and the office staff, I wish you a happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

I am looking forward to seeing you again in 2020!

Take care!

Christoph Heitz, President

SDS2020 - Upcoming Deadlines

07.02.2020 - SDS2020, Submission Deadline for Papers and Business Talk Proposals, please check the [Call for Participation](#) for details about the submission formats

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SDS2020 - Workshops

We are happy to announce the following workshops that will be held on June 25, 2020 at HSLU Lucerne, Switzerland.

- 1pm - 5pm: [An Experimental Exploratory Data Analysis for a Classification Task](#) organized by Claudio Giorgio Giancaterino from Aviva Italia Servizi Scarl

- 1pm - 5pm: [A Hybrid Edge-Cloud Platform for Self-Adaptive Machine Learning Based IoT Applications](#) organized by Nabil Abdennadher from University of Applied Sciences Western Switzerland

- 10am - 5pm: [Legal and Ethical Aspects in Data-Driven Business](#) organized by Ana Nicolasa Caduff, Reto Fanger and Bruno Frischherz from Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts and Markus Christen and Michele Loi from the Digital Society Initiative of the University of Zurich and Christoph Heitz from Zurich University of Applied Sciences

- 1pm - 5pm: [Machine Learning Push-Down to SAP HANA with Python](#) organized by Andreas Forster, Thomas Bitterle and Michael Probst from SAP (Schweiz) AG

Separate registration for the workshops is required. The corresponding rooms will be announced closer to the conference. Workshops are limited in capacity and served on a first come basis.

The Future of the Innosuisse Funding Program NTN National Thematic Networks

The Swiss Alliance for Data-Intensive Services has completed its third year. Since the beginning, we were financially supported by the federal Swiss Innovation agency Innosuisse under its funding program "National Thematic Networks" (NTN), because we are active in pushing innovation in the field of data-based business. The support of Innosuisse (around 300 kCHF/year) has helped us substantially to pursue our mission "to make Switzerland an internationally recognized hub for data-driven value creation."

The funding period will end in December 2020. However, as many of you know, Innosuisse has decided to continue funding innovation networks with a new program "[NTN Innovation Booster](#)". Like the current NTN program, the new program is dedicated to push science-based innovation in collaboration of companies, universities, and the society.

Innosuisse has changed its funding rules and procedures for the new program, but it is still focused on generating innovation in Switzerland. As an established network of now more than 75 companies and research institutions, we are in a good position to be accepted as one of the future NTN Boosters, with financial support of up to 500 KCHF/year over a period of 4 years.

In the board retreat of last week, we discussed the new Innosuisse program thoroughly. We took the decision to apply for a grant in the new NTN - Innovation booster program, because the program is still fully in line with our mission statement, and the Innosuisse funding will have a substantial impact on our ability to foster innovation in Switzerland. If we succeed in getting accepted, the Innosuisse funding will create new options for even better supporting our industrial members in exploring and developing new innovative ideas, and helping to convert these ideas into successful results.

We are currently working out the detailed concept for our application. Stay tuned - more information will come soon.

Involve yourself: As this is still work in progress, any ideas or suggestions that might improve our concept are highly welcome and can be integrated. So, if anybody wants to push specific ideas or topics that fit into the program, or wants to contribute actively in some way or another, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss this. The goal is not only to win four more years of Innosuisse funding, but to create a great and impactful innovation program in the area of data-based value creation. Each member of our innovation community will profit from this.

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

For the board

Christoph Heitz, President

Topic Leader: "Smart Government, Smart Cities and Open Data" – BFH Institute Public Sector Transformation

Stephan Haller   Alessia Neuroni   Beat Estermann

Open, participatory, and resilient. This is how we imagine the public sector. Through research and development, we explore the changes caused by digitisation in the public sector. Our focus is on the transformation of democratic processes and new forms of participation, on building a suitable data infrastructure and on designing and supporting innovation and change processes. Our scope includes public administrations, public-private partnerships, memory institutions, smart cities and health professions.

