



DCAT-AP

CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

19 October 2017

ISA² ACTION 2016.07: PROMOTING SEMANTIC
INTEROPERABILITY AMONG EU MEMBER STATES

TOPICS OF TODAY



1. Opening
2. Objective
3. The change & release management policy
4. Next steps
5. Change requests

OPENING | TOUR DE TABLE



OBJECTIVES OF THE WORK

Objective:

Update the **change management** and **release policy** for **DCAT-AP**

Rationale:

- DCAT is being updated by W3C's DXWG
- DCAT-AP will be further developed to meet changing needs
- Need for a **transparent** & **well-managed** change process
- **Avoid disruption** in the interoperability across data portals
- Allow **flexibility** to make changes based on evolving needs

THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

WHAT & WHEN

- **Bug fixes** – every 6 months*

The specification may contain errors in the text or unresolved references. These types of error will not affect interoperability in any way.

- **Minor semantic changes** – yearly*

There may be a need for changes that do affect interoperability but only in non-disruptive ways. E.g. the addition of optional properties or deprecation of unused, optional properties.

- **Major semantic changes** – every 2 years* or following W3C

There may be a need for changes that have more serious consequences for interoperability, such as addition of mandatory properties or changes in the mandatory controlled vocabularies.

*if changes are required & if not combined with other release types (e.g. a major releases will also include minor updates)

THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

WHAT & WHEN

- At least **six months** before a scheduled date for a major release, a decision is taken by the ISA² management team and communicated to the Working Group to open a discussion round in the Working Group in order to discuss and agree major semantic changes.
- Evolution of the W3C Recommendation could lead to the need for major semantic changes.
Whenever W3C plans to publish a new version of DCAT, it may be foreseen that the process towards a major semantic release will be scheduled to enable the Working Group to review W3C work and determine implications for DCAT-AP.

THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

All stakeholders are invited to become member of the **DCAT-AP Working Group**:

- maintainers of national and regional application profiles
- developers of solutions that implement DCAT-AP
- managers of systems that are built on the functionality of DCAT-AP implementations

→ Become a member via [Joinup](#)

THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

Role of the working group

- Bug fixes:
informed 2 weeks ahead of publication, raise **objections**
submit change requests until 1 month ahead of publication
- Minor semantic release:
communicated 6 weeks ahead for **review**
submit change requests until 3 months before publication
- Major semantic release:
informed 6 months ahead, 3 months **discussion and agreement** on changes,
1 month public review
submit change requests until 5 months before publication

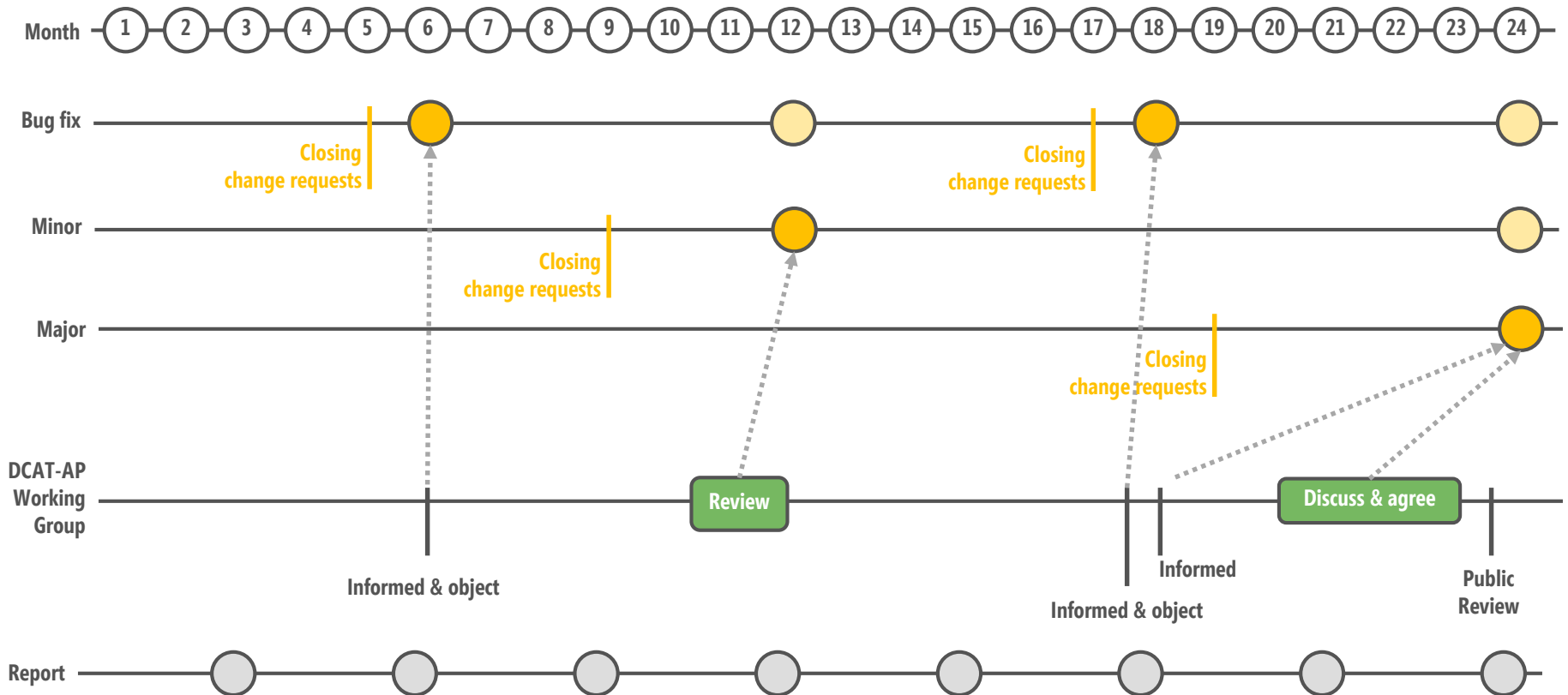
THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

