

SEMIC.EU Newsletter April 2010

Dear Subscriber,

exciting developments: A **conform asset** is on its way. Over the next weeks, the SEMIC.EU team will discuss with you the development of a **pan-European exchange format for data on natural persons**.

A new section on the platform will cover the collaborative process and inform you about milestones and next steps.

Those of you who are members of the SEMIC.EU [SEMIC.EU group](#) at LinkedIn have already seen that the Clearing Manager has started **collecting opinions** on how do design the conform interoperability asset

As the development unfolds, the process of producing independent, flexible and modular exchange formats based on existing data models, will also show its **generic potential and transferability** to other cases.

[Aldo Laudi](#), SEMIC.EU Project Officer

Joint development: A pan-European schema for personal data

Person Core	Identification
Person Core	Name
Person Core	Given Name
Person Core	Family Name
Person Core	Gender
Person Core	Birth
Person Core	Birth Country
Person Core	Birthplace Name
Person Core	Nationality
ess application	Alias
ess application	Middle Name
ess application	Title
ess application	Salutation

The **clearing process** for interoperability assets is at the heart of SEMIC.EU. In our scheme of ascending quality, there are assets "under development", "registered" and "mature" assets.

Now, for the **first time**, an asset is about to enter the highest quality state, **conform** meaning it gives data exchange a firmer and quality-assured basis.

For a **quick overview of the successive stages** of SEMIC.EU Clearing, have a look at the [Clearing Process reference](#).

Why data on persons?

Personal data is a set of data used in **virtually all contexts** of eGovernment and public administration. SEMIC.EU is currently working on a core set of attributes which represent a harmonisation of current implementations of natural person data models available.

Modular approach

This core set of attributes known as "SEMIC.EU Core Person" is abstracted so it can be utilised in a broad set of **use cases**. Once the purpose and case are determined, additional specific **information bearing units** (entities) are added to create a **global schema** for the precise use case.

A potential use case might be the transfer of data of blood donors from one country to another. In that case the core entities would be supplemented by blood type, and, arguably, address.

Open collaboration process

The aim of the SEMIC.EU Core Person is to create methodologies and a set of well chosen **building blocks** for pan-European interoperability

assets. We are setting the development of the global interoperability asset up as an open workshop — all steps of the discussion and all intermediate results shall be publicly visible.

There will be a **platform section** documenting the progress of the personal data schema development in a few days.

Ideas and tools can be **discussed** in the [SEMIC.EU group](#) at LinkedIn. (You need to be logged in at LinkedIn).

The first issue to be discussed here will be what belongs to the data core – which data is absolutely indispensable as the core for exchange of personal data?

Do you have personal data schemes?

Core entities and consequently additional semantic entities will be based on **national data models for natural persons** available in the SEMIC.EU repository (i.e. the Austrian, Danish, French and German models [discussed in the forum](#)).

More of them are most welcome! If you are working with schemas for personal data, please [get in touch](#) with the SEMIC.EU team or [upload](#) them directly to the repository

Top 10: Most downloaded interoperability assets

1. [agroXML](#) A systematic definition of agricultural data structures using XML schemas and content lists
2. [Resource Access-eGov ontologies, WSML format](#) WSML source code of the Access-eGov ontologies.
3. [COREP XBRL Project](#) XBRL taxonomy for COmmon solvency ratiON REPorting framework issued through Eurofiling
4. [NOR PRODCOM Codes](#) Classification of terms listing different codes used in PRODUCTION COMmunautaire
5. [FR_Address](#) French aggregated core component for postal and geographical address
6. [MoReq2 XML schema](#) Schema for the exchange of electronic records between MoReq2-compliant records management systems
7. [Human Resources Management Ontology](#) Provides controlled vocabularies for job postings and CVs
8. [AT Related Person](#) A list of terms for types of relationships between physical persons
9. [DE_Address](#) Part of the German Core Components to describe an address
10. [EURES taxonomy](#) Contains a database of occupations and skills used for pan-European employment services

All assets: [SEMIC.EU Repository](#)

Platform survey results



The recently released study on the use of IDABC / ISA platforms shows favourable assessments and a **demand for extended services** and collaboration features.

