SENSE-3 kick-off - Webinar

EEA   25 September 2013, 14:00 – 15:30

Agenda

Purpose:
Present the webinar participants, provide feedback on replies to expressions of interest, define ambitions, introduce the available infrastructure and structure for follow-up activities.

Welcome and overview of participants

Status and presentation of replies - *Stefan Jensen*
- Short recap the project aims
- Feedback on replies to initial questions
- Relations to indicator work and SOER 2015
- Conclusions for the next project steps
- Initial questions

Next steps in the project – *Søren Roug, Stefan Jensen*
- Establish a catalogue of national indicators and related data
- Options for using such a catalogue (DAVIZ, RDF, access point)
- Feedback, discussion
- Identification of follow up actions, next milestones

Wrap-up, AOB

Draft Minutes

Participants: members of the EEA SENSE team (Andy Martin, Darja Lihteneger, Søren Roug, Stefan Jensen), plus about 20 country representatives (with some varying attendance during the webinar).

Stefan Jensen (EEA) presented the project objectives, the results of the questionnaire and a summary of the current project status as well as some reflections on the way ahead. The latter included an anticipated need for a flexible system for sharing indicators, a suggestion to include data beyond the currently agreed indicators as well as the requirement to better define the suggested experiments. Afterwards, the floor was opened for some intial discussions.

Austria, Ireland and Slovakia commented that they had sent input to the questionnaire which was not picked up by EEA. The EEA apologised and promised to look into this and fix it.

Søren Roug (EEA) then presented the next steps for the project, depending on the country's interest and capacities. He suggested three experiments:
- An enhanced SENSE2-type indicator submission using slightly revised schemas;
- An enhanced RDF-based indicator exchange based on VOID/RDF allowing the usage of attractive visualisation tools; and
- A metadata-based (non-RDF) submission of (indicator related) data using the DCAT format as used in the EU open data portal.

In the subsequent discussion, the following questions were asked by the countries and answers provided:

- When will the selection of indicators for SOER 2015 Part C fiches be fixed and when will the indicator demand of the EEA be clear? Some countries (Austria, Belgium, Sweden) encouraged the EEA to set a standard here as soon as possible. The EEA will propose stable, operational indicators based on Eionet indicators. The countries expressed a desire for clarity rather than flexibility this and wanted to know when the indicators would be available. The EEA agreed and clarified that an final indicator selection will be made by November according to the SOER implementation plan.
- Which type of funding will the EEA provide (Turkey)? The EEA will invite participants for workshops and provide technical support for the countries participating in the experiments.

Furthermore, the following requests were made:

- Indicators need to be described thoroughly with the help of a template structure (Sweden). The EEA agrees to that.
- As a longer term vision, indicator exchange should be complemented by facilitating data exchange (Czech Republic). This should be seen as an additional process and should not be used to control the underlying data (Belgium).
- A set of technical issues regarding the use of CSV files vs. RDF were discussed (Ireland). SENSE 2 type data feeds will need to be further supported (Turkey). The EEA will provide additional technical specifications on that.

Actions:

- The EEA will set up a FORUM for communication on future SENSE activities by 4th October. The site will host all relevant meeting documents.

- The EEA will provide short documents clarifying details of the three experiments by 10th October. Countries are invited to engage in these experiments as they have indicated in the questionnaire.
- The EEA is preparing the NRC Environmental Information System (EIS) meeting for late November where SENSE training will be provided, experiments and their initial outcomes will be discussed and further project steps will be jointly planned.