# Meeting Minutes – Webinar 15/09/2021

## DCAT-AP 2.1.0 Webinar #1

| Project | Action 2016-07 Promoting semantic interoperability amongst the EU Member States | Meeting Date/Time | 15/09/2021 10:00-12:00 PM (GMT+1) |
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| Meeting Type | Webinar | Meeting Location | Cisco Webex Meetings |
| Meeting Coordinator | Makx Dekkers | Issue Date | 29/09/2021 |

| Meeting Agenda |
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| 1. Conceptual topics<br> a. DCAT-AP as profile of DCAT<br> i. Representation/reading/profile extension agreements<br> ii. updated UML figure<br> b. Dataset/Distribution/Data Service alignment<br> c. Alignment with external vocabularies + DCAT-AP study plan<br> d. Next steps<br>2. Annex:<br> a. SHACL<br> b. Specific property requests |

**Presentation and meeting details:** https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/semantic-interoperability-community-semic/event/dcat-ap-webinar-15th-september-1000-cet

| Attendee Name | | Organisation/Country |
|---|---|---|
| Aleksandra Lavreneva | AL | PwC |
| Adrià Mercader | AM | Spain |
| Anastasia Sofou | AR | Greece |
| Bart Hanssens | BH | Belgium |
| Bert Van Nuffelen | BVN | Tenforce |
| Carlos Perez | CP | |

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| Christian Horn | CH | Germany |
| Deirdre Lee | DL | Ireland |
| Fredrik Emanuelsson | FE | Sweden |
| Florian Barthélemy | FB | PwC |
| Giovanna Scaglione | GSc | Italy |
| Gyongyver Eori | GE | |
| Hagar-Isabel Lowenthal | HL | Luxembourg |
| Jim Yang | JY | Norway |
| J.P. Lovato | JPL | Switzerland |
| Kestutis Andrijauskas | KA | Lithuania |
| Ludger Rinsche | LR | Germany |
| Makx Dekkers | MD | Independent consultant |
| Martin Alvarez | MA | Spain |
| Matthias Palmér | MP | Sweden |
| Michael Sherwin | MS | |
| Niklas Aspenfjall | NA | Sweden |
| Nuria Cavalle | NC | |
| Pavlina Fragkou | PF | European Commission |
| Piotr Zientarski | PZ | Poland? |
| Seth van Hooland | SVH | European Commission |
| Sigrit Siht | SS | Estonia |

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| Stefano Ambrogio | SA | Italy |
| Tomas Wallin | TW | Sweden |
| Uwe Voges | UV | Germany |
| Xavier Desurmont | XD | Publications Office of the European Union |

## Summary of the meeting

| Topic | Summary |
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| **Welcome** | <ul><li>Seth van Hooland (SVH) opened the webinar by welcoming the participants and thanking them for their active contribution on GitHub.</li><li>Pavlina Fragkou (PF) introduced the objectives of the webinar:<ul><li>Work towards a new minor release</li><li>Resolve a number of open issues</li><li>Align with the community on DCAT-AP as specification</li></ul></li><li>Bert Van Nuffelen (BVN) gave an overview of the open issues and how the editorial team classified them:<ul><li>80 open issues on GitHub: https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP/issues</li><li>54 require some discussions among the community to reach consensus</li><li>26 are considered as out-of-scope for the current release cycle (minor) for various reasons such as issues created for information purpose, topics that are beyond the DCAT-AP specification itself, etc.</li></ul></li><li>BVN added that the webinar today focuses on the conceptual topics. The remaining in-scope issues will be addressed through GitHub.</li><li>A draft proposal for DCAT-AP 2.1.0 is available from: https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP/tree/2.1.0-draft/releases/2.1.0</li></ul> |
| **DCAT-AP as** | **Master file of the specification:** |

