Notes from the FISE progress meeting, DG Environment

26. November 2019, 10:00-17:00

**Participants:**

D1: Marco Onida, Cristina Brailescu, Daniel Nuijten

EEA: Annemarie Bastrup-Birk

Eau de Web: Adriana Baciu

Tracasa: Koldo Goni

# FISE state of progress

Portal CMS has been migrated to the new version of Plone5 under the coordination of the technical team in EEA with the intent of creating a portal toolkit to be used for the EEA thematic portals. This aims at using the same software product and ensure better maintenance, a more modern user interface, which allows content editors to easily construct portal pages/content using blocks/tiles which can display images, text, charts etc. and also ensure connection to databases, map servers etc.

The portal design and the mock-ups have been reviewed to meet the received feedback during the meeting in Copenhagen in October. Mock-ups have been produced for the different content types and pages including portal thematic and country fact sheets, Search pages, front page, article pages and also mockups for the mobile and tablet version of the portal. The mockups can be consulted here: <https://taskman.eionet.europa.eu/issues/107272> and further feedback or approval is needed from EEA and DG ENV.

The developed Plone-based portal was presented together with the mock-ups to illustrate the current achieved progress in the development of the structure of FISE.

A portal page has been developed for country fact sheet as demo of the mockup implementation. The approval of the information that is to be presented in the country fact sheet page will drive the implementation of this type of content.

# List of comments

**Main message**:

* Start and finalise one product at the time including all the mentioned amendments, so we can see it. Important to build up finalised ready to launch products before starting a new one to be sure that we have something robust and functioning for February 2019
* This means finalise the JRC Copernicus forest map and the output of the spatial table.

**Content**

* Most important step for FISE is population of content, narratives, indicators, likewise for country fact sheet in order **to send a template /draft to countries before the 15/12**
* Narratives and key messages of the FISE will use text and inputs from existing forest / forest related reports e.g. The European forest ecosystem report 2016. Thematic areas draft the text - ABB will have a look on how we structure the page -connect the thematic areas with what we have - play with the levels
* Important not to mix news, policies and topics/questions in the portal areas, on the front page. Use in the rolling banner only one type of information
* The text formulation on the front page needs to be revised to be meaningful - the introduction title on the front page is too general
* Be careful that the asked questions fit to the answers given on the portal and other products; be careful on the use of what, how, where etc
* It was agreed not to refer to national forest organisations on the country fact sheet
* It was agreed not to include events as this might be demanding and with the risk of not covering it all (however, the functionality is there)
* Results from the SOER2020 and the MAES should pe presented in the country fact sheet?
* It was agreed to include news, eventually to have a newsletter (=announcement by email to user) about new data, updates, new reports. It was discussed if an automated 'harvest' would be FISABLE (:-) ) *– Action: where to put it on the page , maybe on the big banner rolling functionality*.
* Newsletter - latest information on the new data release - new content by email

**Navigation and functionalities**

* It has been suggested that Key points/key messages from the rolling banner to be presented on one page ("the never-ending page") when clicking the user gets to the corresponding point/answer. This is still to be evaluated as we will be altering the front page of the portal, which may not be the best suited approach for a frontpage.
* Subpages are created for subpoints. The aim is to reduce the amount of page jumping and also the scrolling
* The user should be able to get back to the beginning of the page or any needed navigation at any point of the page – insert an up button.
* The user should be able to download the portal pages as pdf fact sheet (for the EU-28, the EEA39, the whole country and the NUTS3 when existing).
* Likewise the user should be able to select a particular graph on the portal and extract the same graph for all countries, EEA-39 and EU-28
* "Tools" section was discussed. So far it includes information about: Guidos, CBM. Furthermore, links to projects not research projects e.g. MAES, LIFE, Bioeconomy knowledge centre, CLIMATE ADAPT project catalogue and other initiatives to be added.
* "About FISE" should include governance, site map - see Climate Adapt platform –
* Need to explain what is the content of FISE – *Action: decide where* *these explanations will be included*
* Sitemap to be made available
* EU policies from the indicator fact sheet of the EEA list of EU policies – *Action: ABB will send the link to Cristina as a starting point*
* Automatic updates of new data - linked to Copernicus
* Include statistic of user's views - will be done for the launch to support further development

