Meeting Minutes: Second Working Group webinar on GeoDCAT-AP (SEMIC - A04.02)

Project:	SEMIC	Date and Time:	12/03/2024 10:00 - 12:00
Meeting Type:	Webinar	Location:	Virtual
Coordinators:	Jakub Klímek Bert Van Nuffelen Pavlina Fragkou	Issue Date:	22/03/2024

Agenda of the webinar			
10:00 - 10:10	Introduction	<u>Slides 1 - 10</u>	
10:10 - 10:15	DCAT-AP Ecosystem, revision plan	<u>Slides 11 - 21</u>	
10:15 - 10:30	Dataset, distribution and their relationships	<u>Slides 22 - 28</u>	
10:30 - 11:00	SEMIC Style Guide alignment	<u>Slides 29 - 39</u>	
11:00 - 11:30	DCAT-AP 3.0.0 alignment	<u>Slides 40 - 44</u>	
11:30 - 11:50	Additional and minor issues	<u>Slides 45 - 51</u>	
11:50 - 12:00	Next steps	<u>Slides 52 - 56</u>	

Meeting Slides
<u>LINK</u>

Participants		
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Points discussed and decisions taken

Topic discussed	Outcome			
Datasets, Distributions and their relationships issues				
Issue <u>#79</u> Usage of Dataset Series in the geospatial community.	Feedback on this issue is requested on <u>GitHub</u> .			
Issue <u>#106</u> Language of a Data Service.	Approved.			
Issue <u>#88</u> Usage note of character encodings for Catalogue Record and Distribution.	SEMIC proposition for Distribution approved. Counter proposition for Catalogue Record approved.			
SEMIC Style Guide Alignment issues				
Issue #77 Use of dct:type for multiple purposes on Data Service.	The resolution of this issue is postponed and feedback is requested on <u>GitHub</u> .			
Issue <u>#78</u> Use of dct:subject for a specific code list.	The resolution of this issue is postponed and feedback is requested on <u>GitHub</u> .			
Issue <u>#94</u> Use of dct:conformsTo for Reference system in a specific context.	The resolution of this issue is postponed and feedback is requested on <u>GitHub</u> .			
Issue <u>#95</u> Use of rdfs:comment for Spatial resolution as text in a specific context.	Approved.			

DCAT-AP 3.0.0 Alignment issues		
Issue <u>#90</u> Inverse properties.	Approved.	
Issue <u>#92</u> Differences in usage of adms:identifier between GeoDCAT-AP and DCAT-AP.	Approved.	
Issue <u>#84</u> Differences in code list usage for dct:accessRights.	Feedback on this issue is requested on <u>GitHub</u> .	
Additional issues		
Issue <u>#108</u> Use of rdfs:label for long text.	Approved.	
Issue <u>#111</u> Use of descriptive properties of supporting classes.	Feedback for this issue is requested on <u>GitHub</u> .	
Issue #101 & #109 Use of supporting classes in terms of optionality or recommendation.	The resolution of this issue is postponed and feedback is requested via <u>GitHub#101</u> and <u>GitHub#109</u> .	

Full Meeting Minutes

Welcome & Introduction	PF welcomes the participants and goes over the webinar practicalities.
<u>Slides 1 - 10</u>	The SEMIC context is provided as a facilitator of interoperability in Europe by a number of specifications, pilots and a knowledge hub to share documentation.
Speaker: Pavlina	
Fragkou	 The focus areas of SEMIC are: Semantic specifications and extensions Catalogue of Services Base Registries Support in interoperability policy implementation Al4interoperability4Al SEMIC specifications enable interoperability: They make data transparent and available They support the coherent implementation of laws and policies
	 They help implement cost efficiencies They help digitalisation and harmonising processes The objective of DCAT-AP is to support the discovery of/access to (open) data in a cross-border and cross-domain environment, by

