PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Grant Agreement number: CIP- ICT-PSP-2009-3-250455

Project acronym: HABITATS

Project title: Social Validation of INSPIRE Annex III Data Structures in EU Habitats

Funding Scheme: CIP - Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme.

Period covered: from   April 2010   to   February 2013

Name of the scientific representative of the project's co-ordinator[1], Title and Organisation:

Mariano Navarro de la Cruz, R&D & Innovation unit ICT manager, TRAGSA Group

Tel: + 34 91 322 65 21

Fax: + 34 91 322 53 00

E-mail: mailto:mnc@tragsa.es

Project website address: www.inspiredhabitats.eu

---

[1] Usually the contact person of the coordinator as specified in Art. 8.1. of the Grant Agreement.

PUBLISHABLE SUMMARY

Operational project objectives

- Build User Communities of the stakeholders involved in both the demand and supply of habitats-related spatial information and services, involving these communities in the development of usage scenarios and requirements and on the effectiveness of their daily environmental-related activities.

- Build on previous and on-going results and experiences in INSPIRE standardisation and SDI deployment

- Develop robust data and metadata models for the INSPIRE Annex III themes 16 "Sea regions", 17 "Bio-geographical regions", 18 "Habitats and biotopes" and 19 "Species distribution" as a coherent set of spatial habitats-related information themes. Building on existing databases and content provided by project partners and following INSPIRE principles and related standards.

- Define an open but efficient SDI network architecture for discovery, visualisation, transformation and processing of environmental data stored and maintained in services distributed throughout Europe based on INSPIRE principles.

- Set up and run a coherent set of application pilots within the concrete user scenarios and based on existing stakeholders, services and information sources.

- Disseminate project results to the broader scientific and policy community, as well as to Local Authorities and economic actors.

Description of the work performed since the beginning of the project

The HABITATS project is based on Social Validation as an innovation process in Standards definition and adoption, as a contribution to the INSPIRE directive. A great deal of effort has been required in order to get the different user communities' involvement and commitment to implementing the INSPIRE directive. The success in terms of the involvement of each user community is highly dependent on many factors. One of Habitats' challenges has been to make them see the advantages of adopting the open Standards.

In this sense, from the very first meeting of the project two fundamental issues emerged: on the one hand, the need to contribute to the know-how of the development of methodologies and monitoring of impact assessment as part of the innovation process generated by stakeholders communities and groups. Complementary to this issue, it also emerged the need to contribute to the extraction of lessons-learnt from the Living Lab approach in terms of data and systems exchange and integration, as well as the content-use in decision-making and standards adoption. During this period of implementation, the complex issues associated with the Social Validation process have emerged, in particular substantive amount of efforts have been deployed in the validation pilots with the assessment of the profiles so as to gain a good understanding on issues such as who are the key stakeholders in each site. The assessment included the profiling of

bottlenecks/challenges/opportunities and needs faced by each site as well as the potential role of the users in these territorial contexts.

From the technological side, the focus of the project is on design and testing metadata and data models for four selected themes Sea regions, Bio-geographical regions Habitats and biotope and Species distribution. These were agreed to test the data model of INSPIRE Technical Working Groups on practical cases. The transformation services for data format coordinate transformation and data model were designed and implementation started. Transformation of pilot data and testing of compliance with INSPIRE specification is one of the key outputs. Other technological issues are focused on architecture design. Architecture design is divided into two levels:

- Generic architecture without relation to concrete implementation
- Pilot architecture, which are concrete implementation of selected subsets of the generic architecture

The Habitats "Reference Laboratory" has been continuously developed as a central portal based on the generic architecture with the support of global data, and where cross scenarios and implementations as well as Habitats pilot applications, are being used for testing the sharing of local data and metadata. Pilots have implemented the first version of their local implementations.

Also during this period important dissemination actions have been undertaken, including attendance and presentations of the HABITATS project at the INSPIRE and FAO Conferences. Other relevant dissemination actions have been focused on local administrations or institutions.

Main results achieved so far

Main results achieved so far are:

- Construction of the project websites, repository and communication tools among partners
- Participation in the INSPIRE Thematic Working Groups BR-HB-SD
- Construction of the HABITATS Social Network and building of Habitats user community
- Promotion of social networking within pilots and Habitats themes.
- Clear definition of pilot scenarios and stakeholder requirements. Workshops with stakeholders for Social validation.
- The Reference data models for selected themes
- Design of the HABITATS Metadata Profile
- Habitats Networking Architecture
- Designs of Habitats transformation services
- Development and testing of the Habitats Reference Laboratory technology, and pilots geo-portals, working on metadata, SDI infrastructures and networking services in compliance with the INSPIRE Directive for sharing environmental data. Validation and evaluation of pilots datasets using the Reference Laboratory tools. Also, implementations of user requirement to network architecture and completion of metadata according to the Habitats metadata profile.
- Contribution to the value-added of the social validation process of HABITATS as a substantive contribution to the INSPIRE directive.
- Contribution to the extraction of lessons-learnt from the Living Lab approach in terms of the Pilot implementation activities
- Development of the planning deliverables according to the Description of Work

