# Meeting Minutes: Webinar on BRegDCAT-AP (SEMIC - D09.02)

| Project: | SEMIC - Access to Base Registries | Date and Time: | 21/03/2023 14:00 - 15:00 CET |
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| Meeting Type | Webinar | Location: | Cisco Webex Meeting |
| Coordinators: | Bert Van Nuffelen, Claudio Valle | Issue Date: | 29/03/2023 |

| Agenda of the webinar | | |
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| 14:00—14:05 | Welcome | Slides 01-03 |
| 14:05—14:10 | Objectives of the webinar | Slides 04-05 |
| 14:10—14:15 | Updates for the Base Registries community | Slides 06-11 |
| 14:15—14:25 | BRegDCAT-AP – purpose and current status | Slides 12-17 |
| 14:25—14:35 | BRegDCAT-AP – possible scenarios for the future | Slides 18-27 |
| 14:35—15:05 | Q&A - Discussion on BRegDCAT-AP | Slides 28-29 |
| 15:05—15:15 | Wrap-up and next steps | Slides 30-32 |

| Participants | | |
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| **Name** | **Initials** | **Organisation** |
| Anastasia Sofou | AS | SEMIC team |
| Pavlina Fragkou | PF | SEMIC team |
| Bert Van Nuffelen | BVN | SEMIC team |
| Claudio Valle | CV | SEMIC team |
| Aline Verbrugge | AV | SEMIC team |
| Jitse De Cock | JDC | SEMIC team |

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| William Verbeeck | WV | SEMIC team |
| Emidio Stani | ES | SEMIC team |
| Alex Michailidis | AM | International Hellenic University |
| Ana Rosa | AR | Ministerio de Política Territorial y Función Pública |
| Andreea Dumitru | AD | Authority for Digitalisation of Romania |
| Anssi Ahlberg | AA | Finnish Digital and population data service agency |
| Benny Liund | BL | Swedish Companies Registration Office |
| Edwin Wisse | EW | Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations |
| Eero Vegmann | EV | Estonian Information System Authority |
| Eirini Pappi | EP | Open Data Portal of the Publications Office |
| Fabian Santi | FS | Swiss Federal Statistical Office |
| Giampaolo Sellitto | GS | ANAC / TOOP semantics WG |
| Igor Trickovic Rifelj | ITR | Slovenian Ministry of Public Administration |
| Luis Correia | LC | The Administrative Modernization Agency |
| Mantas Zimnickas | MZ | Information Society Development Committee |
| Marc Bruyland | MBru | BOSA, DG Transformation Digitale |
| Mario Bravo | MBra | NTTData |
| Martin Alvarez | MA | Web Standards Manager; Huawei Technologies |
| Martynas Mockus | MM | Information Society Development Committee |
| Matthias Palmér | MP | MetaSolutions AB |
| Norman Calleja | NC | Malta Information Technology Agency |
| Olesia Danylenko | OD | Unknown |
| Oskari Nenonen | ON | Finnish Digital Agency |
| Ritta Alkula | RA | Finnish Digital and population services agency |
| Stamatis Ezovalis | SE | EY |

# Full meeting minutes

| Welcome & introduction<br><br>Slides 1-3<br><br>**Speaker:**<br>Anastasia Sofou (DIGIT) | Welcoming of participants and practicalities of the webinar.<br><br>The agenda of the webinar was presented, namely:<br><br>1. Objectives of the webinar<br><br>2. Updates for the Base Registries community<br><br>3. BRegDCAT-AP – purpose and current status<br><br>4. BRegDCAT-AP – possible scenarios for the future<br><br>5. Wrap-up and next steps |
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| **Objective of the webinar**<br><br>Slides 4-5<br><br>**Speaker:**<br>Claudio Valle (SEMIC Team) | The objectives of the webinar were disclosed, namely:<br><br>1. Present the current state of BRegDCAT-AP - its intended function and role in relation to DCAT-AP<br><br>2. Discuss with the Community the future steps and strategy related to the BRegDCAT-AP specification<br><br>3. Discuss the BRegDCAT-AP related issues on SEMIC GitHub |
| **Updates for the Base Registries community**<br><br>Slides 6-11<br><br>**Speaker:**<br>Claudio Valle - CV ( SEMIC Team) | The presentation started with a high-level summary of the purpose of the Access to Base Registries (ABR)action, highlighting the main tools and outputs developed to date, namely:<br><br>● ABR Guidelines and training<br><br>● BRAIF interconnection framework<br><br>● BRegDCAT-AP and related tools<br><br>● ABR factsheets<br><br>Earlier this year, the ABR Action joined forces with the Semantic Interoperability Community (SEMIC) to boost interoperability across public administrations in the EU. In particular, SEMIC restructured its online presence through the SEMIC Support Centre, including among others semantic assets and knowledge sharing materials. The participants were kindly asked to subscribe to the SEMIC Support Centre. Another important development is the migration of the GitHub space related to BRegDCAT-AP which is now part of the SEMIC GitHub. |