	describing the expression of metadata to be harvested across a distributed network of portals.
	The revision of GeoDCAT-AP is a collaborative effort between the Joint Research Community, DG ENV, and SEMIC (DIGIT).
DCAT-AP Ecosystem, revision plan	Inputs for GeoDCAT-AP are on one side W3C DCAT, DCAT-AP and its annex DCAT-AP for HVD. From the geospatial side the inputs are the ISO and INSPIRE directives. OGC also has an initiative called the GeoDCAT Standards Working Group. In the revision of GeoDCAT-AP
<u>Slides 11 - 21</u>	the aim is to also be compliant with GeoDCAT.
Speaker: Jakub Klímek, Bert Van Nuffelen	GeoDCAT-AP can ease the upcoming High-Value Datasets reporting through DCAT-AP HVD. At the same time it increases the findability of geospatial datasets in generic open data portals.
	During the introductory webinar the tools related to GeoDCAT-AP were mentioned. In a poll it became clear that the GeoDCAT-AP XSLT was a tool people were familiar with, use or plan on using. The other tools were largely unknown to the community.
	Today's focus is on Datasets, Distribution and their relationships. Additionally, alignment with DCAT-AP 3.0.0 will be covered. The full workplan for the revision of the specification is the following:
	 Working Group Webinar 1 - Concerning generic organisation & findability (this webinar) Datasets, Distributions and their relationships Categories (alignment with DCAT-AP 3.0): keywords, categories, themes Working Group Webinar 2 – specific geo-aspects (23/04/2024) Geospatial coverage & resolution Coordinate reference systems & spatial representation type
	 Working Group Webinar 3 (date to be defined) – relationship with INSPIRE GeoDCAT-AP related tools such as XSLT
	 Regular issues are to be discussed and/or voted on during webinars. The webinar:<webinar-date> label will be used to indicate issues to be discussed. 2024-03-12 2024-04-23 2024-05 </webinar-date> Minor issues are to be discussed and/or voted on on GitHub/ These issues will be listed in webinar slides. They are to be resolved before the indicated webinar. They are to be escalated to regular issues in case of bigger discussion.

	The thumbs up and thumbs down feature on GitHub will be used to hold a vote to accept or reject the resolution. When a thumbs down is given, textual feedback is expected as well.
Issues: Datasets, Distributions and their relationships Slides 22 - 28 Speaker: Jakub Klímek	 Issue #79: There is a need to determine how dataset series is used in the INSPIRE community. Whether it is just a grouping of datasets, or whether it actually uses all properties defined for datasets and services. If used just for grouping of datasets, similarly to DCAT-AP, there might be no need to map all Dataset properties also for Data Series in GeoDCAT-AP In DCAT-AP a Dataset Series is a collection of datasets that are published separately, but share some characteristics that group them. The expectation is that there are datasets that belong to a dataset series, which serves as a grouping element. In INSPIRE a Spatial Dataset Series is a collection of spatial data sets sharing the same product specification. There is no requirement that the datasets of the series are published separately. In INSPIRE the fact whether a metadata record is a dataset or a series is indicated in the ScopeCode. Lastly, there is the use of parentIdentifier which is similar to DCAT-AP's in Series. SEMIC Proposition: Feedback is requested on usage of Dataset Series via GitHub issue #79. Issue #106: In GeoDCAT-AP 2.0.0, the usage note of DataService.language refers to the whole instance of the class on which it is used. From this wording it is unclear to what exactly the property refers to. The language of the data is covered by Dataset.language, but the exact meaning of DataService.language is unclear. Current wording: <i>This property refers to a language supported by the Data Service.</i> Actual meaning: <i>The language of the parameters of the service and of the data structures (XML tags, CSV column headers, JSON key names, etc.) returned by that service.</i> SEMIC Proposition: Change the usage note to: <i>The language of the structure that can be returned by querying the endpointURL.</i> Resolution:

