

EURADIN Project NEWSLETTER



EURADIN
European Address
Infrastructure



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This Newsletter is available also from
<https://www.euradin.eu>

The Euradin 2nd General Assembly and 1st Technical Review, Madrid 4th & 5th June 2009

Green Flag from the European Commission for continuing with EURADIN

After one year progress of the EURADIN European project, the work developed and its results have been technically evaluated by the European Commission being qualified with a green flag.

During the 3rd, 4th and 5th of June several consortium meetings for the end of the first year of the project were held in "Observatorio del Parque del Retiro" in Madrid, organized by the National Geographic Information Centre (IGN-CNIG).

From all the different activities, a meeting of the partners involved in the preparation of a Gazetteer service took place. This Gazetteer service consists in analysing and preparing the necessary information to access all European Addresses by means of a unique and interoperable service between all the involved regions/countries. This tool, which will be able to access the information according with the proposed INSPIRE model, will be validated by the EURADIN consortium.

The Management Committee met as well, body composed by the main members of the project partnership. During the meeting, the Committee prepared the European Commission Review which took place the next day. In a similar way, the

dissemination group meeting was held in order to regard the objectives of the next project period and its sustainability beyond the project end date.

Apart from the different consortium meetings, the first Technical Review meeting took place on the Thursday morning. This Review was carried out by one European Commission Project Officer and two external experts for technically evaluating the project advances. The work done during the first year was carefully analyzed obtaining a green flag, which means that all goals were met as specified in the initial Description of Work. This positive evaluation allows the partnership to continue with the project during the next period and to receive the second part of the pre-financing.

"EURADIN has been also considered as a well built and cohesive consortium. We are in the line we supposed to be and we are happy to continue with the EC support", María Cabello, Euradin Technical Coordinator.

However, although obtaining a green flag some indications from the EC commission were received, which were not technical issues but improvements of the delivered project reports with some added information from the meetings.



The Euradin 2nd General Assembly took place on Thursday 4th of June in the afternoon and for the whole Friday 5th of June. It consisted in a yearly

technical, management and financial review of the project, analysing the work done and planning the next second part of the project, which will last 12 months.

From all the achievements of the project, the European Commission considered that the work carried out with the INSPIRE directive and the thematic working group on addresses for the synchronization with INSPIRE was the best of all Best Practices.

Next week the Global SDI (Global Spatial Data Infrastructure) and INSPIRE conference 2009 will be held in Rotterdam, where the best practices and lessons learnt from EURADIN will be publicly presented.

European Address Forum

The EURADIN consortium has launched a European Best Practices network of experts and stakeholders. This network is the European Address Forum (EAF), as an organisational structure devoted to monitor, debate and encourage the harmonisation of the address systems throughout Europe.

EAF's main task is to facilitate people to share experiences and to debate proposals about addresses. This Forum is meant to remain active after the end of the project.

The EAF members were initially the 30 EURADIN partners. During the first weeks of life, EAF has received the registration of 15 external entities willing to cooperate. Moreover, the Forum is supposed to proactively attract and incorporate new members from the following target groups:

- public authorities with responsibility for the address systems;
- address data providers;
- target users of the address system and data;
- standardization bodies;
- research and development people and institutions.

The EAF members have the opportunity to rely upon the EURADIN project (which has its own calendar of technical meetings) in order to set up special interest groups and to convene them as necessary. A number of meetings are being convened. In particular, thematic workshops are devoted to the sharing of experiences on specific issues.

The 1st thematic workshop (on the "Best practices in addresses") has been held in Veldhoven NL on 4th April 2009. This workshop has also marked the launch of the EAF. The 2nd thematic workshop (on the interrelationships of "Addresses and logistics") has been convened in Genoa IT on 7th May 2009, as

a dedicated session of a large symposium on IT applications to logistics under the auspices of the regional government of Liguria. Such workshops have been attended by both EURADIN representatives and experts external to the project.

EAF is organized as a loosely coupled network of people and organizations, based on volunteer participation.

The EURADIN project provides the necessary services and tools. EAF members can register and access the dedicated page available on the EURADIN website (<https://www.euradin.eu/European/default.aspx>). In such way, the EAF members have the opportunity to participate to the discussion about the technical documents and to provide their assessment of the proposed results, in the framework of the INSPIRE-related initiatives.

On the expiration of EURADIN, the EAF members will be able to go on as a consolidated network and to provide their thorough evaluation of the issues related to the addresses.

