

EuroRoadS 1st workshop

Building a European Road Data Infrastructure

was held on 15 September in Brussels

The aim of the first external workshop for the EuroRoadS project was to

- inform about the scope and work programme of the project,
- present and discuss preliminary results and findings,
- co-ordinate with related projects and initiatives, and
- establish efficient co-operation with the reference groups, participants in surveys carried out within the project and other interested parties.

The workshop was very well received. It attracted the right audience – more than 40 participants from some 30 different public and private sector organisations – and the participants showed a great interest in the project and contributed actively in the discussions. Also the practical arrangements from the host ERTICO met all expectations.

Some important outcomes from the workshop were:

A clear support was given to the general scope of the project. There is a real need to establish an infrastructure for the handling of European road data and the EuroRoadS project has the right aims and directions to lay the ground for this infrastructure. However, even if the project consortium has a very good composition, it is important to find efficient ways also to involve other stakeholders in describing the existing situation and user requirements when setting up proposals for specifications on data structure, data content, architecture for interoperability etc. Therefore, it was most encouraging to meet such an interest from representatives from the three reference groups, related projects and other stakeholders to take part in surveys, in-depth workshops and in reviewing of reports. A direct outcome from the workshop was that the project will disseminate more detailed information to the reference groups and other stakeholders about the timetable for deliverables of more strategic interest in order to facilitate the planning of their contributions.

EuroRoadS is focussed on “core” road data of interest within many application areas, such as asset management, road charging, navigation and routing, fleet management, road safety, mobility and society planning, traffic management, emergency services and disaster planning, and military and security planning. It was stressed during the workshop that EuroRoadS should focus on defining an efficient model for describing the road network and a rather limited number of attributes linked to the road network. The specification should not include data components and attributes that will be covered by other themes within the INSPIRE concept, such as administrative boundaries, addresses, place names or lakes and rivers or data of specific interest within one or a few application areas. It was also pointed out that EuroRoadS should focus on the kind of data where the public sector has a clear role. These viewpoints will be taken into account within the work with setting up a specification framework. It was also agreed to arrange a specific workshop in beginning of November to discuss technical issues and solutions with a wider audience of experts.

It was also discussed whether it would be possible (and desirable) to develop only one specification for the pan-European exchange of road data or if different conformance quality levels should be proposed. The workshop supported a framework that will make it possible to satisfy both basic pan-European needs with data meeting the requirements on the first level

and more demanding applications by introducing increased levels of complexity and functionality on top of the first level.

A basic principle for the EuroRoadS project is to focus on mechanisms needed to support a more efficient interoperability between organisations and countries – not to establish a European road database. This was fully supported by the participants in the workshop, but at the same time was recommended that the project should describe best practises concerning the handling of road data on national levels in order to support countries aiming to establish a more coordinated national infrastructure.

It was stressed that it is important for the project to show practical results – not only well written reports. The project consortium can with satisfaction inform that the most comprehensive work package within the project is about demonstration. A client server architecture will be implemented to demonstrate data flow from distributed public institutions into a commercial map and subsequent applicants.

There were, of course, many other interesting pieces of information and viewpoints that was shared during the workshop. Even if all this not can be depicted in this Newsletter the information has been taken care of for the on-going work within the project.

The project consortium would, once again, like to thank the participants in our first external workshop for their support to the project and active participation and contribution with valuable information and viewpoints!

The project will continue to keep in touch with the reference groups and other interested parties by our homepage, newsletters, brochures, and by sending documents of more strategic importance for reviewing. We are also eager to participate in meetings, workshops and seminars arranged by other organisations to present our findings and to get direct feed-back. We are also open for arranging specific workshops concerning different topics, such as the one being held in early November. The project will also arrange a number of regional conferences as part of the work with implementation plan. Finally, a closing workshop will be arranged at the end of the project period.

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