The group on "Data and Infrastructure" is working on making open access to public sector data in Switzerland a reality. Appropriate measures must be used to tackle the big data-related challenges facing society. At the organisational level, we help our clients and partners understand the needs of their stakeholders and engineer solutions accordingly. At the semantic and technical levels, we are helping organisations to provide data and information effectively, efficiently and in a format that is fit for purpose, to model ontologies and to break down barriers to interoperability.

The group on "Digital Democracy" draws on foundational research to analyse the effects of digitisation on society and politics, also working with partners in applied research (e.g. public sector groups or NGOs) to develop and advance civic tech apps.

The group on "Innovation" studies innovation and the associated processes of change in the public sector. As we support these transformations, our key concerns are strategic leadership and design, with specific emphasis on e-inclusion, user-centricity and privacy. We take an active stand to ensure that public organisations manage their digitisation and participation projects to benefit all individuals concerned.

Selected research projects

- Digitalisierungsmonitor 2019

- Data Policy für Sport-Daten

- Studie zu Chancen und Risiken der Digitalisierung im Umweltbereich

- Studie Weiterentwicklung DCAT AP CH

- The Once-Only Principle Project (TOOP)

- City Platform-as-a-Service – Integrated and Open (CPaaS.io)

- CAPACOA's Linked Digital Future Initiative (performing arts)

Selected publications

Brugger J., Fraefel M., Neuroni A. (2019): Digitalisierte Verwaltung in der Schweiz – Strategien, Akteure und Vorhaben im E-Government in: Schünemann W., Kneuer M. (Eds.), E-Government und Netzpolitik im europäischen Vergleich, Seite 103 – 118, 2. Auflage.

Estermann, B. & Schneeberger, S. (2018): OGD-Pilotprojekt 2017/18. Bericht über die OGD-Anwendungsfälle

Estermann, B., Fraefel, M., Neuroni, A., & Vogel, J. (2018): Conceptualizing a National Data Infrastructure for Switzerland, Information Polity, 23(1), 43-65. DOI: 10.3233/IP-170033

Estermann B., Julien, F. (2019): A Linked Digital Future for the Performing Arts: Leveraging Synergies along the Value Chain. Canadian Arts Presenting Association (CAPACOA) in cooperation with the Bern University of Applied Sciences.

Haller, S., Estermann, B. & Dungga Winterleitner, A. (2018): [Study in View of the Further Development of DCAT-AP CH](). Bern University of Applied Sciences, E-Government Institute

Haller, S., Neuroni, A.C., Fraefel, M., & Sakamura, K. (2018): [Perspectives on smart cities strategies: sketching a framework and testing first uses](). In: Janssen, M., Chun, A.Ch. & Weerakkody, V. (Eds.), Proceedings of the 19th Annual International Conference on Digital Government Research, DG.O 2018, Delft, The Netherlands, May 30 - June 01, 2018. ACM 2018 (PDF, 577 KB)

Neuroni A., Haller S., van Winden W., Carabias-Hütter V., & Yildirim O. (2019): Public Value Creation in a Smart City Context: An Analysis Framework. Book chapter in: Rodríguez Bolívar M. P. (Eds.): Setting Foundations for the Creation of Public Value in Smart Cities, Springer

Find out more on the [Institute's website]() or contact the Head of the Institute, [Alessia Neuroni]().

New member

We heartily welcome our new Industrial member PAX, represented in the Alliance by Laurent Szymkowiak.

Pax is a Life insurance company, with a history of more than 130 years, specialized in private and professional benefit plans.

Pax has a huge amount of data (structured and non-structured). We see several opportunities to gain further valuable information out of this whole data set. Therefore, we want to collaborate with academic institutions and professional suppliers in order to improve our processes and products. We expect that the offerings of the association meet our needs very well.

As the Holiday Season is upon us, we find ourselves reflecting on the past year and on those who have helped to shape our Alliance in a most significant way. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the years to come. We wish you a very happy Holiday Season and a New Year filled with peace and prosperity.

Swiss Aliance for Data-Intensive Services Board

Data Science Read of the Month

Das Beste zum Schluss

Feature Engineering Techniques: An introduction to some of the main techniques which can be used in order to prepare raw features for Machine Learning analysis.

https://towardsdatascience.com/feature-engineering-techniques-9a57e4901545