

# Preface

The first Knowledge Federation workshop at the Inter-University Centre Dubrovnik in 2008 was a meeting of researchers developing technical solutions for collaborative knowledge work and collective sensemaking. At the end of this meeting we realized that if our technologies and systemic ideas should be put to use and have the sort of impact they can and need to have, we would need to broaden our community and organize ourselves in a completely new way.

The second Knowledge Federation workshop, which convened at the same venue in October 2010, brought together a heterogeneous community, or ‘a federation of knowledge workers and other stakeholders’ as we called it, representing a suitable mix of interests and backgrounds. The title, “Self-Organizing Collective Mind,|” already pointed at the new way of working. At the beginning of the workshop the participants were asked to consider themselves not as professionals pursuing a career in a certain discipline or business, but as elements in a collective, and at the limit global mind, and to self-organize as it might suit that role. During the three days of the workshop we began working together on systemic solutions for journalism, science and education.

Subsequent self-organization resulted in a community structure and way of working suitable doing systemic innovation in any area of knowledge work. Consequently at the third Knowledge Federation workshop organized within the Triple Helix IX Conference at Stanford University in July 2011, we were then able to introduce Knowledge Federation as an *enabler* of systemic innovation. And in the two events that followed, in Belgrade and in Barcelona, Knowledge Federation applied itself respectively to foundations for knowledge work, and to public informing or journalism.

Hence the main goal of the workshop to which this is the proceedings – to ‘foster the meme of self-organization in knowledge work’ has been reached. While the articles presented and compiled here are contributions to this promising and budding new field (the knowledge federation *transdiscipline* as we are calling it), they have also served us for developing the dynamics of the *transdiscipline* (after the workshop we proceeded to *federate* the articles, i.e. to discover ways to put the key ideas together and form a community message; some results of this process have already been published; others are in development).

In October 2012, when we will be convening in Dubrovnik for the third time, in addition to the workshop we will be organizing a university course in knowledge federation. This course too will be federated – co-created by experts and students internationally, and offered to learners worldwide.

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