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ENERGIC OD

European NEtwork for Redistributing Geospatial Information to user Communities - Open Data

D3.3 EXHAUSTIVE CATALOGUE OF EXISTING OPERATIONAL AND PLANNED GI PLATFORMS AND INITIATIVES

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[1] R = Report, P = Prototype, D = Demonstrator, O = Other

[2] PU = Public, PP = Restricted to other program participants (including the Commission Services), RE = Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services), CO = Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services).

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Abbreviations and acronyms

Abbreviation / Acronym	Description
CIP	Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme
EC	European Commission
ENERGIC OD	European NEtwork for Redistributing Geospatial Information to user Communities- Open Data
GI	Geographic Information
ICT	Information and Communications Technologies
OD	Open Data
PSP	Policy Support Programme
URL	Uniform Resource Locator

Table 1. Abbreviations and Acronyms

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

With numerous amounts of open data platforms and geographical information initiatives producing open data in various form and structure and under different licenses, it becomes increasingly difficult to find the suitable data that is applicable and relevant to user's needs. In order to improve this condition an inventory of open data platforms and initiatives which provides additionally geographical information has been compiled to provide information and metadata on best practices and concrete examples for availability of open GI. Therefore an exhaustive catalogue of open GI platforms and initiatives was formed as a valuable source for the rest of ENERGIC-OD work packages.

This report contains a short review on the methodology of the survey and the research method that was defined in D3.1 and utilized in D3.2 and finally led to an inventory of open (GI) data platforms (D3.3). Also, the result that was achieved by each method is shown in a diagram to provide an overview on the accomplishment of that method in providing the relevant information for the platform inventory. At the end the problems occurred during the survey and catalogue development are shortly outlined.

This catalogue is available for download in an Excel format through ENERGIC OD website, at the URL:

http://www.energic-od.eu/#!catalogue-of-open-gi-platforms/c4va

Furthermore, the catalogue will be actively updated and new identified platforms will be aggregated with new attributes and information.

1 Synopsis

Work package 3 aims to provide an exhaustive catalogue of geospatial open data platforms, based upon the methodology and criteria defined for assessment of operational platforms on open GI in D3.1. This catalogue is produced by conducting a survey in different steps, an initial survey with project partners was held in the first step; then, through internet research as well as holding a survey with stakeholders more open GI platforms were acquired. Subsequently the criteria (defined in D3.1) were examined and assessed for these platforms in order to provide an exhaustive catalogue of best practices and concrete examples for availability of open GI. After this information has been processed and assessed it has formed a catalogue that can facilitate comparison between the different platforms and initiatives. The catalogue provides information and metadata on current and planned best practices, providing information for policy makers and all interested stakeholders. This catalogue will be accessible as an open service via ENERGIC-OD website.

