Statistics Netherlands

to   Co-ordination Group ESSnet Big Data

cc

from   Martin van Sebille

subject   Final minutes CG meeting 6 of ESSnet BD II by WebEx 20th of March 2019
          2019-04-08

Participants:

Peter Struijs (Chairman)	√	Marek Morze (PL WPH)	√
Martin van Sebille (Secretary)	√	David Salgado (PL WPI)	√
Marc Debusschere (Deputy WPA)	√	Marek Cierpiał-Wolan (PL WPJ)	√
Tomaž Špeh (PL WPB)	√	Alexander Kowarik (PL WPK)	√
Galya Stateva (PL WPC)	√	Natalie Rosenski (PL WPL)	√
Arko Kesküla (PL WPD)	√	Albrecht Wirthmann (Eurostat)	
Anke Consten (PL WPE)	√	Lilli Japec (Chair Review Board)	
Monica Scannapieco (PL WPF)	√	Anders Holmberg (Review Board)	
Johan Fosen (PL WPG)	√		

Replacements/Guests:

Kostas Giannakouris (Eurostat)	√		

1. **Opening and agenda**

   Peter welcomes everybody to the sixth meeting of the Coordination Group of the ESSnet Big Data II (CG 6).

   Lilli and Anders could not attend today, but on the other hand Review Board items are not on the agenda today. The review dates have been updated and are almost completely known.

   Kostas is replacing Albrecht because he had to attend another important meeting.

   The ESSnet was well represented at the NTTS 2019 conference last week. Some of the results of the previous ESSnet and current activities were presented at several sessions. There were many positive reactions.

2. **GAP (grant agreement preparation): state of affairs**

   The project is on steam after several CG and track meetings, but the contract still needs to be signed.

All partners agree with the proposal, small issues have been solved, each partner has been registered correctly, all Declarations of Honour have been submitted and small errors have been corrected. Now we are waiting for the next stage, the signature of the contract. Partners are now asking when it will be signed.

Kostas tells that for the content of the proposal there is a green light. In the monitoring of the process, however, the stage is still at the consortium. Peter did the final validation and pushed the button for submission; after doing so, each partner got a message.

Kostas will contact the helpdesk in order to tackle this issue as soon as possible. (Editorial: after the meeting the problem was solved in cooperation with Kostas, Albrecht and the helpdesk. Now the waiting is for the green light of the central financial unit.)

3. Overview of resources spent

Once every second month, the coordinator will ask the partners for information on the resources spent (cumulatively). For some this procedure is new, for others it is not because they have experience from the previous ESSnet. By asking the information throughout the project the burden will be less at the end of the project.

As this is the first exercise, no overview has been made in terms of percentage how far the WPs and partners are in spending days.

Normally questions are asked if issues about inconsistency or incompletion are detected but there was no opportunity to do this at this first round. However, after this test round this will be done on a regular basis.

No information was received from 8 partners for various reasons: no information available because the contract hasn't been signed yet; no information available yet from the financial department; forgotten to enclose the completed document; or no reaction at all.

At this moment no conclusion can be drawn because of the lack of information. At the next round, when the contract will have been signed, a more comprehensive overview will be made.

4. State of affairs: WPA communication

Marc is still gradually working on the wiki. The minutes of the meetings you can find on the main page under the link Project information and coordination and then go to Calendars and meetings.

All information of the meetings, including meetings still to come is on the wiki, content is uploaded or moved from the Confluence wiki.

Under the link Aids and tools you can find templates for literature review and deliverables/milestones and also the link to the BDTI (the link to the Sandbox has been removed).

The proposed template is agreed upon by all members. The yellow marks can be changed into the right metadata of your WP deliverable or milestone. In the

previous ESSnet Peter's name was mentioned on the template but it is better to mention the WP leader as the main contact for questions.

5. **State of affairs: WPL**

The first WebEx meeting was in January and the next is on the 26th of March. The first milestone, the report on the kick-off meeting of WPL, was finished on schedule.

The general goal of the WP is to get an overview of relevant topics, regarding the use of IoT (Internet of Things) for official statistics. Therefore, across all 4 tasks, meetings took place or were set up to get in touch with relevant data owners and possible partners.

