

SC63-D02.03 Report on the workshop

Action 4.2.4 European Federated Interoperability Repository

Specific Contract 63 within Framework Contract DI/07171 – Lot 2

Project:	Action 4.2.4 EFIR	Meeting Date/Time:	12/05/2015 10:00-12:00
Meeting Type:	Webinar	Meeting Location:	Adobe Connect
Meeting Coordinator:	Zakaria Arrassi	Issue Date:	13/05/2015

Attendee Name (<i>present</i>)	Initials	Organisation
Szabolcs Szekacs	SzSz	ISA Programme, DIGIT.B6, European Commission
Zoric Milan	ZM	ETSI : European Telecommunications Standards Institute
Gianguglielmo Calvi	GC	UN/CEFACT
Fineke Beukema	FB	e-CODEX Catalogue of Interoperability Solutions
Willem Van Gemert	WVG	Publications Office / Metadata registry
Elena Muñoz	EM	Center for Technology Transfer
Gordon Dunsire	GD	Open Metadata Registry
Joan Bremers	JB	PwC EU Services
Zakaria Arrassi	ZA	PwC EU Services
Thibaut Knop	TK	PwC EU Services
Lola Garcia Barron	LGB	PwC EU Services
Hannes Heylen	HH	PwC EU Services

Meeting Agenda

1. Introduction
2. EFIR overview
3. Low reuse and downloads of solutions from federated repositories
4. Eligibility criteria
5. Solution description template
6. Tools overview
7. Brainstorming sessions

Summary of Meeting

Topic	Summary
	The presentation is available on https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/CITnet/confluence/display/SEMIC/SC63-D02.03+Report+on+the+workshop
Introduction	<p>The interoperability solutions on Joinup is a catalogue of interoperability solutions described using the ADMS Application Profile for Joinup (ADMS-AP), with already 44 federated repositories. The European Commission would like to share the lessons learnt based on the first 3 years of ADMS-enabled federation on the Interoperability Solutions on Joinup and discuss the future of the federation with its stakeholders.</p> <p>On 12th May, the European Commission has hosted an online webinar in order to bring together the Community of Interoperability Solution Repositories (CISR). The objective of this webinar is twofold: firstly, to present the current status of the federation, the different tools and support</p>

	<p>instruments provided to the CISR members, and secondly to gather input on how to create more value for the stakeholders.</p> <p>The online webinar is a unique opportunity for e-Government and interoperability experts, standardisation bodies, open source developers and managers of solutions repositories to connect and share their needs and ideas which will help us form the future of Interoperability Solutions on Joinup.</p> <p>The webinar targeted the representatives of the current federated repositories.</p> <p>Preparatory material and documentation including list of participants, detailed agenda, invitation template, practical information and promotion ways can be found in SC63-D02.02 Preparatory material for the workshop.</p>						
<p>EFIR Overview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An overview of the EFIR has been given to the workshop participant by SzSz 						
<p>Low reuse and downloads of solutions from federated repositories (slides 8 and 9)</p>	<div> <p>A pie chart titled "AVERAGE DOWNLOADS" comparing the percentage of downloads from federated repositories versus hosted solutions. The chart shows that 93% of downloads come from hosted solutions, while only 7% come from federated repositories. A legend at the top identifies the blue slice as "Federated repositories" and the red slice as "Hosted solutions".</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Federated repositories</td> <td>7%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hosted solutions</td> <td>93%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p><i>Figure 1 -Federated repositories represent only 7% downloads</i></p> <p>On the statements :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reuse of interoperability solutions remains low (Figure 1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 4.7% of the total number of page views lead to a download or an exit to a federation partner) and it is hard to identify known reuses of interoperability solutions. There is no proven value and benefits delivered to the federation partners (only few visitors are redirected from Joinup to their websites. <p>Collected feedback :</p> <p>Elena Muñoz from the Center for Technology Transfer, pointed out that it is very difficult to describe all information using the ADMS-AP properties. On their national repository they have much more information than what is available on Joinup, but there is no easy way to map that information to the ADMS-AP properties. Besides since all solutions from the national repository target Spanish public administrations, information is in Spanish and human translation towards English is a very costly solution.</p> <p>Elena also explained that among the 300 solutions published in the CTT repository, the top ten are producing more than 80% of the downloads. She added that visitors of the national repository connect to find a specific solution they already know and not to discover new ones, which seems to be in accordance with the behaviour of visitors of the EFIR. Because of this however they can</p>	Category	Percentage	Federated repositories	7%	Hosted solutions	93%
Category	Percentage						
Federated repositories	7%						
Hosted solutions	93%						

get to know the repository, and next time come back to look for something else.