EURADIN Findings: Generalised Data Flow

The Data Flow group working has achieved one of the major results and findings of the project, which has been embodied into a dedicated document, the Data Flow Cookbook

The Cookbook is intended to be an implementation guideline for the harmonisation of address Data Flows at the European level regarding the existing address Data Flows in the Member States. Its target is to define a European prototype workflow from the local to European perspective and identify the necessary nodes for an access to addresses in order to fulfil the INSPIRE directive.

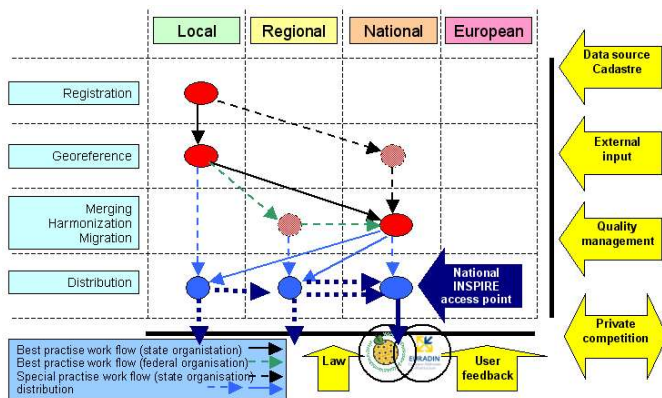
Evaluation of existing workflows

In the first initial assessment of EURADIN all participants were asked about existing Data Flows in their Member State. More than half of the Member States are already coordinating the addresses in some sort of agreed Data Flow more or less described and recognised. Some others distribute their data by different standards and recognise the benefits of Data Flows. They also process the data on different levels such as local, regional or national levels. For example various Member States have already a Data Flow but it ends at the regional level. This means the European Spatial Infrastructure has to deal with different data distributors within one Member State. Clearly this infrastructure will not provide a solution in the long run and will therefore risk the quality and actuality of the data.

Additionally the size of the Member State and its political form of organisation will determine, whether the data processing is handled on local or national, or even on a regional level.

Best Practise Framework on Data Flow

A generalised Data Flow must support a logical or easy process and lead to a dataset of high quality, accuracy and completeness. The different situations in the Member States lead to a Best Practise Framework instead of only one Best Practise Data Flow.



Best Practice Framework (with percentage of participating Members in WP5)

The local authorities (municipalities) have the competence, the interest and the local knowledge for actual and accurate address data. Because of this, the data has to be registered where it is generated.

In the georeferencing process point coordinates are usually assigned to the address at the local level for the same reasons as the registration. As long as the georeferencing comes from an external input, it is strongly recommended to realise on a regional or at least on a national level.

It is advised to realise the merging, harmonisation and migration of the addresses on the national level for distributing them to INSPIRE. Therefore it would be easier and more efficient to make the merged data compliant to the Europe-wide standardised specification. The distribution can naturally take place on local, regional and national levels just as well on the European level. This best practice Framework must be related to the legal acts, contractual agreements or regulations in every Member State or, if possible, to a new law that will take the Framework into account.

Realisation or implementation of the Best Practice in the Member States

To convince the Member States of adopting the European Data Flow, the motivational factors, barriers and gaps are mentioned below.

Motivation factors

The INSPIRE directive should be implemented in every Member State and the adoption of a standard Data Flow can be seen as a first step in that direction. If a common workflow is adopted by all Member States it may be possible to reduce problems regarding the exchange of information and hands solving issues related with addresses in a

faster and more active way. Address databases would be accessible in a more transparent way, being more reliable for the users with respect to quality, completeness and actuality of the data. A better Data Flow will give better addresses. This would bring a major commercial interest from both Public Administration and Private Companies.

Barriers

There are still differences existing in address construction not only among Member States but also among authorities in charge of addresses information in a same country. Beside this technical dependencies (e.g. bespoke data formats) and the existence of economic interests which implies licences and royalties were taken into account inside the Cookbook.

Gaps

Some countries have no organisations with clearly defined competences in this field which hinders an easy implementation of Data Flow. Existing Data Flow can be inadequate and have a lack of regulation or procedures in the complicated to overcome in the short term.

Technical Data Flow

The general European Data Flow (see the figure above) defines the interfaces between data collection, data maintenance and data distribution. The data distribution is technically realised in a gazetteer service (it is the aim of WP7). This technical service could be realised on the local, regional and/or national level in two different ways, redundant or as a cascade.