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	Most of the votes in the chat indicate indifference towards this proposition. Some votes favour the proposed resolution and none are against, therefore it is accepted.
	Discussion: BF mentions that they use technical specifications in a certain language, for these different specifications the data remains the same such that it is structured and machine-readable regardless of language. The Dataset.language is used to indicate what the language of the documentation is, but not the language of the model (XML tags, column headers, etc). For the Data Service it should also point to the language of the documentation. BF argues that when you have a dataset in multiple languages, you no longer have the same dataset.
	Issue <u>#88</u>: In GeoDCAT-AP 2.0.0, the usage note of character encoding refers to the whole instance of the class on which it is used.
	Current wording for Catalogue record: This property SHOULD be used to specify the character encoding of the Catalogue Record.
	Actual meaning for Catalogue record: The textual metadata properties used on the Dataset linked using foaf:primaryTopic.
	Current wording for Distribution: <i>This property</i> SHOULD be used to specify the character encoding of the Distribution.
	Actual meaning for Distribution: The textual content of the downloadable file linked using dcat:downloadURL or findable using dcat:accessURL, or in the output of the data service linked using dcat:accessService.
	From the current wording it is unclear what exactly is being referred to in both cases.
	SEMIC Proposition: Change the usage not for Catalogue Record to: A character encoding used in the textual metadata describing titles, descriptions, etc. of the Catalogued Resource.
	Change the usage note of Distribution to: A character encoding used in the downloadable file or output of the data service represented by the Distribution.
	Resolution: The proposition to change the wording of the usage note for Distribution receives a majority of votes. The proposition is therefore accepted.

	The counter proposition of dropping the encoding of Catalogue Record receives votes that indicate indifference, however also votes in favour are received. The counter proposition is accepted and the fixed encoding of UTF-8 will be added in the usage note. Discussion: JZ wonders whether we really need the different encodings for the Catalogue record because he regards it as an RDF Resource, for which the encoding problem does not exist since it is UTF-8 by default. However, JK mentions that this is not the case for the INSPIRE metadata where XML is used and UTF-8 is not the default encoding. Therefore, in the case where GeoDCAT-AP metadata is exchanged from INSPIRE metadata it is useful, because otherwise metadata may be lost. MP agrees with JZ. He argues that when one faces a character encoding problem it should be converted when transforming into RDF. Always using UTF-8, also when you go from RDF to XML, will prevent confusion. These properties that dictate the encoding of other triples in the Catalogue Record should not be specified on the level of the triple.
	BF notes that he would like to receive the presentation a couple of days beforehand as it would be easier to prepare for the questions and the issues as they are quite specific and require preparation to be answered suitably. AA & LD agree with this. The participants are pointed to the GitHub repository to see a detailed overview of all issues that will be discussed during upcoming webinars
Issues: SEMIC Style guide alignment Slides 29 - 39 Speaker: Jakub Klímek, Bert Van Nuffelen	 Issue #77: In GeoDCAT-AP 2.0.0 dct:type on Data Service is used in three different contexts: In service category with the "Classification of spatial data services" code list. In service type with the "Spatial data service types" code list. In type with the "Resource types" code list. (this one also appears in Dataset). Correct assignment of usage notes, labels and required code lists, as well as validation, is rather difficult. It is not in line with guidelines of the SEMIC Style Guide Reuse of a property with semantic adaptations or Reuse of a property with semantic adaptations. It is even more problematic in a cross-profile environment as incompatible requirements can be easily made

 geodcat-ap:serviceCategory for "Classification of spatial data services" code list geodcat-ap:serviceType for "Spatial data service types" code list geodcat-ap:resourceType for "Resource types" code list with the domain of dcat:Resource to accommodate both for Datasets and Data Services
Resolution: The resolution of this issue is postponed and feedback is requested at <u>GitHub</u> .
Discussion: MP mentions that this could be something to raise in the Style Guide. What is common is that when looking for properties to reuse they may be hard to find and something generic like dct:type or dct:conformsTo is used. Therefore, the problem is more broad and could be discussed in the Style Guide according to MP. BVN replies that this is a valid comment. The intention is to have properties with unique definitions that can be reused, however, adding cardinalities and code lists are very restrictive and make generic reuse of the properties rather difficult.
MG wants to support what Matthias says. It is impossible to have specific enough properties for all use cases.
MP suggests to postpone this question. MG agrees with postponing. BVN mentions that it can be an outcome of a mapping for example code in INSPIRE metadata to a DCAT-AP level. The outcome of the mapping could be dct:type with many values and no constraints. If the property is being reused as a unique element, then it becomes hard to distinguish different elements described by the same property in the same class. MP adds that there are ways in SHACL to create distinction.
MP says that the same problem exists with dct:subject and dcat:theme and there will be many additional properties. If such sub profiling is allowed, it will diverge further and further from the generic DCAT-AP and it will be harder to interpret. He would like to see this discussion in the Style Guide. MG argues that using sub properties is in the field of ontology building and is a bad practice in sub profiling. Therefore he agrees clear guidelines should be made on the level of the Style Guide. A solution could be sub profiling in SHACL which allows the addition of a list of constraints, for example the existence of three dct:type instances with certain values from a controlled lists and other constraints. Then, a mechanism can be defined in the Style Guide how to import profiles and connect them in a correct fashion. For MG this is the only viable solution, compared to mapping out the world, which is impossible.
BVN asks whether the properties on the slide (service category, service type, and type) are constraints on dct:type or whether the Working

