Multilingual Linked Open Data: Guest Post by Jose Emilio Labra Gayo

José Emilio Labra Gayo is a researcher at WESO, a multidisciplinary research group involved in semantic web research, education and technology transfer at the University of Oviedo, Spain. He recently attended the W3C Multilingual Web Workshop in Rome and has shared his thoughts on Multilingual Linked Open Data with us.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend the W3c Multilingual Web Workshop in Rome (http://www.multilingualweb.eu/rome-program). The conference is a very interesting meeting point where people from very different backgrounds gather around a common topic: how to develop web sites that enable multilingualism.

This year, there were a good number of talks around the relationship between linked data and multilingualism.

Although there have been some efforts and EU Projects relating multilingualism with semantic web and linked data like the Monnet project (http://www.monnet-project.eu/Monnet/), most of the projects and vocabularies employed in the linked data field are monolingual.

Although the linked data lemma of machine accessible information may seem intrinsically multilingual, the reality is that at the end, linked data applications will be used by humans, and humans speak different languages.

During the workshop, Peter Schmitz, from the Publications Office of the EU (http://publications.europa.eu/), presented a list of the ongoing projects that they are developing. The talk was quite interesting and slides and videos will be available soon. I expect that more and more open data projects follow that trend to convert to linked data and specially, to multilingual linked data.

In my case, I presented a catalogue of Multilingual Linked Data Patterns (http://www.weso.es/app/webroot/MLODPatterns/) which can contribute to develop a common vocabulary and best practices for publishing linked data in a multilingual environment.

There was also a very interesting breakout session devoted to Best Practices for Multilingual Linked Open Data where we have decided to create a W3c Community group to develop a document describing those best practices. I hope the results of that community effort will empower the creation of more multilingual datasets which at the end, will help to foster the linked open data vision.