PROCESS FOR CHANGE REQUESTS

- Problems & requests can be submitted via GitHub:
<https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP>
- No strict structure, but name, affiliation, portal, clear description of the requirement and proposed solution should be mentioned.
- The editor (European Commission contractor's team) will classify issues, schedule their processing and reply within two weeks.
- At least every 3 months, the editor will prepare a status report for the DCAT-AP Working Group with an overview of all issues received in the three categories: bugfix, minor or major release

THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

PROCESS FOR CHANGE REQUESTS – 24 MONTHS



THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

IMPLICATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTERS

- Bug fixes: no implications
- Minor semantic changes: no immediate implementation needed, existing implementations remain conformant.
- Major semantic changes: no backward compatibility guaranteed, introduction of a release needs to be accompanied by a well-managed software upgrade process.
- Indicate which version you have implemented
- Include upgrades to newer versions in your release planning

THE CHANGE MANAGEMENT & RELEASE POLICY

RELEASE DOCUMENTATION

- Specification: **PDF & DOCX**
- **UML** diagram
- Machine-readable distributions: **RDF, JSON-LD** and **SHACL/OWL**
- Decision log
- Change log

POLICY REVIEW

The change and release management policy will be reviewed by the European Commission every two years. The next review is scheduled to take place in second half of 2019.

NEXT STEPS

- 19/10/2017 – Webinar
- 30/10/2017 – Publication of the change management & release policy
- As from now – submit change request via GitHub
<https://github.com/SEMICEu/DCAT-AP>
- December 2017: publication of the DCAT-AP usage analysis