- Contribution to dissemination, exploitation of results and its contribution at EU and international level.
- Concrete activities were carried out at the pilot level and at the level of the communities involved in HABITATS. These activities were also environment-related activities which further supported the overall progress achieved in the assessment of the impact of the project and its social validation. From this work a more comprehensive view of how the potential impact of up-scaled adoption of HABITATS profiles, models and SDI services was distilled with particular relevance to how it impacts the daily work of stakeholders.
- Find new perspectives regarding mobile solutions for INSPIRE

Expected final results and their potential impact and use

Main impacts of the HABITATS project concern interoperability and standards adoption. Policy-push approaches are indeed necessary, but often fall short of the expected results because they fail to address the user's perspectives. It is often taken for granted that once technical barriers to interoperability have been removed, common standards agreed upon by a critical mass of users and awareness-raising activities carried out, and then the job is done. However interoperability is not just a technical concept. Social, organizational and institutional dimensions need to be also considered.

The HABITATS project considers user motivations to share data as being one of the key requirements for systems whose rationale is based more on data sharing. In this sense the HABITATS project aims to spark off positive circles where the more data is shared the greater the benefits to those who offer it.

Similar considerations hold for standards where any initiative that aims to define standards must start from the moment of adoption and its motivation. In this context HABITATS outcomes will need to be seen as the outcomes of the HABITATS communities since the standardisation is built into the co-design process.

OTHER ISSUES

This final section is devoted to different questions without direct relationship between them.

The address of the project public website:

   http://www.inspiredhabitats.eu

Address of social network:

   http://inspiredhabitats.ning.com/

Project logo:

Project brochure:

Final conference brochures:

Date: 16/07/2013   *HABITATS Project Publishable Summary*
Doc. Identifier: Publishable Summary – HABITATS - 250455
Project: Social Validation of INSPIRE Annex III Data Structures in EU Habituas

Final book cover:

Some contact names:

Full Name	Email address	WP Leader
Ana Teresa Sáez García (NSI)	a.saez@nextstepint.eu	WP 2
Anda Ikauniece (IMCS)	anda@monit.lu.lv	
Andrea Scianna (Madonie)	a.scianna@libero.it	
Connor O'Reilly (MAC)	c.oreilly@mac.ie	
Fabrizio Levantini (NSI)	f.levantini@nextstep.eu	
Ferdinando Trapani (Madonie)	ferdinando.trapani@unipa.it	
Fipil Hajek (FMI)	Hajek.Filip@uhul.cz	
Francisco Pérez Trejo (NSI)	francisco.pereztrejo@gmail.com	
Giovanni Vacante (Madonie)	vacante@parcodellemadonie.it	
Giuseppe Piro (Madonie)	piro@parcodellemadonie.it	
Gregorio Urquía Osorio (TRAGSA)	guo@tragsa.es	WP 5
Jesús Estrada Villegas (TRAGSA)	jmev@tragsa.es	WP 1
Jesse Marsh (Madonie)	jesse@atelier.it	
John J O'Flaherty (MAC)	j.oflaherty@mac.ie	WP 6
Karel Charvat (HSRS)	kch@bnhelp.cz	WP 4
Klaus Tochtermann (TUGraz)	ktochter@know-center.at	
Lisa Maurer (TUGraz)	lisa.maurer@tugraz.at	
Luisa Nazzini (ISPRA)	luisa.nazzini@isprambiente.it	
Marek Mlcousek (FMI)	Mlcousek.Marek@uhul.cz	
Mariano Navarro (TRAGSA)	mnc@tragsa.es	
Maris Alberts (IMCS)	alberts@acad.latnet.lv	WP 3
Matteo Guccione (ISPRA)	matteo.guccione@apat.it	
Michela Gori (ISPRA)	michela.gori@isprambiente.it	
Peteris Bruns (IMCS)	Peteris.Bruns@gmail.com	
Ramón Baiget Llompart (TRAGSA)	rbl@tragsa.es	

Project beneficiaries:

- Empresa de transformación Agraria, S.A.
- Next Step Srl
- The nacional Microelectronics applications centre LTD
- Help Service – Remote Sensing SRO
- Tecnologías y servicios agrarios, S.A.
- Technische Universitaet Graz
- Ente Parco Delle Madonie
- Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale
- Ústav pro hospodářskou úpravu lesů Brandýs nad Labem
- Latvijas Universitates Matematikas un Informatikas Instituts