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| | CV pointed out that the Guidelines on the interconnection to Base Registries are currently being revised and communicated that the new version will be soon available. The old version can be retrieved from the ABR collection on Joinup. The updated guidelines have been structured around four thematic chapters aligned with the European Interoperability Framework (EIF).<br><br>CV kindly reminded the audience to fill in the survey about Member States' needs, challenges and use of semantic assets, base registries and SEMIC Support..<br><br>*- See presentation for more information -* |
| **BRegDCAT-AP – purpose and current status**<br><br>Slides 12-17<br><br>**Speaker:** Bert Van Nuffelen (SEMIC Team) | BVN explained the process for modelling Base Registries, using either Core Vocabularies, DCAT-AP or CPSV-AP.<br><br>BVN described the intended function of BRegDCAT-AP, namely allowing the modelling of the datasets and the services accessing the data provided by base registries. Its advantage is reaching a common approach for modelling base registries in order to facilitate an EU wide overview.<br><br>*- See presentation for more information -*<br><br>*###*<br><br>***Poll #1\* (SLIDO):*** *Have you used BRegDCAT-AP supporting tools? If yes, indicate which ones: BRegDCAT-AP creator, editor, mapping tool, validator, harvester, none of the above).*<br><br>***Poll results*** *(18 participants):* |

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| |  *The poll results showing:* BRegDCAT-AP creator 6%, BRegDCAT-AP editor 11%, BRegDCAT-AP mapping tool 0%, BRegDCAT-AP validator 11%, BRegDCAT-AP harvester 6%, none 89% — for the question "Have you used BRegDCAT-AP supporting tools? Indicate which ones" (18 responses)<br><br>*\* The purpose of the poll is to allow the ABR community to directly express their opinions on the topics of the webinar, but does not imply any direct action from the Commission as a consequence of it* |
| **BRegDCAT-AP – possible scenarios for the future**<br><br>Slides 18-27<br><br>**Speaker:** Bert Van Nuffelen (SEMIC Team) | BVN described the challenges the community is currently facing with BRegDCAT-AP and raised the need to clarify and define the scope and position of BRegDCAT-AP in the landscape.<br><br>BVN, starting from the definition of base registries, clarified their function and role as enablers for the Once Only principle. He also provided an overview of the surrounding legal and policy context, including the SDG Regulation and the identification of High-Value Datasets by the European Commission.<br><br>In its presentation about BRegDACT's origin and current status, the SEMIC Team proposed two possible directions to go forward into with BRegDCAT-AP:<br><br>1. Direction 1: Further clarifying the role of BRegDCAT-AP and its relationship with base registries published by public services, defining what base registries are and updating it regularly.<br><br>2. Direction 2: Not identifying the borders in the metadata but improving the harmonisation of specific base registries. To harmonise them on a cross-border level. The idea is to deepdive into different entities and try to collect and harmonise them.<br><br>**GitHub issue #3**: *Does cpsv:PublicService cover public services or are they data services?* |

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| | **SEMIC Team answer**: To our understanding CPSV:PublicService covers public services, but you could also interpret it as the API's that are associated with the base registries which are the preferred ways to access the base registry.<br><br>The reason for proposing two possible directions is to see if the community sees BRegDCAT-AP as more than a technical union of DCAT-AP and CPSV-AP or not.<br><br>*- See presentation for more information -* |
| **Q&A - Discussion on BRegDCAT-AP**<br><br>Slides 28-29<br><br>**Moderator:** SEMIC Team | **Summary of the Q&A (open discussion) session held after the webinar presentations:**<br><br>**Question #1 (AR)**: Regardless of the two directions you describe, I think the main issue here is to identify the use cases. The starting point from a user perspective should be the use that BRegDCAT-AP can foresee. It can be useful for internal transparency, to describe the models behind base registries (so in relation to their existence), but for the actual use of base registries it is not so important. When you are using the information held in base registries, you are using the services, and not directly accessing the base registries. It would be nice for transparency to have the models of base registries, but competent authorities usually change quite often which make it hard to maintain and keep the data up to date. In the end, the users do not need to know the service in the way it is structured e.g. in an API, they are interested in how the service delivers the information they need. To summarise, we need these use cases, and if we agree on which are the most interesting cases that can be used for, we can decide as a community.<br><br>● **SEMIC Team answer**: So, according to your words, the use case of internal transparency is one of the use cases of BRegDCAT-AP. Indeed we would like to identify more use cases.<br><br>● **Observation from the audience (RA):** In my opinion it is confusing to choose either one or the other direction because somehow we need both. We need some kind of high-level coherence. For example, in Finland we have modelled the core vocabularies. When there were six core vocabularies which were not coherent with each other, it was very difficult. I think we should have high-level guidance on which specifications to use and a common understanding. After that, we need more domain-specific descriptions. |

