**Final draft minutes**

**Joint Eionet NRC Environmental Information Systems (EIS) meeting 2021**

**and INSPIRE MIWP Action 2.1. on “needs-driven data prioritisation”**

**21st April 2021, hosted by EEA as Webinar from 9:00 – 16:45**

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| **Objectives:**   * To communicate and discuss Reportnet 3.0 development and INSPIRE implementation in EEA/EIONET and to liaise with the other relevant European initiatives * To get informed about related actions based on the new EEA Strategy, the EU Green Deal and Data Strategy * To inform relevant other EEA governance and IT developments   **Preparation:**   * Read the draft of the EEA-Eionet digitalisation framework available at : [2021 NRC EIS meeting | NRC Environmental Information Systems (europa.eu)](about:blank) * Already start considering out of the many aspects addressed by the framework which national initiatives need to be linked * Become aware of the past and ongoing work of the INSPIRE subgroup 2016.5 on “priority datasets for eReporting” and it’s transition to the new action 2.1 group on “needs-driven data prioritisation”. Make yourself familiar with the documents published by the group at [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/InspireMIG/Action+2016.5%3A+Priority+list+of+datasets+for+e-Reporting](about:blank)   **Expected outcome:**   * Better adjustment of EEA resources to support implementation in EIONET * Enhanced awareness of EIONET NRCs on steps needed for INSPIRE implementation in Eionet * Knowledge about the Reportnet 3.0 project and input into the developments |

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| **Wednesday 21st April 2021** |

*8:45 - 9:00 Logon to Webinar*

*9:00 - 9:45* **General items and the EEA-Eionet Digitalisation Framework**

* Introduction, news from EEA processes and the EU digital agenda - *Stefan Jensen*
* The EEA-Eionet digitalisation framework, short introduction and initial clarification - *Stefan Jensen*
* Q&A

**Important for NRC-EIS:**

* express learning and development needs
* start identifying common activities
* to collect national experiences
* requirements will be shared with Eionet NFP

**Role of the NRC EIS:**

* Eionet modernisation is on-going, including NRC evaluation: less NRCs, NRC-EIS will most likely merge with NRC digitalisation in some form
* Expected more meetings per year
* Focus: different aspects of digitalisation

**Discussion and expressed interest in topics:**

* IT: AI related projects
* CH: digitalisation and to join the new NRC
* FI: technology developments, in particular for environmental monitoring (AI, data and reporting methods)
* DK: process and methods, could share experiences in automatic nature recognition
* SK: keep track of digitalisation progress and combine environmental and ICT solutions, synergies with e-government activities, important to provide capacity support and knowledge transfer
* HR: frequent use of environmental data already in place, interest in AI, learning and improving environmental monitoring, sharing good practices

**How to share experiences:**

* to be decided, several options in Eionet modernisation discussion: platforms, meetings, tools, courses

*9:45 - 10:45* **Reportnet 3 - general development status**

* Development status – *Christian-Xavier Prosperini*
* 30min walk through on main functions - *Jon Maidens*
* Q and A

**Development status:**

* in production since 2020 with first operational data flows
* regular development of functionalities and technical priorities, latest on reporting of spatial data, data harvesting and reporting of sensitive data
* planned testing sessions in April, July, end September, January 2022
* NRC EIS will be informed about the testing sessions

**30min walk through on main functions:**

* Reportent3 presentation from different views and roles
* reporter view, role of lead reporter (user / access management), national coordinator (country view of al data flows reported in a country, read view of reported data), public view of data (to explicitly define public data)

**Discussion:**

Vincze Gabriele (AT) asked when the Water Framework Directive will be transitioned to Reportnet 3. Jon Maidens (EEA) replied that when the transition of any dataflow is planned, they will appear at the list of the dataflows on the public page.

Carlo Cipolloni (IT) asked why the countries are required to upload geographic data manually since all geographic data can be uploaded via the INSPIRE service. Jon Maidens (EEA) replied that there will be primarily importing via INSPIRE services like in the Environmental Noise Directive and most functionality will be made available in Reportnet 3 which will enable the reporters to interact programmatically.

Jóhannes Birgir Jensson (IC) asked what will happen to Reportnet 2 after the transition of all the dataflows to Reportnet 3 and how the countries can compare the previously reported data between Reportnet 2 and Reportnet 3. Jon Maidens (EEA) replied that Reportnet 2 will serve as an archive and the functionality to compare the data reported in Reportnet 2 to Reportnet 3 will be evaluated.

Markus Böhm (CH) asked if there will be a way to reuse Reportnet 3 on the country level since Switzerland can benefit on collecting data from cantons. Jon Maidens (EEA) replied that Reportnet 3 is developed as a tool to handle EEA’s dataflows but can be used for other purposes to collect information like citizen science, which will be evaluated on a later stage.