According to the study conducted by Gartner for the European Commission, the largest user groups of all three collaboration platforms (SEMIC.EU, OSOR.eu and ePractice) are **IT professionals, civil servants and consultants**. Remarkably, all three platforms have a high percentage of non-EU users. And while ePractice as the most general platform has the largest user base, the visitor numbers of OSOR.eu and SEMIC.EU have increased significantly over recent months.

While a great majority of users would prefer a Single-Sign-On for the three platforms, opinions on full integration are less unequivocal: Roughly two thirds of OSOR.eu and ePractice users are in favour. SEMIC.EU users are split almost evenly in two camps supporting and opposing a single platform on best practice in eGovernment, semantic interoperability and Open Source software.

SEMIC.EU users' expectations for future developments are focused mostly on **more interoperability assets, more online services and support in making assets reusable** despite different national and legal conditions.

The study is based on a pan-European user survey conducted in December 2009 and January 2010 as well as in-depth interviews with heavy users of the three platforms.

The full study for download:

[Exchange Platforms survey: User Experience and Expectations. Final Report](#) (PDF)

Many thanks again to everybody who contributed!

Did you know that...

- there are more than 260 [Code lists](#) in the SEMIC.EU repository?
- the firearms register project [XWaffe](#) has received the most visits in April? The project welcomes contacts to other European registers!

ESCO: A common language for jobs and education



At a conference in Brussels, stakeholders discussed ESCO, a new European taxonomy for **employment and education**.

ESCO (European Skills, Competencies and Occupations taxonomy) **builds on existing classifications** such as ISCO and ISCED. One of its main challenges is the reconciliation of diverging preferences from the education and labour domains.

Existing taxonomies in related fields were presented by Cedefop, the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training, an EU agency. Examples include data on curricula and assessment standards, learning outcomes, and the resources used for Europass management by the European Employment Services (EURES).

The role of **citizen interaction** in eGovernment and European interoperability services was stressed by SEMIC.EU's Project Officer, **Aldo Laudi**.


He presented the infrastructure and approach championed by SEMIC.EU for the creation of semantic interoperability both within and across domains. Laudi identified the main challenges in building ESCO as **matters of semantic interoperability**.

According to Wallis Goelen of DG EMPL, **national systems will not have to change**. Rather, ESCO will have to provide tools creating interoperability with these existing systems.

The provisional schedule targets the first version of ESCO to become **operational within one year's time**. It shall be delivered in XML, SKOS and as a spreadsheet as well as online.

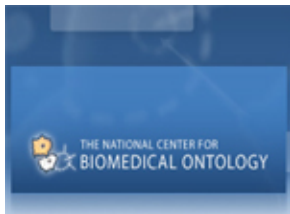
Further information:
[Conference Website](#)

Related assets:
[EC_Occupation \(ISCO 08\)](#)
[EC_EducationAndTraining](#)
[EURES taxonomy](#)

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Biomedical ontologies



The most commonly used **classifications in health and biomedicine** are now accessible as ontologies through the [repository](#).

Some of the most widely used international classifications are provided by the [National Center for Biomedical Ontology \(NCBO\)](#).

Of those, [six](#) have now entered the "registered" state in the SEMIC.EU Clearing Process.

See also: [Related repositories](#)

Top 10: Most viewed partner profiles

Let us know about your [case](#)!



XWaffe



EPOC IV



MDC



agroXML



XKatastrophenhilfe



All profiles: [Partner initiatives](#)

All profiles: [Partner projects](#)

Events

- **03 May – 04 May 2010** SEE 2010 – Software & Systems Engineering Essentials 2010, Cologne, Germany
- **06 May – 07 May 2010** EDem10 Conference, Krems, Austria
- **11 May – 14 May 2010** FOIS 2010 – 6th International Conference on Formal Ontology in Information Systems, Toronto, Canada
- **20 May – 22 May 2010** EISCO 2010 – European Information Society Conference, Bilbao, Spain
- **30 May – 03 June 2010** eswc10 – 7th Extended Semantic Web Conference, Heraklion, Greece

More: [Events](#)

Events are available in iCal format for easy calendar integration

Submit your own event through our [Contact form](#)

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