Conclusion

The Data Flow management gaps can be more difficult to overcome than barriers, because the absence of regulation, producers or skilled professionals normally will depend more on the size of the State and its political form of organisation. This leads the Cookbook more to a best practice Framework than to a single Data Flow for Europe. The best practice framework described in the Cookbook is aimed as a basis for every European Member State to implement or to improve their existing Data Flow. Therefore it is recommended to take the Data Flow into account in national, regional or local law. The framework is proved to be practical and could be already implemented in some Member States. It is flexible enough to handle public and also the private sectors.

Let's meet a EURADIN  partner:

Trabajos Catastrales, S. A. (TRACASA) is a public company based in Navarra (Spain) which mission is to present services based on the use of Territorial Information and Information and Communication Technologies, for public administrations and private organisations, thereby contributing to innovation and development. Since it was founded in 1982 its

successful work has involved implementing new solutions making the firm a benchmark in the sector. The experience it has acquired over the years has meant that not only can it exceed its founding expectation and aims, implanting and modernising the Cadastre for Navarra, but it can also work on significant developments in its activity areas.

For many years, Tracasa has been running large projects involving Cadastre, Mapping and Territorial Information Systems in the European Union and Latin America. More than 25 years serving local authorities has given Tracasa sustainable growth, increasing quality and the offer of products and services. Tracasa is currently one of the most experienced local administration service companies.

The company works in an ever-changing and evolving environment, and consequently dedicates significant resources to R+D+i as well as offering its employees continual training. The company has been awarded the most demanding quality certificates which, along with their own internal control mechanisms, offer an additional guarantee to the satisfaction endorsed by their numerous customers.

Three basic lines complementing one to each other:

Software Engineering, Information Systems and Information and Communication Technology

Tracasa's information systems are capable of meeting administrations and companies' growth needs, being responsible for technical coordination within the solutions developed, for training and their support.

Rural Engineering, Cadastre and Mapping

Tracasa has the capability to process the past, present and future of the great volumes of territorial information which is essential for efficient management within

public administrations and private companies. We are a pioneering company in developing urban and rural cadastres with capability to analyse, implant, update, maintain and manage cadastres for local and regional administration. The mapping service carries out complete mapping production cycles, producing digital photogrammetric flights, restitution, generation of orthophotos, etc.

Territorial Information Systems

Finding out about and efficiently managing the territory is essential to generate wealth. We are experienced in developing Territorial Information Systems in multiple fields: agriculture, environment, town planning, utilities, defence, etc. Our projects are aimed at administrations and corporations that see geo-referencing information as an opportunity to manage and make decisions more efficiently, being as well real engines to drive regional development

Addresses are considered by Tracasa as one of most important issues which responsibility is being shared by several organizations but should serve for encouraging regional development.

We have the responsibility of maintaining up-to-date and coordinate information regarding addresses in Navarra, working for the creation of a unique information address system (Graphic and alphanumeric) for the region, harmonizing the data collected from different organisations that very often are incompatible and different., and finally providing georeferenced information, that can be used later on by several institutions, organizations or users.

Our place is the future, but for Tracasa the future is not tomorrow, it's today.

<http://www.tracasa.es>

Do not forget...

What	Where	When
EURADIN at the Nordic Address Forum 2009 http://reynihlid.is/	Myvatn (IS)	10 th – 11 th June 2009
EURADIN at the 9th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Geo-Conference & EXPO SGEM 2009 http://www.sgem.org/	Varna (BG)	15 th June 2009
Tools and experience in support of implementing INSPIRE data specifications : "Experience from the testing of Address data specifications (EURADIN project)" http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/inspire_2009	Rotterdam (NL)	15 th June 2009
Lessons learnt and best practices from GI-SDI projects – II: "EURADIN project" http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/inspire_2009	Rotterdam (NL)	15 th June 2009
EURADIN at the annual Urban Data Management System Meeting (UDMS) http://www.udms.net	Ljubljana (SI)	24 th – 29 th June 2009
EURADIN country meeting in Italy http://www.amfm.it/conferenza2009/conf2009.html	Rome (IT)	24 th September 2009
AICA conference http://aicanet.net/eventicontestuali/2009-1/subscribableevent.2009-04-29.3013118313	Rome (IT)	4 th – 6 th November 2009
ASITA conference http://www.asita.it/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=35&Itemid=480	Bari (IT)	1st – 4th December 2009