To increase the visibility of solutions on their national repository, CTT focuses on creating links between different assets [Action 01]. They have around 400 000 downloads per year.

Willem van Gemert, from the Publications Office and representing the Metadata registry shared with the participants his fears regarding the stability and the services offered by Joinup. Their repository has been unpublished for almost a year due to a bug in the Joinup system [Action 02]. For Willem, there is a lack of confidence in the system which does not motivate owners to invest in creating quality content and users to search for new solutions. He also pointed out that if users are not convinced that something has changed, they will not regain confidence in Joinup.

WVG did not know the information concerning the number of downloads by heart but he would send an email for this after the Webinar.

Gianguglielmo Calvi acting as an observer for the UN/CEFACT repository had some concerns about the statistics and the timeframe chosen. In his opinion, the use of specific solutions are discontinuous in time. However, ZA highlighted the fact that the statistics have low variance over the months, with an exception for new releases or promotion via the website of the solution owner, which in general results in higher traffic.

Eligibility criteria (slide 12)

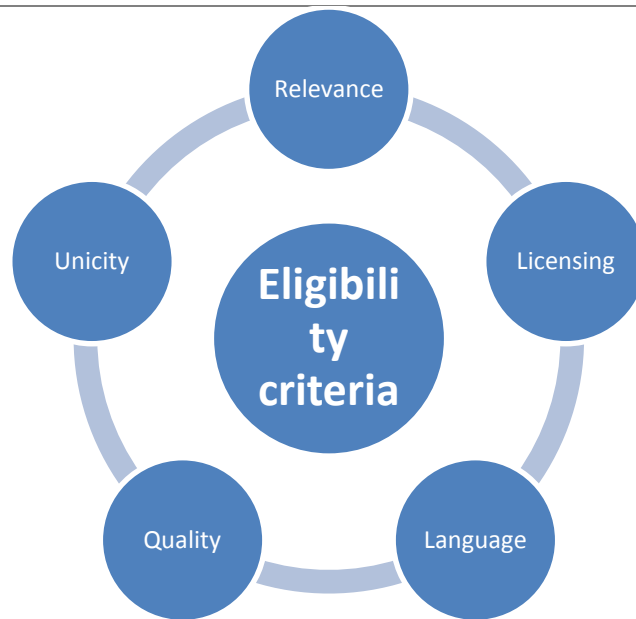


Figure 2 - Eligibility criteria

On the eligibility criteria depicted in Figure 2

- **Language:** at least in English (machine translation CAN be provided for federated repository).
- **Licensing:** open-source and free of charge (some exception at the EU level is possible).
- **Relevance:** Specific use for public administrations + link clearly stated and explained.
- **Quality:** conformance to ADMS-AP + quality of description (solution description template to be followed).
- **Unicity:** duplicates shall be avoided.

Collected feedback:

Elena Muñoz from the Center for Technology Transfer explained that reusing solutions for public administrations is already complex on a national point of view but is even more on an EU or international perspective. She proposes to focus only on the most interesting ones per Member

	<p>State. For example, among the 300 solutions published on their repository, most of them are only relevant for national/regional and local public administrations and should maybe not be published on Joinup. Besides they are not worth the translation effort. By focusing on 20 or 30 solutions and manually providing very high quality we could increase the relevance of each federated repository [Action 03].</p> <p>Regarding the licensing criteria, she pointed out that there is no licensing information for services although Joinup is publishing services. SzSz asked for her opinion about the publishing of services in EFIR federated repositories. Elena finds it useful and relevant to allow visitors to see which services are proposed in each country. However the question of the reusability raises here since a service is not re-usable <i>per se</i>.</p> <p>Willem van Gemert, from the Publications Office and representing the Metadata registry agreed that the scoping exercise is needed to bring more relevance in the EFIR. He would like PwC to get in touch with him regarding the use and the modification done to the ADMS-AP data model preventing their file to be automatically harvested [Action 04]. The automatic harvesting is the key functionality for the metadata registry and in his opinion, this feature is very relevant to promote the usage of ADMS-AP.</p>
<p>Solution description template (slide 13)</p>	<p>On the solution description template :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General description: overview, golden paragraph of the solution? • Needs that the solution addresses: what needs does the solution address? • Features that the solution implements: what are the main features that the solution addresses. In other words, how does the solution address the needs? • Typical intended audience: what is/are the target audience(s) of the solutions? Who are the end users? • How to reuse the solution: how can the intended audience re-use the solutions? What are the steps to follow? How to begin? • Standards used in the solution (if any): what international or national standards or specifications are used within the solution? • Contribution of the solution to a policy (if any): does the solution contribute, is it endorsed, or was it developed in the context of a public policy? <p>Collected feedback:</p> <p>Willem van Gemert, from the Publications Office and representing the Metadata registry pointed out that it would be easier if they could include answers to all question directly in ADMS rather than on the Joinup form. SzSz answered that this is already possible via the free-text description property (<i>dct:description</i>). Willem said that they could do the effort to improve the description of their assets little by little [Action 05]. Willem also pointed out that it would be interesting to have some more information on ADMS-AP in order to optimize its use.</p> <p>Elena Muñoz from the Center for Technology Transfer told that most of the answers required are part of the information they have on their national repository. As Willem, she agreed to improve and structure the description of their top solutions accordingly to the solution description template [Action 06]. She also noted that in their repository, they review the description quality in some cases, but after the solutions are published they are completely independent and no more review is performed.</p>
<p>Tools overview (slide 15)</p>	<p>On the available tools and suport for importing solution on Joinup :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FusionForge Plugin