**Question #2 (MP)**: Is a base registry the same thing as a High Value Dataset (please consider the requirement that a HVD should be available as an API). Do we have two names for the same thing?

- **SEMIC Team answer**: No, it is not the same. A base registry is a broader concept, which is not associated with a single legislative initiative defined at EU level. For example, if you look at the high-value dataset, there is a domain on business information, which matches closely with the base registry on business information.

- **Observation from the audience (MP):** Since you claimed that CPSV-AP and DCAT-AP were two pillars of what BRegDCAT-AP is about, it feels like the CPSV-AP is very high level and has no actual registry. It seems like there is a very large overlap with DCAT-AP.

- **SEMIC Team answer (BVN):** Indeed, one of the observations we made was that these two were somehow overlapping at high level. If the only use case for BRegDCAT-AP is internal transparency, then it becomes hard to justify the effort that should be dedicated to BRegDCAT-AP as such.

**Question #3 (EW):** We have a (semantic) catalogue of base registries in our country for national (re)use. Can you give me a good argument for supporting BregDCAT-AP? What is the added value for national (and regional...) government institutes and citizens?

- **SEMIC Team answer:** Exactly. If you have a national catalogue of base registries, it is good to have BRegDCAT as a guidance for internal structuring, as mentioned in Question #1 (by AR). At this moment, if we take the metadata descriptions according to BRegDCAT-AP and apply it to a catalogue of base registries - and if you would upload and harvest that data to data.europe.eu - you would not see the difference between a normal dataset and the one that comes from a catalogue of base registries. There is nothing additional and uniquely identifiable that is coming from that. It is useful for internal, strategic, statistical, or business reasons, but BRegDCAT-AP is not necessarily needed for that. DCAT-AP has at this moment the same potential, unless there is something additional we do not know.

**Question #4 (MZ)**: To my understanding DCAT is mostly about files, mostly ignoring what is inside of those files. How do you plan to annotate those files, to tell if a file contains Person, Organization, Location, etc..?

- **SEMIC Team answer:** in general, DCAT is about describing a dataset, which is an abstract collection of data. That collection of data can be a description of persons and is managed in a digital system, that you can typically bring forward as the base registry of location of person.

**Question #5 (MZ)**: How do you know if other countries have all different registries and datasets?

- **SEMIC Team answer:** That is indeed a good question. Currently, it is virtually impossible to find a list of base registries of all the Member States in data.eu. It is hard to find them in general. But first we need to understand if we really need/want to support that objective.

**Question #6 (MP)**: There is one area that I feel is lacking when talking about and describing data sets, data services and public services and its connections, namely how to conform the relation between a dataset and a specification. There is e.g. PROV vocabulary - was provided by W3C (link) - which allows for describing a specification or a standard. I think this might be a piece of the puzzle we could start to investigate and see if that can help in defining specifications that are reusable. Today you seldom have the url for a single specification, you have a range of URLs used. It is not easy to reference a schema or a specification. There is no standard or no agreed way of doing this. So, if we want to help us in Europe, we should understand what is inside of our datasets in a deeper manner.

- **SEMIC Team answer:** I think this is a good initiative and is already on the SEMIC Team 'radar' as the activity on the PROV specification has been re-initiated, but what is still open is how to use it and what is the best way to handle it.

**SEMIC Team question #1**: Are there any other use cases of base registries or examples in which it provides an added value?

- **Reaction from the audience (MP)**: Is it an option to leave out / dismiss BRegDCAT-AP in the future and not use it? There was no such option among the possible directions described before.

- **SEMIC Team answer**: We did not give it as an option at first on purpose, because we first wanted to discuss its value and see if there is any strong or good motivation to decide to go forward with it. But indeed it was taken into consideration.

