

**Final Minutes of the
3rd (virtual) meeting of WPL of the ESSnet Big Data II,
on 26 March 2019**

Participants:

Natalie Rosenski (WP Leader)	√	Massimo De Cubellis (IT)	√
Alexander Kowarik (AU)	√	Olav Bosch (IT)	
Galya Stateva (BG)	√	Johan Fosen (NO)	√
Jasmin Arnold (DE)		Joanna Raczkowska (PL)	√
Holger Leerhoff (DE/Statistik BBB)	√	Sonia Quaresma (PT)	
Nicole Jurisch (DE/Statistik BBB)	√	Alessandra Sozzi (UK)	√
Henri Luomaranta (FI)	√	Albrecht Wirthmann (Eurostat)	
Marie-Pierre de Bellefon (FR)			

Guests:

Sandra Hadam (DE)	√	Mareike Winterhalter (DE)	√
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Item 1: Opening and agenda

Natalie welcomed the participants to the second WebEx meeting of WPL (Preparing Smart Statistics) of the ESSnet Big Data II.

The agenda was adopted unanimously.

Item 2: State of affairs of the tasks, case studies and subtasks

Due to Alexander's initiative, task 1 is already using the working area of the Wiki-page of the ESSnet Big Data II to share information about their ongoing work. All partners of WPL should also use this page to share their work with the others. Therefore, Alexander has included the titles of the different tasks of WPL, ready to use for input of the responsible partners.

Task 1 – Smart Farming (AT, DE, PL)

Regarding task 1, Austria has been gathering information about different players in the area of smart farming. Germany has also started collecting background information regarding smart farming. Poland will arrange two meetings with important players in this field at the end of March.

All countries involved in this task currently have the goal to organize several meetings with the organizations that might have data and relevant information on this topic.

Task 2 – The Use of IoT for Smart Cities (Berlin, BG, DE, FR, IT, UK)

- Case study 1 (BG):

Galya reported that they just had a meeting with representatives of the city of Varna. The current situation can be summarized as following:

1. An improved IT infrastructure for gathering and submitting data in a server is in place
2. BG is in touch with the association of blind people and association of deaf people to install an application on their mobile phones to track movement across the cities. The application will be available by the end of April and the data collection and processing can start in May.
3. The methodological report with findings regarding production of the smart statistics for Varna city is being written and its first draft version will be finished until the F2F meeting in June.

Natalie pointed out that some documents should be shared earlier in order to have some more information about the ongoing work at the physical meeting of WPL in the beginning of June.

- Case study 2 (Berlin, DE, IT):

The 12 Horizon 2020 projects have been assigned to four categories: smart energy, smart mobility, smart infrastructure and ICT. The category ICT will not be explored further.

Germany had a first meeting with representatives of the city of Darmstadt and T-Systems. The goal is a cooperation with these institutions in order to get an understanding of the data that is produced in the digital projects of this city and to get an overview of the landscape. On April 10th, Germany will meet the representatives again and is hoping to be able to formulate more concrete goals at this meeting. In mid-April, Germany will get some new staff to support this project at Destatis.

The partners of this task are using the tool OneDrive from Microsoft to work simultaneously at some documents. As soon as the documents are adequate, they will be uploaded to the working area of the Wiki-page.

- Case study 3 (FR, IT):

In the context of this case study, Italy is working with the smart census, geographical areas, estimate pollution, population, education, employment status and methodological model.

Marie-Pierre reported via mail that two interns (one at Insee, one at the Smart City Innovation Center) have been recruited and will start working on the 15th of April. Furthermore, she reported that the European Environment Agency has just published a report about “unequal exposure and unequal impact: social vulnerability to air pollution, noise and extreme temperatures in Europa”. This report states that groups with lower socio-economic status tend to be more exposed to air pollution. The report refers exactly to the topic of this case study regarding the combination of pollution and socio-economic data.

Task 3 – Smart Devices (IT, NL, PT)

Massimo informed about the list of categories of smart devices the partners of task 3 are working on. The three participating countries added a paragraph for smartphones to their draft. The next task will be to complete the paragraph regarding the use of these devices for official statistics.

According to Massimo, a first draft will be shared by June, prior to the face-to-face meeting in London.

Task 4 – Smart traffic (FI, NO, UK)

- Subtask 4.1

The process of extracting traffic loops data for nowcasting purposes is more or less finalized. Finland has started running trials with different methodologies to test which method works best in their scenario. According to Henri, things are going as planned. Next they want to test different indicators than GDP (maybe trade indicators).

Alessandra reported of a multidisciplinary project between ONS and Data Science Campus looking at 3 different sources that could be used to derive faster economic indicators of UK economic activity:

- Report available here: <https://datasciencecampus.ons.gov.uk/faster-indicators-of-uk-economic-activity/>
- Plan to publish regular, monthly updates, using the most recent available data, from April 2019
- Explored 3 datasets: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) Value Added Tax (VAT) returns, Ship tracking data from automated identification systems (AIS), Road traffic sensor data for England.
- Although some of the indicators track GDP and other economic statistics relatively well over some periods, there is sufficient difference that none should be used to predict GDP on their own. Rather, they should be considered early warning indicators providing timely insight into real activities in the economy, and their potential impact on headline GDP should be carefully interpreted.
- Research on traffic loop data:
 - road traffic count data for England, from January 2007 to December 2018
 - derived traffic counts and average speed indicators, seasonally adjusted
 - interesting insights into road transport in England. Although correlations are weak, the average traffic counts for the largest vehicles are consistent with at least some economic events (the financial crisis), and the trend broadly follows that of headline official economic statistics, although care must be taken with interpretation. They also have the scope to offer a new understanding of the supply potential of the UK, and how traffic by different types of vehicle relate to local economic activity involving the transport of goods and people.

- Subtask 4.2

Sverre Amdam has left Statistics Norway and is only working part time at Statistics Norway for the purpose of writing a report regarding this subtask. Johan and Anders Holmberg are the coordinators for this WP at Statistics Norway.

Item 3: Report on the Coordination Group Meeting on 20th of March

Natalie will forward the minutes of the last coordination group meeting as soon as they are finalized. The contract has still not been signed, but will hopefully be by the end of April.

The countries have to forward their resources spent from 1 November 2018 to 1 March 2019 to Martin from CBS. That includes the days and the travel costs spent so far.

Alexander, who also leads WPK (Methodology and Quality), asked the partners of WPL to include any literature found to a template that is available under the following link:

https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/mwikis/essnetbigdata/index.php/WPK_Literature_review.

Item 4: Next steps

The next WebEx meeting, which was scheduled on 29th of May, will not take place as it would be only a couple of days before the face-to-face meeting in London.

The meeting in London will take place from the 3rd until the 5th of June 2019.

The issue of the forthcoming Brexit was considered, but it was decided to keep the location in London as planned.

Natalie is going to send the invitations for the meeting in London as soon as possible.

Regarding the agenda of the meeting, ideas were raised to have separate discussions of the members of each task on the first day and then share the information with all partners of WPL on the second day. Another idea was to invite external partners to the meeting, e.g. private enterprises or representatives of smart cities. The partners of WPL are encouraged to think about this idea and ask possible guests if they would be willing to attend the meeting. The meeting should also be used to talk about preliminary results and the structure of the final report.

Every participant should share information about the ongoing work with all partners of the work package **at least one week** before the face-to-face meeting.

Item 5: Any remaining issues and closing

If participants are not available to attend WebEx meetings, it would be suitable if they can assign someone else to represent them or inform Natalie that they cannot attend and ideally send some information on their state of affairs to Natalie in advance.