Carlo Cipolloni (IT) requested to have the links to the development codes on Github. Christian Prosperini (EEA) provided the links:

* [https://github.com/eea/eea.reportnet3](about:blank)
* [https://github.com/eea/rn3-deploy-scripts](about:blank)

Renata Grofova asked if the tools in Reportnet 2 like data dictionary, reporting guidelines and confirmation letter be available for unauthorized users visiting the Reportnet 3 platform. Jon Maidens (EEA) confirmed that the enrichment of Reportnet 3 public page is on the pipeline.

Bojan Karaica (HR) asked if is there a python/R libary for the API access. Christian Prosperini (EEA) replied that any client can be used for API.

Zita Zsembery (HU) asked if the current way of reporting by using a predefined xml will continue in Reportnet 3. Jon Maidens (EEA) replied that the traditional means of offline tools such as Access or Excel for example will continue.

Jan Voet (BE) brought the NRC review into the discussion and asked if the new NRC Digitalisation will be linked with Copernicus, citizen science and other Eionet tools. He commented that this new NRC can consist of groups with expertise on these topics. Stefan Jensen commented that the terms of reference for NRC Digitalisation is still under discussion by the Eionet Modernisation WG.

Jóhannes Birgir Jensson (IC) asked who will be in charge of the legal delivery in case of 26 reporters and 1 lead reporter assigned to the dataflow. Jon Maidens (EEA) clarified that only lead reporters can submit the data and one country can have more than one lead reporter. Supporting reporters can just edit data.

Jon Maidens (EEA) explained the transition process to Reportnet 3. Any reporting group that will report to Reportnet 3 will be trained on the new platform. Communication will be provided to the reporting group.

*Break*

*11:00 - 13:00* **Reportnet 3 - machine based data sharing**

* “The push option” - R3 architecture overview with focus on APIs - *Christian-Xavier Prosperini*
* “The pull option” – lessons learnt from feasibility study on Reportnet data harvesting - *Darja Lihteneger and consultants*
* Q and A

**“The push option” - R3 architecture overview with focus on APIs**

* live demonstration of using Reportnet 3 API to configure import of data sets (get / post requests)
* information about the tools : client Postman used in Reportnet 3
* idea is to use API more for data flows

**“The pull option” – lessons learnt from feasibility study on Reportnet data harvesting**

* data harvesting workflow was presented from reporter view, with additional technical background information
* study scope and results:
  + data flows tested for harvesting of spatial data: Bathing Waters Directive and Nationally designated areas (CDDA)
  + service input - 2 types of service information: provided directly (tested on BWD) or as part of the reporting data flow (CDDA case)
  + 3 types of INSPIRE download services tested: direct download of file, Atom feed, WFS
  + file format tested: GML
  + services can include nesting: 2 levels of nesting tested
  + developed workflow includes re-usable block and block that needs adaptation to the data flow, log file and messages
  + Outcomes:
    - responsibility for identifying service is on reporter
    - still present heterogeneity in providing services / data in INSPIRE Geoportal
    - important to ensure matching between spatial on non-spatial data (identifiers)
    - feasible
    - still open how to ensure high re-usability of the workflow and FME processes for different data flows (without specific adaptations)

**Discussion:**

* NL, AT: positive feedback on results, the interest is still on providing data once and re-use many times, one issue is that mostly INSPIRE data / services are developed from reported data (at the end of reporting process), discussions started to modify this practice
* IS: is there any indication to use data harvesting for continuous reporting to avoid outdated data in reporting comparing to original up-to-data data sources (example: regular updates of CDDA in IS <> reporting once a year):
  + from discussion: legal reporting obligations define reporting deadlines, when snapshots of data are reported / mismatch with up-to-date data sources will co-exist
* BE: how to use INSPIRE harmonised and non-harmonised data in data harvesting
* NL: to communicate at EU level the use of INSPIRE services in Reportnet 3.0 to the national reporters and the INSPIRE community, this can support cooperation between both communities in the countries

*Lunch break*

*14:00 to 16:45* **INSPIRE implementation**

**Joint meeting with the INSPIRE subgroup action 2.1 on “needs-driven data prioritisation”** (former and extended subgroup 2016.5 on “Priority Datasets for eReporting”) - *Stefan Jensen, Joeri Robbrecht DG ENV*

*Note: we have not yet got a final confirmation for the afternoon agenda but revisions will be based on below:*

*14:00 - 14:20* **Introduction and background:**

* Inform the transition to the new group - *Stefan Jensen EEA*
* Policy developments - *Joeri Robbrecht DG ENV*

Establishment of the working group is progressing:

* terms of reference of Action 2.1 are defined
* nominations are concluded with 46 members from 20 countries and EU level (EEA, DG ENV, JRC, ESTAT, DG AGRI, DG CNECT), co-chair by EEA and DG ENV
* overview of available priority datasets for e-Reporting
* short overview of 6 main tasks
* tools will be established by the JRC, e.g. GitHub or other web sites; old web site will be available in archive

Policy developments and role of INSPIRE and Action 2.1 in Green Deal Data Space, including INSPIRE Evaluation process, draft Implementing Act on High Value Datasets, and extension of priority datasets towards high value data sets are described by DG ENV

*14:20 - 15:10* **Priority datasets for eReporting**

* Update on status on PDS, overview on Member State deliveries - *Stefan Jensen EEA*
* Methodology issues and implementation examples *- Darja Lihteneger EEA*
* Expectations and steps forward on machine-based data *sharing* (supported by and following on the technical discussion in the morning*) - All*

Overview of work on the Priority datasets for e-Reporting:

* The availability of priority data set for e-Reporting is progressing
* four tasks in Action 2016.5 will be integrated in the scope of Action 2.1 work programme

Discussion on expectations and steps forward on machine-based data sharing, based on the technical presentations on Reportnet 3 API and data harvesting in the morning session. An interesting discussion emerged, presenting experiences, solutions and obstacles:

* + IS: interested in modernisation and automatisation of data flows that could be continuous, e.g. automated CDDA workflow established in IS
  + NL: main focus is still on providing data once that can be used many times, this may require modifying data workflows in particular between reporting data flows and data availability in INSPIRE - SDI
  + DK: concerns regarding expenses and low / unclear added value
  + DG ENV: streamlining activities are looking to satisfy different legal obligations with same data sets
  + IT: still present low understanding of INSPIRE in thematic communities and different directions between reporting and INSPIRE communities still exist, it is important to include INSPIRE in reporting systems
  + EEA: Reportnet 3 is designed to collect data and provide harmonised European data sets, one option is to use services as data delivery method
  + ?: more focus should be on pull option and services to deliver harmonised data

*Short break*

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* EEA: Reportnet 3 is designed to collect data and provide harmonised European data sets, one option is to use services as data delivery method

*15:15– 16:20* **Introduce the additional priority areas**

* Open data (as the new open data regulation is under adoption) - *Jiri Pilar DG CONNECT*
* Pan European reference data - *Hannes Reuter EUROSTAT*
* IACS data (on agricultural land parcels et.al.) - *Mohamed El-Aydam DG AGRI*
* Discussion – All

DG CNECT: High value data sets

* legal basis in new Open Data Directive and draft Implementing Act on High Value Datasets with main requests on free data, access through API and bulk download
* list of datasets is in preparation (INSIRE spatial data themes are included and act as framing)
* Licences: CC BY 4.0 SA is proposed for high value data sets
* EC is setting different funding opportunities: supporting data spaces, call in preparation for high value data sets and interoperability measures, structural funds

ESTAT: pan-European data sets creation

* EC geospatial data requirements, more specific general data requirements (scale, identifiers, update frequency, ...)
* Examples: health and education service, administrative units, API for addresses
* Issues presented are important information to improve the access to or quality of datasets in the countries
* Several countries need to improve their deliveries
* some participants are interested to receive regular feedback for improving access / quality of national datasets

DG AGRI: IACS data sharing within INSPIRE

* sharing non personal LPIS data in the scope of agriculture paying agencies
* technical implementation is integrated with INSPIRE, first focus on metadata and discoverability in the INSPIRE Geoportal
* close cooperation with countries, paying agencies and EC services is envisaged
* high potential to include other data (e.g. through high value data sets) and re-use them in different use cases: e.g. protected areas - Natura 2000
* information on progress will be shared with the INSPIRE MIG

*16:20 – 16:30* **Workplan of the group**

A workplan beyond the identified 6 tasks is not yet established. Countries are invited to come forward with suggestion on where they want to participate e.g. in discussing the methodology around bringing the three data areas (PDS, core, IACS) together under the new open date HVD umbrella.

Countries are asked to maintain and where needed intensify their deliveries around PDS.

Countries are invited to participate in INSPIRE Directive evaluation – an opportunity to raise attention on their need of use cases.

Information about the previous work of the group is available at [https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/InspireMIG/Action+2016.5%3A+Priority+list+of+datasets+for+e-Reporting](about:blank)

A new workspace is under setup. This group is bringing INSPIRE governance and Eionet together. Several NRC EIS members are part of the group. We like to offer interested NFPs, who are staying as part of the NFP meeting, the opportunity to attend the discussions as well.

*16:30 to 16:40* **- AOB and closing statement** - *Stefan Jensen*