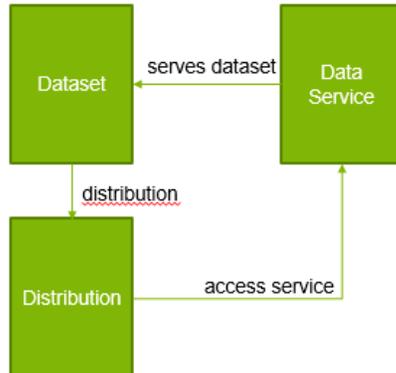| | |
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| **profile of DCAT**<br><br>*Representation/reading/profile extension agreements* | ● Bert Van Nuffelen proposed that the PDF/DOCX/HTML versions of the specification would be used as the master version of the specification while other representations will reflect to the best extent the expressed agreements in the master file.<br><br>● The vast majority of the audience agreed with the proposition.<br><br>● Xavier Desurmont asked about the process to be followed when the SHACL shapes provide valid results: should the PDF/DOC/HTML also be assessed? What about when unvalid results are coming out of the SHACL validation? Seth van Hooland and Makx Dekkers agreed with the importance of the question and proposed to tackle it in later discussions after the webinar.<br><br>● Makx Dekkers added that this will be considered for guidelines by the editorial team, and the comments of Xavier Desurmont would be taken into account when drafting the guidelines.<br><br>**Adoption criteria for properties/classes**<br><br>● All properties from DCAT will not be mentioned directly in the profile but the proposition is to inherit and further specify the ones that are relevant. BVN proposed the following adoption criteria to select the DCAT concepts:<br>   ○ The concepts should be bound to cross-border/EU wide use cases<br>   ○ The concepts require additional semantic precision (some additional information e.g. specific controlled vocabularies and cardinalities) to be specified in DCAT-AP<br><br>● Matthias Palmer proposed to list the properties from DCAT that are concerned in the specification together with a brief explanation about why they are not represented in DCAT-AP.<br><br>● BVN proposed not to include dcat:Resource in DCAT-AP but to limit the model to the classes that are required from a business perspective.<br><br>● Ludger Rinsche provided an example from Norway handling this aspect: https://data.norge.no/specification/dcat-ap-no/#UML-diagram. He proposed to show the existing super-class, but to describe the properties only for the relevant classes (and not super-class).<br><br>● Most of the participants agreed with the proposition to remove dcat:Resource. The editorial team will look into the Norwegian approach.<br><br>● Matthias Palmér added that DCAT-AP is a mix model between an application profile of DCAT and a model introducing new properties using external domains and ranges such as Dublin Core that are much broader than DCAT. He suggested that the UML-diagram would be considered as a pure application profile where properties would only be listed based on their usage scenario rather than where their domain originally comes from. |

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| | The editorial team will consider this option. |
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| | ● Regarding the <u>optional</u> properties and whether they should be maintained in the model, BVN proposed to: |
| |   ○ keep all optional properties for now, and wait until the next iteration to remove optional properties which don't have a specific usage note/use case. |
| |   ○ add the following sentence: "*Any property that is mentioned in DCAT applicable to this class but not explicitly is listed  DCAT-AP is considered an optional field for DCAT-AP.*" |
| | ● Matthias Palmér commented that from a tool developer's perspective it is unclear what this would mean, as it would be an infinite task to provide all optional values. Ludger Rinsche agreed, but added that it is not more difficult for tool builders, as in DCAT-AP optional properties do not have much value. |
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| | ● About the qualification of classes and properties in DCAT-AP, BVN asked whether the mandatory class statement should be adapted. |
| | ● Ludger Rinsche proposed adding a condition that a use case is necessary to make a class mandatory. |
| | ● Matthias Palmer mentioned that mandatory classes do not make sense from a tool development perspective. LR and JY agreed. |
| | ● Audience also agreed to replace the current statement with a clear indication of the use case around the concept of Catalog. |
| **DCAT-AP as profile of DCAT**<br><br>*Updated UML figure* | ● UML figure: BVN described a new proposition for visualising DCAT-AP. |

- [Matthias Palmér](#) asked about the purpose of the diagram: is it to give a general understanding to the reader or an exhaustive list of the properties and classes? He proposed to make the diagram simpler to make it readable. Uwe Voges proposed to provide the full UML diagram in an Annex since it also helps to have a full overview in one diagram.
- Makx Dekkers mentioned that in W3C there is a specification on what an ULM-diagram needs to tell. He agreed with the proposal of Matthias Palmér to make the diagram easier by only indicating relationships between the classes, and not the whole list of properties, which will make the maintenance of the diagram easier. The editorial team will make a detailed proposition.

- BVN presented the fact that there are cases where two properties or more are mapped to the same URI (e.g. dct:type) within one class.

- Makx Dekkers commented that it is a bad practice to map two properties to the same URI.

- Anastasia Sofou proposed to specialise the properties by defining specific properties as a property of a type, this way creating specialised types. BVN proposed to adopt this suggestion.

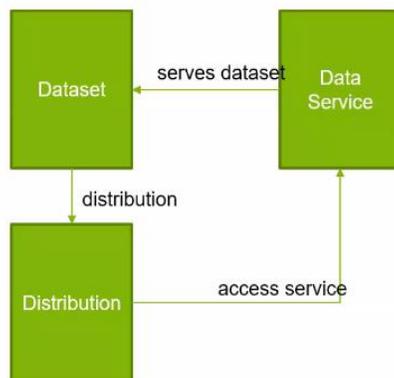| | |
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| **Dataset/Distribution/Data Service** | ● Bert described the existing dependencies between Dataset, Distribution and Data Service classes: |

## Existence dependency



- A distribution cannot exist without a dataset
- A data service can be independent from a dataset or distribution
- DCAT-AP creates a stronger dependency between dataset and distribution: namely datasets without a distribution are incomplete, not desired (distribution is recommended)

## Proposal



- Use Distribution for file-based access to the content of the dataset.

  Normally, a distribution contains all datapoints covered by the dataset.

  Normally, the content of a distribution cannot be manipulated by the user (download).

- Use Data Service for anything else.

Consequence:
- Datasets without (file-based) distributions are very valid.