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excel sheet • Manual entry of solutions on Joinup • Machine translation of solution descriptions • Support team <p>Collected feedback:</p> <p>Elena Muñoz from the Center for Technology Transfer said to be very sceptical regarding the use of the FusionForge plugin for different reasons. The first and most important one is that repositories running on FusionForge instances are, at least in Spain, local repositories that do not only target public administrations. Federating those forges on EFIR impacts therefore negatively the relevance. Second reason is that the description of a solution in a FusionForge instance is often very poor (1 or 2 lines). More information can be found in the wiki, in the news, etc. but there is therefore no way to extract those unstructured data in a consistent way. Information extracted from the FusionForge instances is of very low quality and therefore goes in contradiction with the objectives and eligibility criteria of EFIR. Those two reasons explain why CTT has decided to not use the FusionForge plugin. They instead created their own exporter. To improve the performance of this one, Elena would like to have a talk with PwC regarding the best ways to describe the assets [Action 07].</p> <p>Gianguglielmo Calvi acting as an observer for the UN/CEFACT repository pointed out that providing machine translation goes in contradiction with the quality requirement. Machine translations are of low quality, induce a loss of semantic and make the translated text unreadable. More importantly, Google is punishing the use of machine translation on content items by decreasing its ranking in its search engine. This last point is really relevant when talking about the EFIR and the discovery of new solutions.</p>
<p>Brainstorming session (slide 17)</p>	<p>On the three topics for the brainstorm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to increase solution re-use? • How to improving the quality? • Future cooperation. <p>Collected feedback:</p> <p>Willem van Gemert, from the Publications Office and representing the Metadata</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some assets (mainly metadata description model like the ELI for example) are not yet described in ADMS-AP and therefore not yet published on Joinup. If they see that Joinup is improving and become more stable they may create those descriptions [Action 08]. • Whenever a new solution is published on the EU Open Data Portal, two descriptions are created: the one for the Open Data Portal and the one in ADMS for Joinup. Therefore, all changes in ADMS-AP should be clearly communicated and in advance if possible. The ADMS-AP description creation is an important step in their information workflow. • The automatic harvesting feature is an option for them. It has to be operational and Willem pointed out that this is critical to keep repositories up-to-date [Action 09]. As far as they are concerned the repository is updated roughly every month. • What they expect from Joinup is to make their asset visible and searchable via a user-friendly and stable platform. EFIR is for them an interesting way to improve the visibility of their asset with little effort once the ADMS-AP template has been created. • They may provide manual translation for their asset but they refuse to use automatic