**Question #7 (MP):** My earlier question is in this direction. I wanted to know if we still need to talk about base registries. They need to be defined more clearly. I still have a hard time grasping what is meant with it.

- **SEMIC Team answer:** The current definition of base registries is indeed very open and is not limited, therefore it catches many things. We reach out to the community to add critical elements that can be added to it.

**Question #8 (AA)**: I agree with the definition of a base registry, but I still find it difficult to understand what added value we get by labelling it as such, and creating a dedicated DCAT-AP variant for it…

- **SEMIC Team answer (BVN):** Do you feel that DCAT-AP is sufficient?

- **Reaction from the audience (AA):** Yes in Finland we have a bunch of base registries that are essential for the functioning of society, but I feel we can handle the situation as it is and we can describe repositories using DCAT-AP. So I am not seeing the added value of labelling such registries as base registries, at least in the national context.

**SEMIC Team question #2:** Suppose we work towards a more vertical harmonisation (direction 2) that provides data according to a commonly agreed data model, like the core vocabularies for example, would that be helpful? Or is that an additional need or aid in your context or not?

- **Reaction from the audience (AA):** I think we might easily get by without doing that but it would be a more worthwhile option to have at least one series.

- **Reaction from the audience (MP)**: I think that maybe we should rethink the definition and consider bringing the discussion into a format similar to the one in which we are discussing on how to mark things as high-value datasets. We should generalise it and (if

we need it) we should take the same approach as we do now for high-value datasets.
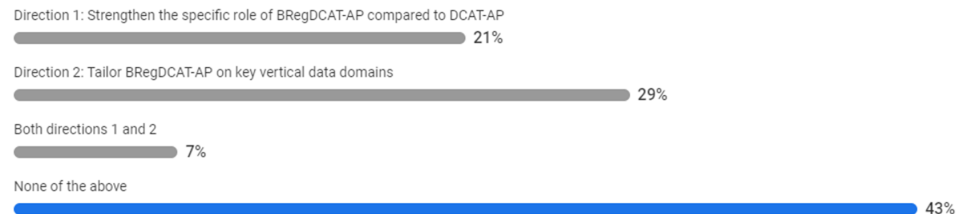
- **SEMIC Team answer (BVN)**: Yes, so this was one of the other options we had in mind: attaching BRegDCAT-AP as an annex to DCAT-AP (in this case 'DCAT-AP for base registries'), like we are currently doing for DCAT-AP related to high-value datasets. In such an annex, some best practices for metadata annotations of base registries can be highlighted.

- **Reaction from the audience (MP)**: I would vote for that, the only thing that I do not understand in this option is the connection to CPSV-AP.

- **SEMIC Team answer (BVN)**: At this moment there is none, referring to GitHub issue #3 (discussed before) we want to include this in the discussion and find out more about this relationship.

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*Poll #2\* (SLIDO)*: Which possible direction on BRegDCAT-AP do you see as the most valuable for your needs on base registries?

*Poll results (14 participants):*

Which possible direction on BRegDCAT-AP do you see as the most valuable for your needs on base registries – among     14 👤     ··
the two described by the SEMIC team?

Direction 1: Strengthen the specific role of BRegDCAT-AP compared to DCAT-AP

                                                                                21%

Direction 2: Tailor BRegDCAT-AP on key vertical data domains

                                                                                     29%

Both directions 1 and 2

         7%

None of the above

                                                                                           43%

*\* The purpose of the poll is to allow the ABR community to directly express their opinions on the topics of the webinar, but does not imply any direct action from the Commission as a consequence of it*

*Poll #2\* (via WebEx chat)*: Would you like to see BRegDCAT-AP as an annex to DCAT-AP, similar to the approach of high-value datasets?

*Poll results (14 votes in WebEx chat):*
- *I agree: 93 %*
- *I don't agree: 0 %*
- *I don't know: 7%*

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| | ###<br><br>The audience was thanked for their participation and input and encouraged to contact the SEMIC team (via email or on SEMIC GitHub) for any question and view on BRegDCAT-AP. |
| **Wrap-up and next steps**<br><br>Slides 30-32<br><br>**Speaker:**<br>Claudio Valle (SEMIC Team) | The next steps were presented by CV as the following:<br><br>● Definition of approach for BRegDCAT-AP<br>● LDES specification update & next LDES webinar (21/04/2023)<br>● Publication of updated Guidelines on Access to Base Registries<br>● Join the SEMIC Support Centre to stay updated on base registries.<br>● Closing of the Survey on the adoption of LDES and their challenges related to base registries: link to EU Survey. |