SMW Sponsoring

We want to bring the SMW ecosystem to a new level by offering sponsorship opportunities. Contributions can be done by devoting time of people and/or money. (Note that SMWCons have different, additional sponsorship opportunities.)

The goals of the sponsorship program are
- to give contributors incentives to contribute more and regularly
- to give companies who are contributing time of their staff visibility
- to give users of SMW the opportunity to contribute without the need to have someone who can code
- to make the overall SMW community broader, more active and more visible

Sponsorship Type	Time	Money	Comment (will be deleted later)
Platinum Sponsor	16h/week	4.000 EUR/Month	
Gold Sponsor	8h/week	2.000 EUR/Month	
Silver Sponsor	4h/week	1.000 EUR/Month	~65 EUR/h for PHP dev
Bronze Sponsor	2h/week	500 EUR/Month	
Copper Sponsor	1h/week	250 EUR/Month	

Sponsorship opportunities will be evaluated every quarter, so sponsorship logos can change over time. You can link to user accounts on GitHub and smw.org and/or have a short blog about what you were contributing every quarter.

Time examples

- Technical tasks: Coding (bug fixing, implementing features, reviewing PRs, adding tests, making releases)...
- Non-technical tasks: Manual testing, reviewing bug reports, organizing GitHub, adding documentation, create instructional videos, picking up the "wiki of the month" section, starting a SMW blog…

Money donations

Donate to a company or individual, who will work the amount of hours. This way, already employed programmers can devote even more time or freelancers can be contracted if you don't have your own staff.

You can add yourself here if you are a company or individual willing to spend the amount of time/week for others who donate money. For receiving a bill/receipt for your payment, the listed organizations/individuals are in charge.

Organization	Focus	Person(s) available
Professional Wiki	SMW core Code review Documentation Infrastructure	Karsten, Morne, Jeroen, 2-8h/week
KM-A	Semantic Result Formats SMW core Semantic Tasks	Thomas (Topway IT): 4 hours/week
Gesinn IT	Semantic Drilldown, Semantic Result Formats SMW core	Markus Wagenhofer:

Alternatively, donator can donate money to the following organizations:
- OSDA (Europe)
- MWStake (US). E. g. to cover costs for servers, organize community meetings etc.

FAQs

General

Why SMW sponsoring?
- see intro above (repeat text then)

Is this the start of commercializing SMW?
No. The goal is to make SMW a sustainable open source community. Since freelancers, paid companies, NGOs/univeristies, freelancers are involved, this is not easy to achieve. We do not want to monopolize anything, but give as many players as possible the opportunity to contribute in a way they can.

How will you track if sponsors really do what they promise?
Each sponsor gets a public sponsoring page. There they can either link developer profiles on github or user accounts on smw.org, so everybody can see what is being done. Alternatively,

they can just add a little journal on the page, where they put e. g. "May 2023: creation of 5 videos showing how to setup SMW with ElasticSearch"

This way everybody can look if the sponsors are indeed active. If they are not, their logo will be removed. The logo can be put up quickly again as soon as they document their efforts or re-establish their promised work.

For companies with developer resources

How can we profit from the sponsorship.?
You basically have three options which can be combined

- If you have staff with SMW knowledge, you can devote some of their time to SMW tasks with the benefit of the sponsorship visibility. It also can help you to keep your staff busy and get better ant SMW programming. Starting with just 2 hours/week you can contribute regularly and be a sponsor already.
- If you have staff with SMW knowledge and others approach you about sponsorship opportunities, you might be able to devote even more time of your developers to the project, because another sponsor can pay for it which helps to pay the salary of your developer.

As an example a combination could look like this: you become a bronze sponsor by devoting 4h of dev resources. Someone without dev resources approaches you (maybe an outsider or a customer of yours). This person or organization wants to donate to SMW as well, but does not have dev resources. Say you agree to devote an additional 4h/week of the same (or different) developer to SMW to the terms you agree on. Then you can both decide if this will be a secret (meaning that the sponsor remains invisible, but your organization becomes a silvers sponsor because now you devote 8h/week. Or you want to stay secret and the sponsor wants to be visible as sponsor. This means that the sponsor would put their logo and state on the sponsoring page, that they have contracted you to work 4 hours/week on a certain SMW task.

We have a large customer project coming up and cannot provide what we promised. What now?
No problem. Just remove your logo from the website, add a little note on the sponsoring page and put it up again once you can resume your promised efforts.

For SMW users

Why should we participate?
Finally you have the opportunity to give something back to the community! You don't have to hire staff yourself, but can choose among offerings on the sponsoring section or pay contributions to one of the two organizations who care about SMW. You will get a receipt for your taxes and can donate the amount of your choice.

For freelance programmers

How can I profit from this as a freelance programmer?
If you are new to SMW, feel free to contribute as you would to any open source software. If you feel comfortable and knowledgeable enough to work for money, you can add yourself to

the list of potential contributors (see table) who offer their time to contribute regularly. We hope that someone who wants to contribute money will contact you and fund the devoting of some of your free time to SMW. The negotiation and contracts are between you and the sponsor, nobody needs to know any details (e..g. how much money you get). After you have agreed with a sponsor, say to work for 4 hours / week on one of the SMW repos, they can put up their sponsorship logo and you will work to fulfill their sponsorship obligations.

ToDos

Step 1:

Before we launch this, the following steps are planned
1. Talk to OSDA since they are mentioned
2. Talk to MWStake since they are mentioned

Step 2: Sponsoring Self-Announcement

Once we have feedback from these organiisations we can basically go ahead. All we need to do is set up sponsoring options on smw.org (like for SMWCons) and on GitHub.

Organizations already sponsoring can then self-announce their sponsorship which will hopefully encourage others.

ToDo:
1. Check sponsoring@semantic-mediawiki.org e-mail address and recipients
2. Detail the plans and logo placement opportunities (Website, GitHub, Social Media mentions)
3. Announce Opportunities (EMWCon first announcement, SMW.org)
4. Start out with first sponsors

Step 3: Outside donations

We need to clarify if a service like https://opencollective.com/europe would be good or if these two organizations are willing to support the idea (or one of them at least)
Example: https://opencollective.com/vuejs

Otherwise, maybe MWStake can collect individual donations to SMW.