2 Survey Methodology

To be as comprehensive as possible, the survey is done in different stages by different means. This approach, shown in Figure 1 and explained in detail in D3.2, has been developed and introduced in deliverable D3.1 with the intention of developing a method that provides an extensive list of open GI platforms by different means.
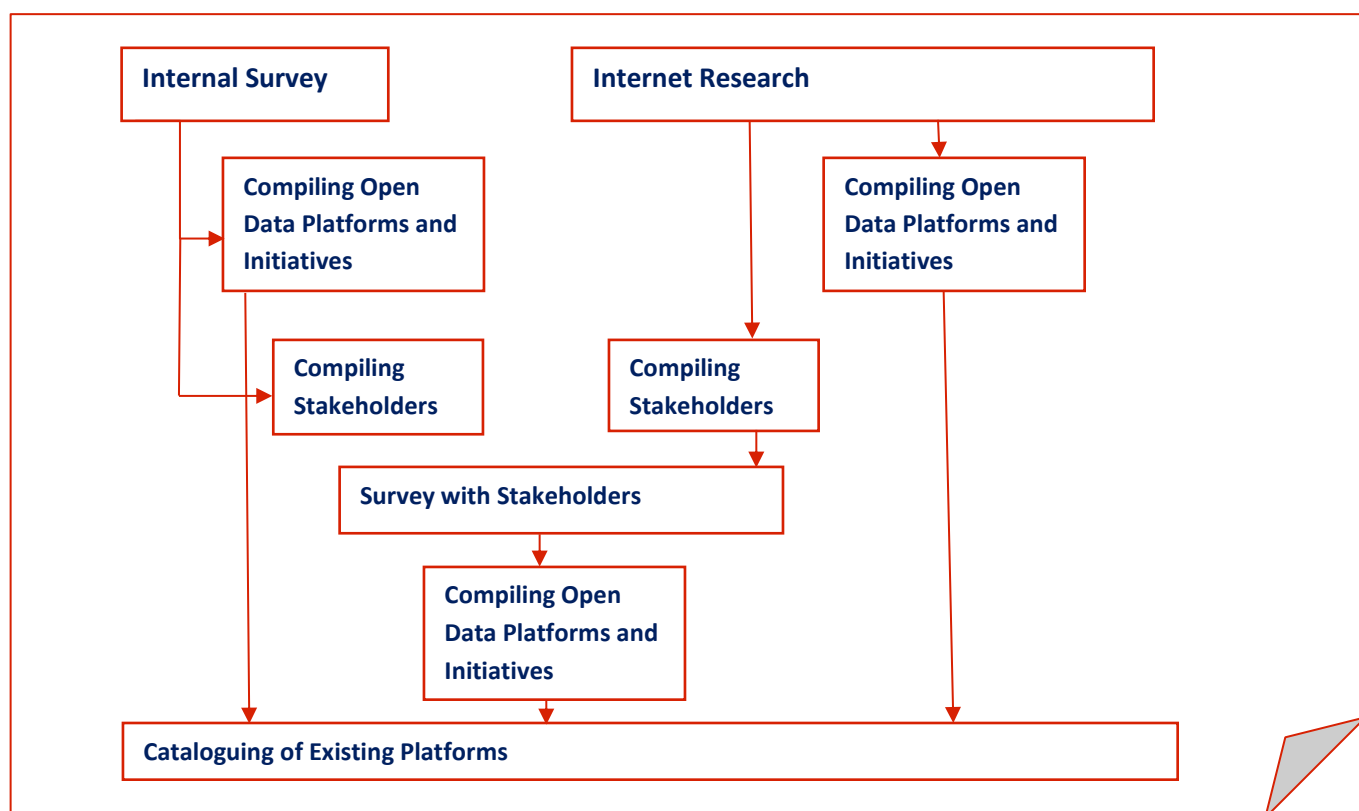

Figure 1. Structure of the Survey

2.1   Compiling Open Data Platforms and Initiatives

Internal survey was the first step in identifying platforms which provided open geo data. In this phase all the project partners were interviewed and asked to provide information concerning the notable open geo data platforms and initiatives in their respective countries as well as the major European platforms. An initial Excel form was prepared with 11 fields of criteria and was sent to the partners in order to fill out for the identified platform. The outcomes of each of these interviews were then compiled into the platform inventory. The result of this section was mainly an Excel file with arrays of open GI platforms listed within to be further evaluated with the criteria that has been defined in D3.1.

2.2   Compiling Stakeholders

Subsequently the project partners were asked to identify the suitable stakeholders for further expansion of the inventory of open GI platforms. Together with work package 7, a comprehensive list of stakeholders was compiled from surveying with project partners. Moreover the stakeholders relevant for work package 3 were identified for further inquiry by filtering the preliminary result of stakeholders' identification.

2.3   Survey with Stakeholders

The process of the stakeholders' identification from previous section was followed by interviewing the relevant stakeholders and collecting the major open GI platform that they could identify. The result acquired in this step was added into the overall platform inventory (similar to 3.1).

2.4   Internet Research

The entire compilation process was repeated in Internet Research step. Here the search engines and governmental portals were used to discover some more GI open portals. This means, usually the national geoportals have some further information or links to regional or local geoportals of the country and that had helped with extension and identification of some open data portals which provide open GI data. Last but not least, the result of this part was similarly compiled and added into the open data platform list.