**Search function**

* The search function should address navigation needs on the portal related to the key topics and the questions;
* The current NFI search function should be more "hidden" e.g. include a link under ‘Data and information’ to access the search function to reach the +5000 files on NFIs compiled by the JRC.
* The NFI search function presented, is a first step is to access the compiled NFI and other files using the search by functionalities. The majority of users will not use this facility which is quite overwhelming - one sees many data but how do you extract information = meaningful data? The current NFI search function is for data interested users.
* Need to explain the aims of the NFI search function to inform the user about what is to be found in the data repository collected by JRC.
* Regarding the NFI database, need to explain the process of data collection, what and how one can search for information.

**Links**

* Need to have a link to the forest data from EEA and JRC, as well as links to other forest relevant sources (Forest Europe, UNECE, ICP-Forests, LUCAS) *Action: decide where to include them in the portal?*
* The country fact sheet could be a way to grab the NFI data and transform in information. However, so far, the data is not comparable
* The forest area portal might be presented as forest cover and forest cover changes as this is what we have through the CLC and the Copernicus
* Need to include the used definitions for forest cover for the different used products, reporting processes and countries. *This to be done: per country, per region, for reporting processes (LULUCF, FRA) and tools (CORINE). Write "for definition go there". Need to explain the differences between forest cover and forest area.*
* Links to Forest Europe, FAO, EFI, ICP-Forests, LUCAS etc.  *Action: decide where to put them?*
* It was agreed to include in the country page the links to the latest relevant NFI publication(s) for that country and a link to the actual NFI databases compiled by Bernd corresponding to the information presented on the country fact sheet (so far this is forest cover / forest area)

**Design**

* From a design point of view - make a better use of the front page
* Eau de Web will ask for a formal approval of the portal design. The logo has been approved and will be sent to Cristina for further use
* The design of the maps could be improved and the presentation of the maps need to consider user friendliness. This means include clear legend, sources, options to download the data

**Country fact sheet**

* Populate with what we have data about = forest cover and forest cover changes.
* Add content, graphs on forest change, CLC for changes 2000-2018, Copernicus for short term changes 2012, 2015, 2018.
* Possible fact sheet content defined from what is available in the metadata table produced by the JRC from the national organisations or latest reports
* Graph according to the HRL 2018, with the nuts 3 and on that we can have the national average
* Use the utilisation rate indicators as a template for graphics on forests (fellings over annual increment)
* It was agreed to include a graph on forest cover Nuts 3 for the fact sheets presenting forest cover and/or use in the country sheet based on all three sources Copernicus, CORINE and reported NFI data.
* Need to develop a mock-up of content (make one for Romania) both text and graphics of the country fact sheet this will allow for concrete feedback on progress of the mock-ups.

**Data and maps**

* If possible, connect the shared databases and the maps to allow dynamic visualisations. Would need to create tables to populate the webpage with data
* Overlap with google maps idea of Marco – FISABLE – overlay google earth, nuts, forest maps. The JRC Copernicus forest map at the country level – it is a statistical map not a physical map. Comment that it was important to show the physical distribution of forests from Copernicus on the front page – like for the earth engine (background for the Hansen) /Google Earth with the forest layer on top - to be discussed and agreed upon
* Consider using the Tableau or a map application. What matters is the user friendliness and clarity of the product: TRACASA will look into how to make it ‘best possible’ within the options given by the EEA
* Change background from black with white for the webapp
* Use only maps to present distributions
* Show the forest cover by Nuts: for countries missing the Nuts 3 put the Nuts 0-2 values to avoid white holes in the maps as for e.g. The case of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Add the hectares and percentages of forest cover at small level - unclear
* Important to check what is represented on the forest maps: seems that olive trees are included as forests in Liguria
* Forest dynamics losses and gain should be based on CLC (quality checked by the EEA)
* For each presented map, graph etc to have the functionalities of seeing the data table behind, download the data, be informed on definition and get the sources
* It was agreed not to show the EU average on each country percentage graph (no sense in comparing each country with the EU average)
* Present land use/cover as in the Estonian paper (land use circle) on the front page of FISE- ABB has asked the EEA graphic team to deliver metadata and link to source data – to be sent to Eaudeweb.