CHANGE REQUESTS

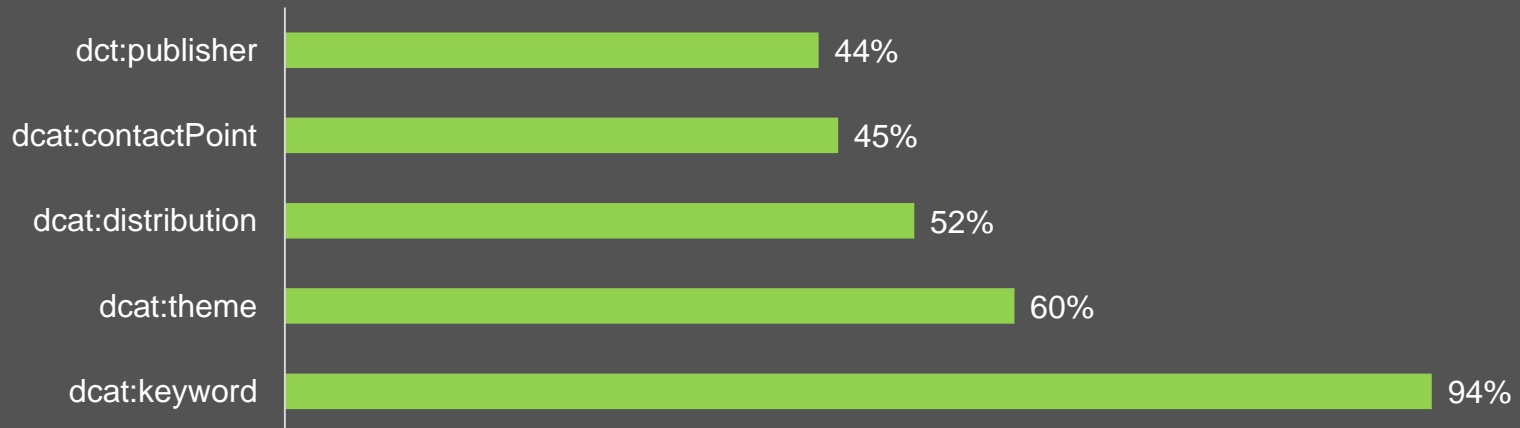
- Ideas from the [DCAT-AP extension analysis](#), e.g.
 - *dct:identifier* & *dct:publisher* made mandatory in 4 extensions
 - *dct:license* not used as intended and licence text needed
- DCAT-AP usage analysis (ongoing)
Analysis of all DCAT-AP fields on the European Data Portal via SPARQL queries