Group would like to see a unique management, definition, evolution, etc. (reusable asset) for these properties. MG does not see a real reuse outside the scope of GeoDCAT-AP, but the practice opens a door. If it can be applied here, it can be applied anywhere else, which he would argue against. Therefore, it should be kept generic. MZ and BF agree with this.
GN adds that the idea is that things are done only once. This should be working for both more specific levels, like ISO and INSPIRE but also the generic DCAT-AP world. She argues that the point that MP and MG make mostly applies from a DCAT-AP perspective, but that these issues on sub profiling are present in more specific domains. She does, however, agree that there should be a unified approach.
JK proposes to postpone the decision on this proposition. JEP agrees and suggests further discussion of issues for which no consensus can be found during this webinar and on GitHub. The decision for these issues can be postponed as many community members feel insufficiently prepared to make a binding decision.
Issue <u>#78</u> : The generic property dct:subject is used for specific code list "Topic categories in accordance with EN ISO 19115" (see <u>B.6.8.1 Topic category and keyword in datasets and dataset series</u>).
The same problems persist as for the previous issue.
SEMIC Proposition: Introduce subproperty of dct:subject: geodcat-ap:topicCategory for "Topic categories in accordance with EN ISO 19115" code list.
Resolution: The resolution of this issue is postponed and feedback is requested at <u>GitHub</u> .
Discussion: This issue will be treated the same as issue <u>#77</u> .
Issue <u>#94</u>: The generic property dct:conformsTo is used in a specific context for a Reference system. (Catalogue, Dataset, Distribution, Data Service).
 SEMIC Proposition: 1. Merge usage notes to <i>conforms to</i>, .This means the usage note of the referenceSysytem will be added to conformsTo, or 2. Introduce a subproperty of dct:conformsTo: geodcatap:referenceSystem.
Resolution:

Opinions on this issue are mixed. Some participants vote in favour of merging, however, other participants vote for introducing a subproperty. Therefore, the issue is postponed. BVN mentions that the motivation for the proposition will be added more clearly, for each specific case.
Discussion: MP comments that even if we decide to use the same property for multiple usages doesn't mean that the usage notes need to be merged. BVN adds that it would be the case where there is a different label for the property and it needs to be clear. MP agrees that in certain cases it is necessary but there needs to be good guidelines. BVN adds that this is why we need input from the community.
Issue <u>#95</u>: The generic property rdfs:comment is used in a specific context for Spatial resolution as text.
SEMIC Proposition: Introduce property geodcatap:spatialResolutionAsText and attach the usage notes there. Consequently, deprecate usage of rdfs:comment for spatial resolution completely.
Discussion: A majority of votes in favour are posted in the chat and the resolution is accepted.
Poll The following poll was conducted to estimate the (intended) use of GeoDCAT-AP and if used how it would be implemented.
How do you use GeoDCAT-AP?
We implement GeoDCAT-AP ourselves.
We will definitely implement GeoDCAT-AP ourselves.
We rely on the Commission to implement GeoDCAT-AP for example for harvesting.