In the diagram below the number of the platforms identified by utilizing the above-mentioned methods can be seen.
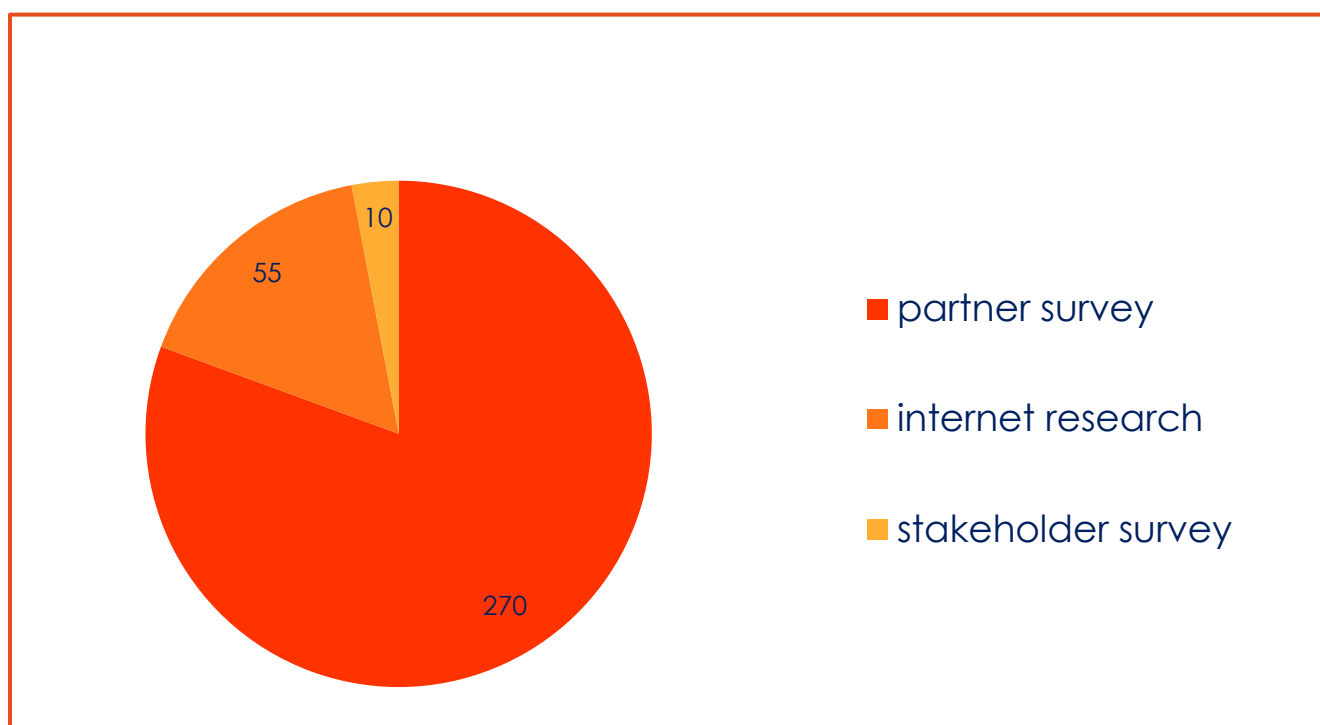
Figure 2. Platforms identified by different methods defined by methodology

3   Problems

During the process of platform survey with partners and stakeholders and also throughout the evaluation phase of the platforms some complications occurred that are described distinctively in the section below.

Poor Metadata: the main challenge during the OD platform assessment was to find information relevant to the criteria which were hard to find mainly due to poor, non-existent or inaccessible metadata.

License Ambiguity: the licences of datasets were not clearly presented in some platforms. This fact makes for "ambiguousness of open data" and causes limitation for using the data in different applications due to the right of use. Indeed, the metadata for each dataset has to be consulted to find out how the data is permitted to use.

Language: what made the survey of the open data platforms challenging was the language of the web portals. Many of the platforms use solely the native language of the country or the region and that made the search for required attribute complicated and troublesome.

Redundancy: receiving redundant data from partners in the same country and having difficulties receiving any information from some other partners are challenges that were expected but nonetheless tricky and avoidable.

And last but not least:

Stakeholders' Survey: these experiences naturally were multiplied during open data survey with external stakeholders, namely difficulties finding the stakeholders, contacting stakeholders who were not interested in the project and collecting redundant platforms in the same country.