Poland (smart farming) had a promising meeting with the Green and Food chamber, which agreed to collaborate and Destatis (smart cities) had one promising meeting with representatives of the statistical office of the city of Darmstadt, of the regional statistical office Hesse and of the enterprise T-Systems, which is a subsidiary of Deutsche Telekom. A second meeting has been set up on 10th April.

Regarding the task "Smart devices", a list has been prepared that, so far, identifies 6 categories of devices:

- Home (Wireless speakers, Smart TVs, Kitchen appliances, etc.);
- Health (Smart phones, Enhance treatment devices, Follow-up medical condition devices, etc.);
- Safety (Security systems, etc.);
- Transport (Smart traffic lights, Detection cameras, Smart passenger counters, etc.);
- Travel;
- Other.

The list is supposed to be finished in April 2019 and a draft will be shared in advance with the working group.

The work has started in all countries involved, but due to personnel resources some partners will join the project in April (Destatis and France) and May (Norway). The work will be intensified from then on.

The second and final meeting will be in London in June this year. The partner form ONS has raised some concerns about the meeting because of the coming Brexit. Peter remarks that the UK has committed to remain partner of this ESSnet project.

6. **State of affairs: Implementation track**

WPB:

At the moment there are three topics. The first is the ongoing negotiations to get access to data from Cedefop. The communications are going slowly. The aim is to get access to clean data instead of raw data which is too huge to use. Partners will analyse the data for use in the local environment. This leads to

the second topic namely where to use the data. In principle it is in the BDTI but right now the issue is the architecture to be used in the BDTI structure. It is important to know which granularity is useful within the BDTI and this has to be developed together with Eurostat and Cedefop.

The third topic is to organize a physical meeting which partners want to have at the beginning of May to exchange information, since the partnership with Cedefop is getting more important. Maybe the meeting will be held in Thessaloniki back-to-back with a workshop in June held by Cedefop. If so, a representative of Cedefop can attend the physical meeting and maybe also one from Eurostat. This possibility is now being checked with partners.

Peter asks whether the WP is getting more dependent on Cedefop or whether other options are explored also. Perhaps certain choices and decisions need to be made at ESS governance level. According to Tomaž this will be clear after the meeting. There are four partners that intend, after analysis, to integrate the Cedefop data into their own production but this is still to be discussed during the next physical meeting. No decisions about this have been made yet.

WPC:

All the activities initially planned are ongoing and there are no difficulties to discuss at this moment. A draft version about webscraping policy will be ready at the beginning of April. Regarding webscraping almost all partners are ready to start in April with indeed scraping the web.

WPC is working on the methodological framework and when the structure of the document is final it will be shared with the partners to add content into each section.

The issue with resources from Italy has been solved with thanks to Monica and also Germany has the issue solved within a few weeks.

WPD:

The first report – and the first to use the new template – was sent to the Review Board and WPD is waiting for feedback. Norway will get real statistical data and Sweden will get data also.

Kostas asks if there is a discussion about linking data from smart electricity meters with administrative sources or direct linking with other technologies.

According to Arko this depends on each NSI itself, it is up to them whether to link with other sources. On national level data must be anonymized before linking it with administrative registers. This is the confidentiality framework per country.

Kostas remarks that, reading various reports, privacy is becoming a more and more important issue. In this context Peter asks the WP leaders to make sure that all relevant reports are explicit in terms of dealing with confidentiality and security.

WPE:

The first internal face-to-face meeting was held at the end of February. Work is ongoing on the AIS processes for implementation. The methodology framework should be also part of the first deliverable but because of lack of information this will be later.

The hard disk with data was received from EMSA but now we need to get it uploaded in the BDTI and this takes more time than anticipated. WPE is a little bit concerned about it so next Monday there is a meeting with Eurostat.

WPE was too optimistic about having a prototype in September 2019. The intention is to reschedule this to March 2020.

WPF:

There are just two topics. The first is related to modelling, WPF is in the phase of drafting two artefacts concerning business functions lifecycles. The second topic is the questionnaire: trying to understand the framework of the implementation. The questionnaire has been sent to all partners and getting the first draft filled in is expected in the first week of April.