Presentation of the Maps. (TCSA)

* Koldo presented the list of maps reported by EEA 05/11/2019
* Cristina informs that Density and Forest Type maps have not been agreed on DG\_ENV. Anyway these calculations should be approved, checked or admitted by third party, Considering that JRC are experts in those analysis Cristina suggest that these calculations, to be done in the future, must be approved or performed by JRC.
  + Action: From the list of maps to be done we are urged to stop working on the Density and Forest Type that currently was being carried on using HRL-F layers masked by Forest Type 100m which is considered FAO defined forest area of Europe.
* Any information or layer that is used for FISE must be approved or confirmed by a third party. Tracasa has not the authority to include any information without the validation from a recognized authority that, depending the case, should be EEA or JRC.
* JRC provided statistics just for forest cover area and patches analysis.
  + Action: Ask JRC if they can provide a raster identifying the patches by size three thresholds.
* Marco Onida is not confident on the forest percent map. It seems to him that the classification of the Italian regions that he knows well does not correspond to reality. The classification of Nuts3 makes more sense to him.
  + Action: Confirm with to JRC as data providers, that calculation of the forest percent statistics are correct.
* Action: work on forest changes from CLC. There are several map services about CLC changes published by Eva Ivits.
  + Doubt: Do we have to use those layers to create our own services with the same information or do we have to compute the CLC differences between years over the statistics provided by JRC?
* Administrative units data source is not clear. NUTS. GISCO’s 100k resolution nuts provided by JRC are not the same than simplified nuts available on GISCO webpage which is limited to the EU28. Significant countries in area like Bosnia–Herzegovina are missing.
  + Action: Ask Seb the right nuts to use. Since currently the workflow starts on JRC providing the statistics of forest cover by nuts. Provably we have to use their NUTs and we just create generalizations to display them at small scales in a efficient way.
* Include in further discussions the old version of web application created with a different template. Use the same map services for that.
* Consider other data sources: Natura2000, Protected areas, Biogeographic regions.

Web Application (TCSA)

* The new web application is developed using standard ESRI WAB under requirement of EEA’s premises. In this way, maintenance and homogeneity are granted.
* Nevertheless the WAB application limits extremely the way we represent maps and his functionality. For instance, on the forest cover map from the JRC statistics it’s difficult to swap data sources (CLC, HRL-F) in the same view. Filtering nuts or years is also more uncomfortable.
  + Action: Discussion involving Miguel and Seb to look for a solution to this limitation. Could we improve the WAB configuration? Can we introduce some programing out of the WAB’s box?
  + Action: Don’t include the graph on the web applications. Graphics should be present only on the fact sheets.
* The map’s data source is now synchronized between the portal and the web application (EdW and TCSA) since we are using the same SQL DDBB.
  + Action: Include a basemap selection option with different choices as google maps, satellite and so on.
  + Action: Create a proof of concept using Tableau with the same data source used for the currently produced map services. Use a maximum of three days for that. Only a short time must be used for that.

**Possible next steps before the launch**

* Wait with the tree cover density product - is it quality checked? Has the ETC/ULS worked with it - EEA text and other work
* If enough time, possibly to include land cover change - natura2000 and forest - article 17 information on forests – links to EEA products from the SDI (quality controlled published data responsibility: Emanuele - ABB – Sebastien)

**Deadlines**

**15/12: Country fact sheet drafts to be sent - NRC Forests have 3 working weeks until the 17/1**

Structure by Cristina – ABB send the ETC/ULS definitions from the LULUCF workshop to Cristina, Eau de web and Tracasa.

Cristina starts drafting the structure and the EEA fills in the text together with the ETC

Push to urgently finalise country fact sheet template to visualise and to comment (for the printed version of the portal page = fact sheet template including the graphs as agreed in Copenhagen)