● Matthias Palmér illustrated Data Service with an example from Sweden: a statistical agency which provides 4.000 datasets, wanted to expose these datasets externally. In order to do that, all the datasets have a data service which is a REST-API. This means that it provides a direct URL to each dataset. All data services should be related to datasets (there is no use case at the moment of a data service unrelated to dataset). Ludger mentioned that they have a use case of a data service not connected to any dataset. BVN asked Ludger to share the use case via GitHub. This will be tackled in a future release of DCAT-AP (not release 2.1.0). The editorial team will create an issue on this.

● Makx proposed to indicate in the specification a similar example as the one above. The editorial team will ask the

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| | community to provide examples such as the ones provided in the discussions. From these examples, clarifications on the usage of Data Service, Distribution and Dataset will be proposed. |
| | ● Uwe Voges asked whether a distribution in the IT context is not always a data access service (as long as we do not consider use cases like sending a CD by mail)? Uwe also asked if a download is considered as a simple service, e.g. with protocol HTTP(S)/GET, an endpoint, etc? ? BVN agreed, stating that HTTP is a service as well. For Ludger, one could do both: Publish the Data Service standalone and then offer "pre-packaged" datasets with distributions and downloadURL. |
| **Alignment with external vocabularies** | ● The participants agreed with the proposition made to follow the DCAT approach for aligning with dcterms 2020, namely: DCAT 2.0 did not change any of their statements, and maintained the rdfs:range. |
| | ● Alignment with DCAT: Bert Van Nuffelen proposed not to address this yet, but to do it in a further version. Bert proposed that when creating an html representation, distinguish the definition from the usage note and copy the definition of DCAT into the specification and move any additional information to the (new) usage note. The editorial team will adopt this approach in the next release. |
| | ● Makx Dekkers mentioned that the DCAT Working Group is really keen to receive any comments on Dataset Series and Dataset Versioning for [DCAT 3](). |
| **DCAT-AP Study** | ● Makx Dekkers explained the approach and objective of the study on DCAT-AP, i.e. to define the long-term vision of DCAT-AP for the next 2-3 years. |
| | ● Makx asked the participants to provide links to new extensions or profiles based on DCAT-AP to the SEMIC team. the current list is the following: |

**DCAT-AP study: profiles**

National profiles

- Belgium: DCAT-BE
- Belgium/Flanders: DCAT-AP-VL
- Denmark: DCAT-AP-DK
- Germany: DCAT-AP.de
- Ireland: Open Data Technical Framework
- Italy: DCAT-AP_IT
- Netherlands: DCAT-DONL
- Norway: DCAT-AP-NO
- Spain: Norma Técnica de Interoperabilidad
- Sweden: DCAT-AP-SE
- Switzerland: DCAT-AP-CH

Domain-specific profiles

- Base registers; ABR-BregDCAT-AP
- Geospatial data: GeoDCAT-AP
- Joint Research Centre: DCAT-AP-JRC
- National access points: napDCAT-AP
- Publications Office of the EU: DCAT-AP-OP
- Statistics: StatDCAT-AP

Please let us know if there are any additional profiles that we should consider

- Ludger provided https://github.com/GovDataOfficial/DCAT-AP.de/issues/22 with an initial list and asked for a consolidated and maintained list on the DCAT-AP GitHub.

- Sebastian Sklarß added a potential study item: the impact of the implementation of the SDG-Regulation (e.g. using BRegDCAT-AP) on DCAT-AP.

| Next steps | |
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| | ● Bert Van Nuffelen explained that the GitHub issues related to the candidate DCAT-AP release 2.1.0 will be frozen as from October 1st. Working Group members willing to provide additional comments on GitHub should do it before this date.<br><br>● The editorial team is aware that some issues require more discussions to reach an agreement: the ones relevant for the minor release will be tackled during the next webinar (around mid-October). Other issues will be tackled in a future (major) release of DCAT-AP.<br><br>● Matthias Palmér indicated that it would be nice to have an HTML version of the specification with anchors to all relevant parts allowing deep linking, e.g. from other profiles. He shared the example of Sweden: https://docs.dataportal.se/dcat/en/<br><br>● BVN presented the categorisation of issues available on GitHub: |

**Github issues**

https://github.com/SEMICeu/DCAT-AP

Issues that are 'closed' (34)

**status:wont-fix**
 - no effect on the specification
**status:fixed**
 - request applied in the draft specification
**status:waitingForDecisionW3C**
 - issue to be handled at W3C

Issues that request 'community feedback' (28)

**status:resolution-provided**
 - resolution provided, but not (yet) in the draft specification
**feedback-requested**
 - issue request community feedback to create a resolution
**topic:cataloged_resource**
 - issue related to the nature of a dataset/data service/distribution.

**Future-work** (12)
 - to be handled in next release

- Ludger asked if there are any plans to align DCAT-AP more with the EDP in order to improve the DCAT-AP compliance which is at 0% for everyone: https://data.europa.eu/mqa/dimensions/interoperability?locale=en? BVN and Xavier Desurmont from the Publications Office will align with Ludger.
- Seth Van Hooland made some announcements:
    - the e-Government Core Vocabularies webinar on the 6th of October 2021
    - the SEMIC Conference on the 8th of December 2021.
- The participants were thanked for their active contribution.