OPTED - Observatory for Political Texts in European Democracies

Introduction
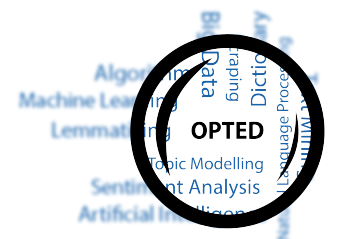
OPTED Design Study

- Works towards a more impactful, sustainable, resource-saving, innovative, democratic, non-discriminatory and substantially meaningful research environment, putting the European Research Area at the forefront of global developments in the field of political text analysis.

- Provides the conceptual design that eventually lays the foundation for the operational phase of the OPTED infrastructure: conceptual design, proof-of-concept approaches, prototypes and case studies

- Towards smooth integration into, complementing and adding in important ways to existing European Research Infrastructure Consortia.

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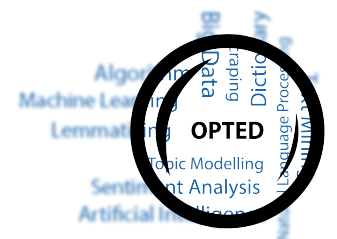
Challenges

- A fragmented and in some ways inefficient research field of political text analysis. Expertise and training facilities center on few countries.

- Political text analysis is time, context, domain and language sensitive

- Critiques regarding a lack of reliability, validity or reproducibility of research

- Ethical and legal boundaries, some of which have not even been well defined

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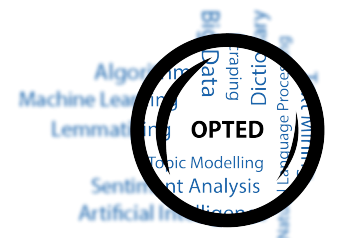
OPTED infrastructure

- Pushes the boundaries of research excellence in various fields of political text analysis, will generate a globally visible and excellent research community, will democratize research on political texts, both geographically and in terms of skill distributions, and will do so based on FAIR principles with a firm stance in the open science movement.

- Will establish itself as a major resource for journalists and opinion makers, for students and interested academics, and for policy makers.

- Becomes the major hub for political text analysis in Europe and beyond, creating synergies and resources that will propel the research to the next level of excellence.
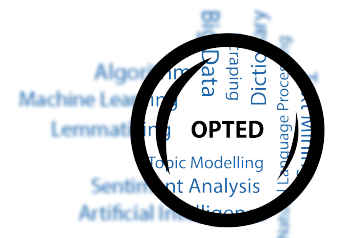
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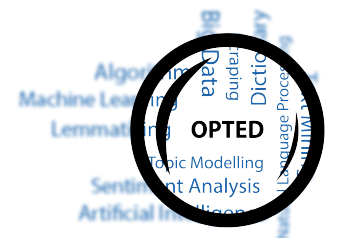
OPTED Goals

- A new generation of students with technical knowledge and sense-making ability
- Enhanced co-operation to harmonise data collection and analytical processes
- Ethical and legal issues.
- Multilingual, non-discriminatory tools.
- Standardization of processes and routines, Validity
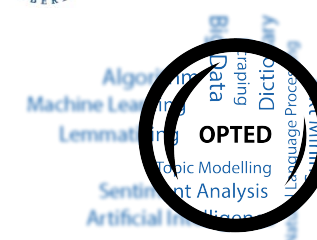- Awareness of gender stereotypes in instruments and community
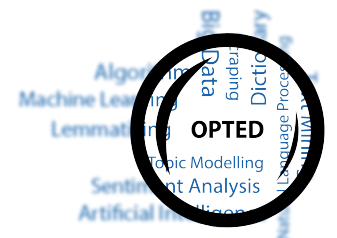
OPTED Objectives

1. Inventory of data sources and classification of the research landscape
2. Curated inventory of existing tools and training opportunities
3. Extension and harmonization of tools
4. Standardization and quality control
5. Ethical and legal framework for text analysis
6. Accessible tools for publics, journalists and policy makers
7. Scientific community building

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OPTED Consortium Members