	If you implement GeoDCAT-AP, how? 15 8
	We use the provided XSLT transformation from CSW.
	We use an adjusted version of the XSLT from CSW.
	We use GeoDCAT-AP natively, as RDF.
	We implement an ad-hoc transformation 53%
Issues: DCAT-AP 3.0.0 alignment	Issue <u>#90</u>: DCAT 3 has a policy on usage of inverse properties. They may be used only in addition to the primary ones.
<u>Slides 40 - 44</u> Speaker: Jakub	DCAT-AP 3.0 adopted the approach. GeoDCAT-AP 2.0.0 includes the following inverse properties:
Klímek, Bert Van Nuffelen	 dct:isVersionOf a. to be replaced with dcat:isVersionOf from DCAT-AP 3.0. 2. foaf:isPrimaryTopicOf used in several examples.
	 SEMIC Proposition: The proposition is to follow the approach of DCAT-AP 3.0 and remove inverse properties from GeoDCAT-AP. Specifically: deprecate dct:isVersionOf in favour of the new dcat:hasVersion (dct:hasVersion replacement), and change examples to use the primary foaf:primaryTopic
	Discussion: The majority of the votes in favour of the proposition, therefore the proposition is accepted.
	 Issue #92: Differences in adms:Identifier usage between GeoDCAT-AP and DCAT-AP 3.0: 1. skos:notation is mandatory in DCAT-AP 3.0, but optional in GeoDCAT-AP 2.0.0 2. the range of skos:notation in GeoDCAT-AP is defined as: rdfs:Literal typed with the URI of one of the members of the DataCite Resource Identifier Scheme [DataCite-RIS]
	It is unclear why the range of rdfs:Literal was narrowed down to only DataCite Resource Identifier Scheme. Additionally there is a conflict with the usage note on other identifier which says 'This property refers to a secondary identifier of the Dataset, such as MAST/ADS [MAST-ADS], [DataCite], [DOI], [EZID] or [W3ID].'

SEMIC Proposition: The proposition is to align with DCAT-AP 3.0, i.e. make skos:notation mandatory, and • lift the range restriction on DataCite **Discussion:** The majority of the votes in favour of the proposition, therefore the proposition is accepted. Issue **#84**: In DCAT-AP 3.0, the EU Vocabularies Access rights NAL MUST be used with dct:accessRights. In GeoDCAT-AP, also the INSPIRE Limitations on Public Access vocabulary can be used, and also a blank node with a textual label is allowed. This situation is similar to other cases (dcat:theme, ...) **SEMIC** Proposition: The proposition is to discuss the meaning of MUST on controlled vocabularies to be used with DCAT-AP. Either 1. This is OK, but one of the values of dct:accessRights MUST be from the EU Vocabularies Access rights NAL, or 2. Values other than the ones from the EU Vocabularies Access rights NAL are forbidden. Then a. new property has to be defined in DCAT-AP for usage with the EU Vocabularies Access rights NAL b. new property has to be defined in GeoDCAT-AP for usage with the INSPIRE Limitations on Public Access 3. 1:1 mapping will be devised **Resolution:** Feedback on this issue is requested on GitHub. Discussion: MZ wonders whether it is possible to validate such cases as being part of a scheme. For example a requirement could be, that dct:accessRights must provide at least one URI from a controlled vocabulary scheme. BF and MP agree with MZ's proposition. BVN replies that this is one of the interpretations of MUST, however it must be confirmed that this is applicable to all meanings of MUST in all cases. It should not be the case that MUST has two distinct interpretations in the same table. MP argues that this is the same issue of reuse of the same property, i.e., using the same property for two different purposes and the associated validation problems.

	LHP votes for alternative 1 or 3. She doesn't think it is top priority to keep the contents of the INSPIRE code list. DL mentions that the limitations of public actors are specified in the INSPIRE directive, which is a legal text. Other directives may also have limitations. Therefore, DL is interested in how to manage these different limitations (vocabularies) when they cannot be mapped one-to-another. BVN replies that there are two aspects to this question. At the EU level there should be an effort to reduce these occurrences. However, if they do, the effort should be taken to map them and maintain them in a machine-readable format. Ideally there would be as little mappings as possible. Additional alignment issues Using dcat:landingPage also for services (#9) Maintenance frequency code list (#56) Add dcat:DatasetSeries (#71) Add properties for dcat:DatasetSeries (#72) Agent.Type definition alignment (#85) Distribution availability vocabulary update (#86) CatalogueRecord.changetype definition difference (#87) Checksum usage alignment (#89) Distribution byte size range change (#91) Temporal literals (#93) Split current usage notes into definitions and usage notes as in DCAT-AP (#105) The community is requested to provide input on these issues on GitHub such that they can be resolved before the next webinar, which will be held on the 23th of April.
Issues: Additional issues Slides 45 - 51 Speaker: Jakub Klímek, Bert Van Nuffelen	Issue #108:rdfs:label is used for potentially long texts where dct:description might be a better fit.In addition, those places are instances of Dublin Core classes, so a Dublin Core property might be a better fit.The use of rdfs:label comes from a deprecated Dublin Core Usage Guideline.
	SEMIC Proposition: The proposition is to change the following usages of rdfs:label to dct:description: 1. Rights statement text 2. Provenance statement text 3. Licence text (if not removed in #113) Resolution:

The majority of the votes in the chat are in favour of the proposition, therefore it is accepted.

Issue <u>#111</u>:

Properties listed for supporting classes like Standard are probably meant to be used when an IRI of the instance of the class cannot be determined. When such an IRI is known, there should be no need to use the descriptive properties.

SEMIC Proposition:

The proposition is to add an explicit note saying that the properties for supporting classes are to be used mainly when the IRI of the class instance is unknown.

Resolution:

Feedback for this issue is requested during the webinar and on GitHub.

Discussion:

MZ wonders what happens when an IRI is known, but the IRI does not provide any additional information, like dct:title, owl:versionInfo. He argues it would be useful to provide these values in addition to an IRI. JK mentions that the assumption is made that linked standards and elements that have IRIs will be described sufficiently to be usable as links from the GeoDCAT-AP records.

MP argues to have this on the conformsTo property, not title and version. Making this into a generic paragraph that can be referred to from several places or lifting it to the Style Guide could be options. MG agrees with the counter proposition to lift this discussion to the Style Guide. JK replies that there is a problem that some standards do not have a title, such as codelist. However, in this case the title is expected with an IRI.

MP adds that EU names are referred to, sometimes a label is provided even though the IRIs are well established. Maybe there are three cases, including well-known but a label is provided nonetheless. BF agrees with this.

BVN agrees with MP but there is a challenge in the specification when a label is used when a label is provided by the service, for example in the case of Geonames. Expressing this subtlety in the specification in terms of expectations is difficult.

Issue <u>#101</u> & <u>#109</u>:

GeoDCAT-AP defines recommended and optional properties for supporting classes. However, recommended properties seem not to be used even in GeoDCAT-AP examples.

It is unclear what the exact meaning of recommended is in this case:

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	 Should the properties be used with all standards mentioned in GeoDCAT-AP. Should they be used only for standards for which there are no URIs. Is there a registry of standards in which the standards are documented using the recommended properties.
	SEMIC Proposition: The proposition is to not differentiate optional, recommended and mandatory properties for supporting classes.
	Resolution: The participants mention that evaluating this proposition would need more time. Therefore, voting for this issue will be postponed.
	 Additional issues Relation of various Agent classes used throughout the specification (<u>#112</u>)
	 Minor/Editorial issues Clarify meaning of multiple spatial / geographic coverages on a Data Service (#96) Clarify the usage note of Distribution.representation technique (#97) Remove note from the Kind class (#98) Limit the range of vcard:hasEmail (#99) Multiple character encodings for Catalogue Record (#103) Geographic name optional, yet 1n (#104) Remove example for Media Type as it is confusing (#110) Feedback is requested on the GitHub issues section and if no feedback
	is received they will be regarded as resolved for the next webinar.
Next steps Slides 52 - 56 Speaker: Pavlina Fragkou	PF encourages the participants to make use of the <u>GeoDCAT-AP</u> <u>GitHub</u> page. She adds that a list of issues will be sent out before the start of the next webinar but that issues will have to be added sufficiently beforehand as they cannot be included on a last minute basis. However, the request to facilitate the participants is heard.
	The request to escalate certain issues to the Style Guide will be considered and how they could be potentially addressed in a Style Guide webinar. However, the intention is to not break existing implementations in the Geospatial community.
	The participants are thanked for their contributions.