



# Metadata Server

## Introduction

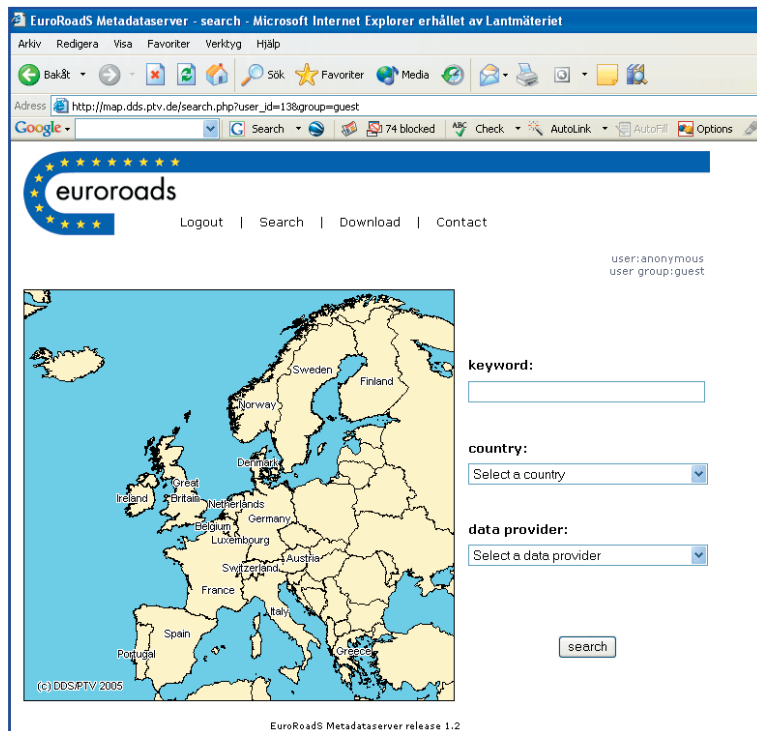
The key output of the EuroRoadS project is the specification framework which enables the provision and exchange of harmonised, interoperable and quality assured road data. It provides a vital link between potential (public sector) data suppliers and (private sector) data users.

In EuroRoadS the metadata server shall:

- provide information on all data available through the EuroRoadS suppliers network;
- use the EuroRoadS conform metadata description

In the medium to longer term, the metadata server is meant to be extended to more advanced and complex services for EuroRoadS data users, as a so called 'virtual shop' (e.g. incl. commercial aspects of exchange, actual data delivery).

The metadata server is accessible on [www.euroroads.org](http://www.euroroads.org) for any interested person, who can log on as 'guest'.



Metadata search page

On an organisational level, potential suppliers and data users need to exchange information on what data and how data are available through EuroRoadS. This is usually done through the exchange of metadata i.e. a formalised data description of the data sets available for exchange.

This leaflet is one out of five leaflets providing details on the different EuroRoadS demonstration components. The other leaflets on demonstration are 'demonstration overview', 'data capture and maintenance', 'data processing' and 'client application SpeedAdvice'.

## Objectives

A metadata server and services enables potential data users to search and inquire available data using a central access and marketing point.

## Core functionalities

Functionalities provided by the server can be distinguished according to the access level of the metadata server user.

For a potential data user, the metadata server provides basic inquiry functions such as:

- search for metadata sets by keyword, country and data provider,
- Delivery of metadata (general as well as quality related) according to the EuroRoadS specification framework,
- access to background information on EuroRoadS data, e.g. test data, ancillary documentation on specific data sets,
- contact functions to EuroRoadS suppliers in general or with regards to a specific data set.

For a EuroRoadS data provider, the server allows to:

- enter metadata sets either as entirely new, based on existing data sets (copy) or as subsets to existing data sets,
- to add ancillary information to each metadata set, such as test data files, further documentation,
- to manage own metadata sets, by entering them, by releasing them for access by all server users or by removing them,
- to edit contact information.

Finally, the metadata server administrator can – in addition to the functions available to the data provider – administer user accounts including access rights for different users.

Once a data user has identified an interesting data set through its metadata description on the server, the user can contact the data provider by e-mail. All subsequent steps in the data exchange are dealt with bilaterally by the data user and the provider without using the metadata server.

## EuroRoadS metadata description

The EuroRoadS metadata description has about 120 different attributes. Typically, a comprehensive metadata description is supposed to be bundled with exchanged data sets themselves.

On the metadata server a subset of metadata from the full EuroRoadS metadata description is used – mainly for reasons of usability.

This subset can be split into two parts:

- **Part 1** includes general metadata such as name, description, data, provider, country, language etc.
- **Part 2** includes quality related metadata such as the update regime, the rate of completeness, correctness etc.

Especially for the latter part, a more detailed understanding of the EuroRoadS Quality framework is required.

## Towards the ‘virtual shop’

With a growing EuroRoadS network, it will be of interest to extend the metadata server functionalities.

This could include:

- Implementing a low level interface to make the EuroRoadS metadata base content accessible to external metadata search engines,
- Functionalities to order data,
- Functionalities to assist in the data exchange transactions.

Metadata input page

## Contact

For further information about the Metadata Server, please visit EuroRoadS on [www.euroroads.org](http://www.euroroads.org) or contact Work Package leader for WP7 Demonstration: Michael Landwehr, PTV AG  
E-mail: [michael.landwehr@ptv.de](mailto:michael.landwehr@ptv.de)