DCAT:DATASET

MANDATORY



RECOMMENDED

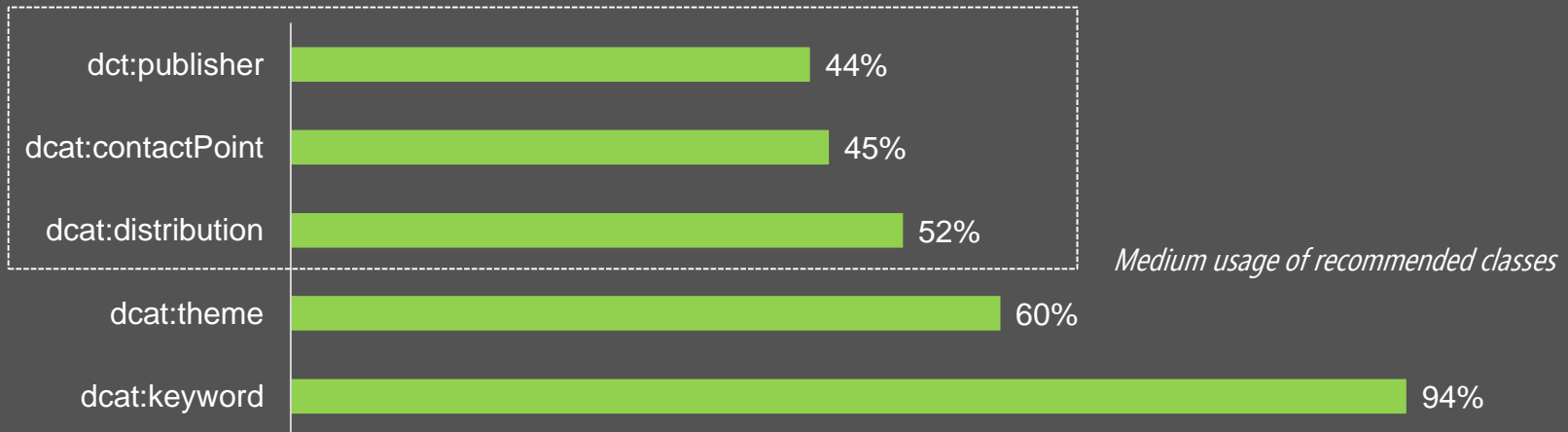


DCAT:DATASET

MANDATORY

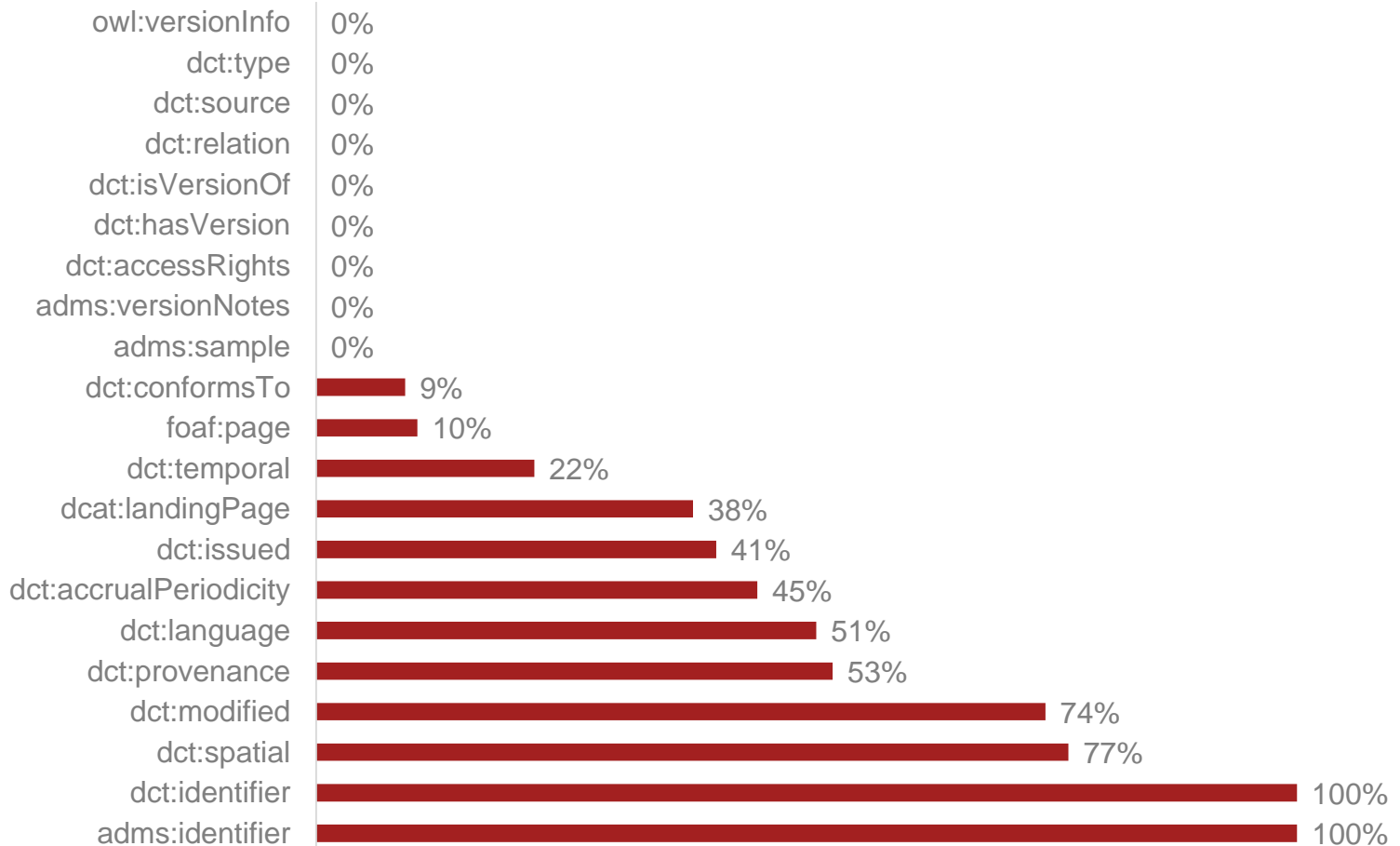


RECOMMENDED

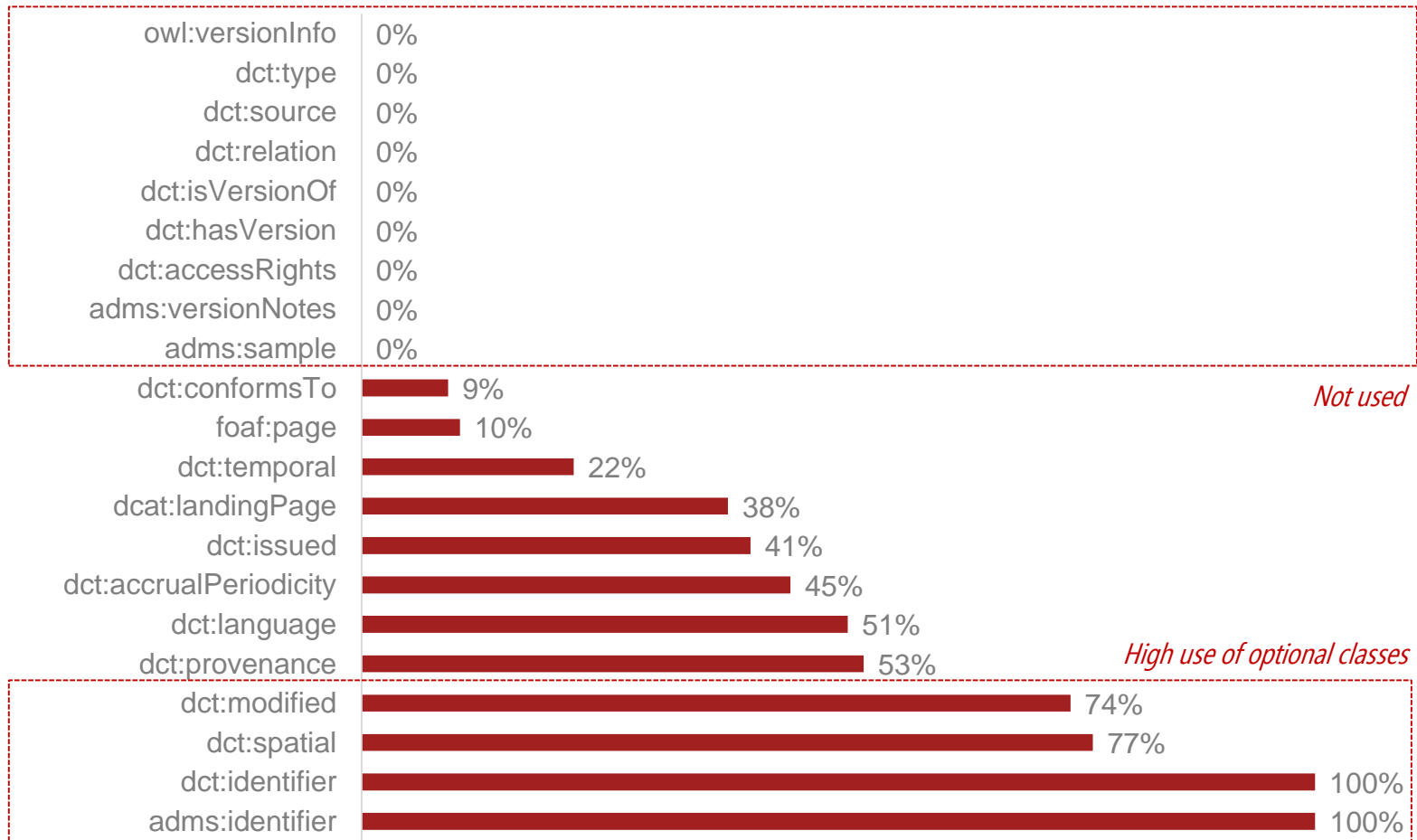


DCAT:DATASET

OPTIONAL



OPTIONAL





Promoting semantic interoperability in Europe

STAY CONNECTED!

PROJECT OFFICERS

Susanne.Wigard@ec.europa.eu

Ana-Maria.Murarasu@ec.europa.eu

GET INVOLVED

- Follow @SEMICEu on Twitter
- Join the SEMIC group on LinkedIn
- Join the SEMIC community on Joinup

VISIT OUR INITIATIVES

ADMS

ASSET
DESCRIPTION
METADATA
SCHEMA

StatDCAT-AP
FOR
STATISTICAL
DATASETS

GeoDCAT-AP
FOR
GEOSPATIAL
DATASETS

DCAT-AP
FOR
DATA PORTALS
IN EUROPE

CORE
PUBLIC
ORGANISATION
VOCABULARY

CORE
PERSON
VOCABULARY

REGISTERED
ORGANISATION
VOCABULARY

CORE
CRITERION &
EVIDENCE
VOCABULARY

CORE
LOCATION
VOCABULARY

CORE
PUBLIC
SERVICE
VOCABULARY

DOCUMENT METADATA

Disclaimer

The views expressed in this report are purely those of the authors and may not, in any circumstances, be interpreted as stating an official position of the European Commission. The European Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the information included in this study, nor does it accept any responsibility for any use thereof. Reference herein to any specific products, specifications, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favouring by the European Commission. All care has been taken by the author to ensure that s/he has obtained, where necessary, permission to use any parts of manuscripts including illustrations, maps, and graphs, on which intellectual property rights already exist from the titular holder(s) of such rights or from her/his or their legal representative.



Version: 1.0

Publication date:

16 October 2017

Created by:

Makx Dekkers [AMI Consult] and Brecht Wyns [PwC EU Services]

Reviewed by:

Susanne Wigard [ISA² Programme, European Commission]