	<p>translation for obvious quality reasons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They found the <i>Open Metadata Registry</i> repository (represented by Gordon Dunsire) interesting and would like to have some form of collaboration with them. In Willem’s opinion, EFIR could gain in quality and relevance by enforcing relationship with and between repository owners [Action 10]. <p>Gianguglielmo Calvi representing UN/CEFACT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For now they prefer to observe the evolution of the platform without actively contributing to changes. However they are happy to see improvements and may consider to invest more time if the EFIR becomes more authoritative. <p>Elena Muñoz from the Center for Technology Transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Spain it is strongly recommended to publish new solutions funded with public money on the repository for later re-use and cost savings. The legislation foresees a “SHOULD” condition and not a “MUST” one. • The Center for Technology Transfer is a central repository at the national level and provide services to regional and local government forges which are not only focused on public administrations. • CTT would like to include in their repository the most interesting and relevant solutions from the regional and local government forges, meaning that those forges should maybe not be federated on Joinup anymore [Action 11]. • CTT is interested in federating part of the EFIR in their national repository. PwC should gather their needs and requests [Action 12]. • To increase visibility on their assets, CTT proposed to only federate most relevant solutions on the EFIR or at least to be able to rank the solutions from the repository based on the relevance instead of the alphabetic order. The user should first see the most relevant and interesting ones when visiting the repository. Willem van Gemert completely agreed with this request. SzSz proposed that we could put the solutions first which would be marked as “editor’s choice”. This is something PwC should investigate and maybe implement in the next Joinup [Action 13]. • A big difference between EFIR and the national CTT repository is that the national repository has space to publish news or information next to the solutions. It is very often used to communicate progress on some solutions, asks for feedback, communicate case studies. There is no such features on Joinup [Action 14]. • Elena proposed to have a monthly call with repository owners interested in putting efforts to populate the EFIR. Zakaria proposed to create a mailing list and a newsletter to keep repository owners up-to-date of the EFIR status [Action 15]. • Elena pointed out the difficult apprehension of the difference between a project and a solution in itself [Action 16]. • Elena asked what to do with solutions that are not interoperable. SzSz pointed out that currently interoperability is not part of the scoping criteria.
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Finding Nr	Description	Finding date
Finding 1	Machine translation of asset descriptions has been considered as bad by all participants.	12-05-15

Finding 2	All attendees agree to promote quality over quantity: only top, most relevant solutions from each repository should be federated on the EFIR and quality improvement efforts should therefore be focused on those solutions.	12-05-15
Finding 3	The solution description template seems an interesting way to describe solutions and attendees are ready to make the effort for a limited number of solutions.	12-05-15
Finding 4	The FusionForge exporter plugin is not a good way to achieve quality. Moreover, the regional software forges that are using FusionForge are not specifically targeting public administrations.	12-05-15
Finding 5	Joinup should be more stable and user-friendly. Some repository owners may be less enthusiastic putting effort in something they do not trust in.	12-05-15
Finding 6	Repository owners are interested in being updated regarding EFIR improvements and changes. It seems that creating a stronger relationship with the repository owners could lead to a deeper investment and more efforts from their part.	12-05-15

Action nr	Description	Due date	Action Owner
Action 1	Explain to CTT how they can easily describe links between assets in ADMS-AP. Make sure that the linkage of solutions is a key feature in the next Joinup.	15/06/15 15/08/15 (feature)	ISA
Action 2	Investigate the possible mistakes in the ADMS-AP RDF file from the Metadata Registry repository .	15/06/2015	ISA
Action 3	Investigate and analyse the possibility of only federating top and the most relevant assets of the repositories. This requires effort from the repository owners to create a selection of assets. Start the exercise with CTT who is ready to perform the task.	01/09/2015	ISA
Action 4	Plan a conference call with Willem van Gemert and his colleagues to discuss the modification brought to ADMS-AP.	01/07/2015	ISA
Action 5	Follow-up with Willem van Gemert regarding the adoption of the solution description template to describe their assets.	01/07/2015	ISA
Action 6	Follow-up with Elena Muñoz regarding the adoption of the solution description template to describe their top assets.	01/07/2015	ISA
Action 7	Organise a conference call with Elena Muñoz to discuss best ways to describe their assets.	01/07/2015	ISA

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Action 8	Follow-up with Willem van Gemert to make sure they will create the missing ADMS-AP descriptions for the new assets and publish them on the EFIR.	01/07/2015	ISA
Action 9	Make sure the automatic harvesting functionality is kept and optimised in the next Joinup.	15/08/15	ISA
Action 10	Analyse and investigate means by which repository owners could collaborate.	01/07/2015	ISA
Action 11	Discuss with Elena Muñoz the removal of the Spanish regional government forges from EFIR.	15/06/2015	ISA
Action 12	Discuss and gather request from Elena Muñoz regarding remote access/querying/federation of the EFIR in other repositories.	15/06/2015	ISA
Action 13	Analyse and investigate the possibility to rank solutions from federated repositories based on relevance and celebrity.	15/08/15	ISA
Action 14	Analyse and investigate the possibility of creating collaboration space around solutions from federated repositories.	15/08/15	ISA
Action 15	Create a monthly duty period for repository owners (conference call, etc.). Create a mailing list and publish monthly newsletter.	01/07/2015	ISA
Action 16	Analyse and investigate way to make the data model more intuitive from an end-user perspective.	15/08/15	ISA