7. **State of affairs: Pilots track**

WPG:

The fifth WebEx meeting is this week and in May is the face-to-face meeting. All countries are working on the infrastructure and try to obtain data access. If they are not successful Norway has data to share.

Concerning the sharing platforms the first task is to come to a draft definition within the WP.

WPH:

The first WebEx meeting took place on 28 February. During this meeting the Polish methodology framework, a tool for collaboration, was discussed and agreed upon. Now it will be sent to Monica and Alex to discuss possible cross-cutting matters with them.

The review dates are set and now WPH is busy preparing and planning the discussions for the deliverables and the roadmap for the next meeting.

WPI:

The minutes of the Luxembourg meeting will be on the wiki next Friday. Next week is also a WebEx meeting and the face-to-face meeting will be held in June.

The work on data simulations is on track and a compilation of approximately 400 articles relevant for the WP will be uploaded on the wiki. Key partners already know that the contribution of their knowledge is in the WP. Work is aligned with work for quality and methodology in WPK.

Concerning the BDTI the specs are discussed with Eurostat (Fernando).

There is not yet a release calendar for the review of deliverables, as intermediate products may become available before the final drafts. Peter asks if it is possible to have at least provision dates available, linked to the dates final deliverables are due. The Review Board can make its own planning. If there are changes just inform the Review Board.

WPJ:

The developed webscraping methods have been established and sent to the partners to verify if they are applicable for all and to get feedback for finalizing. This will be done by the end of March.

Work is ongoing on data portals concerning tourism statistics. Some data sources are more complete than others, and the WP will also look if data can be combined, for which a script in R has been developed. In each country the data will be analysed.

The WP is also working on uniform templates, variables and taxonomy. Where possible WPJ aims at a universal solution for reusability.

WPH is now preparing the first report of the WP. This is on schedule.

Marek has some problems to see the uploaded reports, maybe something was done wrongly. After the meeting this will be solved bilaterally with Marc.

Galya offers to share their webscraping policy with WPJ and would like to get some feedback, on which Marek agrees. There are also links with WPB. The literature identified within WPK has already proved useful.

WPK:

WPK is working on three strands: literature (based on a template), quality guidelines (for now the focus is on this area) and typology (David and Sónia working on an MNO paper).

The WP is now in between two WebEx meetings. The content is being moved from the Confluence wiki to the working area on the wiki. There is some discussion about the table of contents but this will be sorted out together with Marc.

8. **Any remaining issues**

Peter:

In June next year there is a conference in the USA: ICES VI (ICES: International Conference on Establishment Statistics, about once every 4 or or so years). This is a very big conference on statistics on enterprises and establishments with a reach far beyond the ESS. Peter has been approached to organize an invited session on the ESSnet BD. He is inclined to response positively if he can mention three WPs are able to present results. The costs are for the participating NSIs and will not be funded by this project. Is anyone interested in going to this conference?

David, Alex and Natalie express interest. For WPL, the project will have ended by then, so the results can be presented. Others might give a reaction before the end of the week to Peter. This is not a formal commitment right now, just a first inventory.

Closing:

In April there are the track WebEx meetings and in May there will be a full CG meeting again.

Meetings Tracks and Co-ordination Group ESSnet Big Data till end 2019

Date	Time (CET)	Issues	How/Where
2019-04-03	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Implementation	WebEx meeting
2019-04-17	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Pilots	WebEx meeting
2019-05-22	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Regular CG meeting (incl. resources spent)	WebEx meeting
2019-06-05	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Implementation	WebEx meeting
2019-06-19	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Pilots	WebEx meeting
2019-07-24	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Regular CG meeting (incl. resources spent)	WebEx meeting
2019-09-18	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Regular CG meeting (incl. resources spent)	WebEx meeting
2019-10-09	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Implementation	WebEx meeting
2019-10-23	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Pilots	WebEx meeting
2019-11-20	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Regular CG meeting (incl. resources spent)	WebEx meeting
2019-12-04	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Implementation	WebEx meeting
2019-12-18	10:30 – 12:00 hr*	Track CG Pilots	WebEx meeting

*connecting from 10:15 onwards all WebEx meetings