# Minutes of meeting 19 July 2018 – Forest Information System for Europe (FISE)

**Location**: Skype

**Timing**: 19 July 2018

**Participants**:

* Annemarie Bastrup-Birk, Christian Xavier Prosperini – EEA
* Miruna Badescu, Adriana Baciu - EdW
* Koldo Goñi Iza, Iratxe Fernández - Tracasa

## Agenda

1. Follow up on Eau de Web’s and Tracasa's work and their plan for this year
2. Proposal to keep all data-related materials in https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/fise-project/library/ (5 min)
3. Meeting in Bucharest (5 min)
4. User stories to pursue in the first development round, meaning until December or February
5. Data discussion, analysis of stories vs. datasets

## Discussions

1. **Follow up on Eau de Web’s and Tracasa's work and their plan for this year**

Miruna, Eau de Web’s progress: the demo [portal for FISE](https://demo-forests.eea.europa.eu) and incipient [NFI search functionality](https://demo-forests.eea.europa.eu/nfi_search/) are online. Work for the web design are ongoing and will be finalised by the end of August.

Koldo, Tracasa’s progress**:**

* checked the datasets gathered so far. The ticket [#95375](https://taskman.eionet.europa.eu/issues/95375) records the list of datasets found, not found potentially not usable for maps or infographic purposes.
* we consider that the National Inventory data cannot be used to produce maps or graphs, because there are not available for all the countries and they are not standardized. Agree with Miruna that this information will be available only for search and download, at least for the time being.
* mentioned the difficulties on ICP Forests datasets, that are currently not available, and haven’t found the European Bird Census Council (EBCC) data either
* several datasets supposedly at EEA were not found and they are listed on the task [#95375](https://taskman.eionet.europa.eu/issues/95375)

Future milestones this year:

* For the **September milestone** - *First test version of the infrastructure* - Eau de Web and Tracasa will have ready: the portal, NFI search and maps based on the datasets we have received or found available at that point
* Planning for an **intermediate milestone in December**, along with Eau de Web’s FISE Mid-term Progress Report, which will include and implement some of the feedback gathered in September, and will also prepare the visualization of a couple of more user stories – everybody agreed to this approach

1. **Proposal to keep all data-related materials in** [**the project library**](https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/fise-project/library/)

For clarity, we have discussed the way to archive, store the documents/files in the course of this project. It is very important to document every decision and ideas we went through for this project:

* EIONET Library: <https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/fise-project/library/> will be the archive for:
  + All data-related materials
  + Project documents such as: plans, minutes of meeting, status reports
* Taskman: <https://taskman.eionet.europa.eu/projects/fise-dev/issues> will be archive for:
* Working documents such as: images, design proposals
* User stories
* Ideas and proposals in document
* All other discussions, analysis and comments resulted from the activities we are developing
* Wiki can be used for conclusions on user stories and connection between tickets (e.g.: tickets for user stories and the one for datasets), documents etc.

\* Once a document reaches its final version and is of relevance for scope and requirements of the project, it will be uploaded also in the EIONET library.

1. **Meeting in Bucharest**

Annemarie will attend the meeting in Bucharest, meeting scheduled from 07 - 09 Aug. Miruna will prepare a draft agenda, the others are invited to contribute and suggest discussion topics. Tracasa team will join the meeting, depending on the topics on the agenda, by skype.

1. **User stories to pursue in the first development round, meaning until December or February**

It is necessary to detail at least two user stories soon: one for portal (non-spatial data) and one for spatial data and charting, so that the development team can continue the work. The next step to the stories is to indicate the corresponding datasets to be used.

Annemarie will start drafting these, and they will further be refined during the meeting in August.

1. **Data discussion, analysis of stories vs. datasets**

Some of the datasets we received or collected (including the NFI data from JRC) are reports, tabular data about indicators (not always complete at European level) and these data should be available in the portal for search and retrieval, based on the content and the associated metadata. All agreed that Info level 1 is just to be stored, shown, available for download and we have to provide a meaningful search functionality for it.

The [second dataset received from the JRC](https://projects.eionet.europa.eu/fise-project/library/datasets-jrc/2.-second-dataset-provided-jrc) contains, aside from PDF reports:

* 2011 and 2015 country reports, on which Miruna assumes there is no meaningful visualization now, aside from maybe offering them for download as they are
* Tabular data on State of Europe's Forests 2011: we need indication of a relevant way to show this data. Possibly, the Digital Agenda visualizations <https://digital-agenda-data.eu/datasets/digital_agenda_scoreboard_key_indicators/visualizations> can provide good representation examples
* Tabular data from FOREST EUROPE/UNECE/FAO enquiry on pan-European quantitative indicators – same considerations as above
* Tracasa and Annemarie appreciate that Tableau would offer as a smooth visualisation
* All agree that we must avoid duplicating existing visualizations from other websites, but create ones only of they bring some added value. A potential added value would be adding capabilities to compare countries data or make aggregations with other data

We will also need to contact JRC and clear out their vision on how the data they have transferred to us should be presented.

Annemarie’s specific points:

* Potential use of the data, idea for a user story: starting with Copernicus layers we can have, for instance, a forest-non forest map and we can have a divided product like: data on density for trees and then have a map visualisation for forest threshold at country level and the user can see what impacts it has (count of threshold for each country and see how it stand against the Europe 10% recommended by FAO)
* There can be different methods of representing the data that can be used: Copernicus, CORINE, EMAS and it can generate 3 different products based on user’s choice of layers.
* Once we have such a map, the user can download it and use it for other studies he is doing.
* Question that can be answered by this: What is the area of Natura2000 forests? How are the different habitats distributed in the forest map that we have? Forest map and Natura2000 can be combined to obtain such information.
* Further discussions on how not to repeat what has been done before by other initiatives. We should have a very good reason for using the same visualisation as other initiatives and also linking the visualisation to a story.
* SDI (???) data that the EEA have received from the Carpathian Convention, there are some maps and some datasets that can be used.
* JRC tree atlas, not available from JRC, but can be taken from nature scientific data (<https://www.nature.com/articles/sdata2016123> ), around 132 available species with status presence/absence helpful to combine with EUNIS and Article 17 that can be retrieved here: <https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/>

Actions for the next period:

1. Eau de Web: finalise the FISE web design and the NFI search
2. Tracasa: produce maps on the basis of Copernicus layers, combining with other geographical layers as Natura2000, EUNIS, [Article17](https://bd.eionet.europa.eu/article17/reports2012/)
3. Tracasa: accepted the proposal to have some maps and graphs ready for the meeting in September
4. Annemarie: drafting in more detail the first user stories
5. All: prepare for the meeting in Bucharest