PlanetData

Network of Excellence

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Abstract

This project report records progress towards the project objectives, reports on the project's results, sums up the major management activities and overviews deviations and effort spending.

Executive summary

This deliverable overviews the ETIHQ project from a management perspective. It shows how the main objectives have been achieved and details the main results of the project which include: the semantic layer for publishing linked tourism data; the ETIHQ linked data repository; a decision support dashboard and intensive dissemination activities towards the tourism practitioners community.

All these results have been achieved thanks to thorough management activities which included both internal and project related work and ranged from setting up project infrastructure, to organizing project meetings and ensuring that all deliverables are delivered and benefit from the PlanetData QA process.

Good management also ensured that issues encountered during the project lead to minimal delays in the project deliverables. Effort has been spent as planned with the exception of one extra PM being contributed as in-kind contribution to account for solving issues with the legacy system underlying TourMIS.

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Abbreviations

ETIHQ	Exposing Tourism Indicators as High Quality Linked Data
LD	Linked Data
QB	RDF Data Cube Vocabulary
PM	Person Month

1 Introduction

The ETIHQ project focused on exposing TourMIS[1] [1], a large-scale and frequently used repository of European tourism indicators, as high quality Linked Data. The semantic modelling aspects and the resulting Linked Data (LD) repository have been described in deliverables D26.1 [2] and D27.1 [3] respectively. In order to demonstrate the benefits of Linked Data technologies, the project also built a decision support dashboard[2] that allows tourism managers to inspect and interact with statistical tourism data from multiple sources and domains.

This deliverable looks at the project from a project management perspective outlining the major achievements and results, detailing the management activities as well as reporting deviations and the effort spent.

[1] http://www.tourmis.info
[2]http://etihq.weblyzard.com

2 Progress Towards Project Objectives and Key Project Results

The overall aim of ETIHQ was to support tourism data owners to publish, connect and, subsequently exploit their data sources for supporting decisions by following Linked Data principles. This aim translates into the following objectives, all of which have been achieved during the ETIHQ project:

O1: Publish tourism indicators as high quality Linked Data. While many tourism indicator datasets exist, these are either not available as LD or have been exposed by third parties as low-quality datasets. Our objective was to create a high quality Linked Data repository of tourism (and related) indicators based on TourMIS, the largest and most detailed European dataset of tourism indicators. To ensure a high quality publication, we focused on:

(i) a high data interoperability through detailed semantic specifications and

(ii) improved traceability by specifying data provenance.

Key project results created while working on this objective were:

- A semantic modelling layer for publishing tourism data consisting of the combination of the RDF Data Cube vocabulary (QB), three domain specific tourism ontologies[3] and the PROV-O vocabulary for specifying provenance. These results were provided by WP26 and described in deliverables D26.1 [2].
- The ETIHQ linked data repository containing TourMIS data as Linked data and accessible in various ways (SPARQL endpoints, Linked Data interfaces) from http://data.etihq.eu/. Data publishing aspects were detailed in deliverable D27.1 [3].

O2: Extend and connect tourism data with external indicators: Tourism decision makers often analyze tourism indicators in tandem with indicators that are external to the domain, for example, those that shed light on sustainability or economic developments within a target region. Our objective was to extend the ETIHQ repository with indicators extracted from external sources, convert these to LD and link them to the ETIHQ dataset.

This objective has been achieved by linking to data about selected indicators from Eurostat and the World Bank. To ensure quick response rates for the application that exploits these data sources, we decided to collect the relevant data from the external sources and save it on our own servers.

O3: Build a tourism decision support application. Decision support applications that allow simultaneous analysis of indicators from diverse domains are scarce in tourism and generally as LD applications. We leveraged the ETIHQ data for offering decision support to tourism experts by combining and visualising data from different sources. By creating a usable prototype, we validated the ETIHQ dataset and provided an insight into the tradeoffs of LD for the tourism domain and beyond.

The resulting tourism decision support system is available at http://etihq.weblyzard.com and represents deliverable D28.1.

Besides achieving the technical objectives above, one of our aims was to disseminate the project results to tourism practitioners thus introducing them to Linked Data technologies and their benefits. As described in D29.2, our dissemination report deliverable, we conducted a comprehensive dissemination activity with a rich news media presence[4] and a strong involvement in the annual TourMIS workshop both in 2013 and 2014.

[3] The domain ontologies are available for download at: http://www.etihq.eu/results/deliverables/
[4] http://www.etihq.eu/2014/06/19/etihq-in-the-austrian-news-media/

3 Management Activities

Management activities included both the internal management of the project work as well as liaising with the project management of the PlanetData project.

Internal project management focused on:

- *Setting up the project specific document-sharing infrastructure* – consisting of a GDrive repository where all project related information was stored (project proposal, time sheets, meeting notes, deliverables, etc);
- *Organising and conducting a set of meetings necessary for planning the work in the project*: Internal project meetings with the entire project consortium took place on average once a month (as shown in Table 1). Weekly meetings between the PI and the project stuff were held to monitor progress. Several ad-hoc meetings took place whenever necessary. We also attended two project wide meetings in January and September 2014.
- *Day-to-day monitoring of the work progress* – as a close collaboration between the project PI (Dr. Sabou) and the main person in charge of the project work, Mr. Brasoveanu.

Consortium meetings		
dd-dd m yy	**Type of meeting**	**City, Country**
16-10-2013	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
05-11-2013	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
03-12-2013	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
17-01-2014	Project Meeting	Luxembourg
20-01-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
10-02-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
11-03-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
09-04-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
30-04-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
07-05-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
28-05-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
12-06-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
18-06-2014	Internal Project Meeting	Vienna, Austria
08-09-2014	Project Meeting	Crete, Greece

Table 1: Overview of project related meetings

Management activities focusing on the PlanetData specific tasks included:

1. Ensuring timely submission of the planned deliverables and ensuring their quality by organising an internal quality assurance (QA) process as envisioned by the PlanetData project;
2. Preparing project reports;
3. Assessing risks and providing contingency plans;
4. Attending consortium-level project meetings.

4 Deviations

The ETIHQ proposal has been written without being aware of PlanetData's internal QA process that takes one month. This fact lead to some delays in delivering the deliverables, because an extra month had to be accommodated to allow for the internal QA process. The planning of the project work has been meanwhile revised to allow for the internal QA process, as follows:

Del. no.	Deliverable name	WP no.	Planned Delivery Month	Revised Delivery Month
D26.1	Semantic Modelling of Tourism Indicators	WP26	M39	M41
D27.1	The ETIHQ Repository	WP27	M42	M44
D28.1	Tourism Decision Support using Linked Data	WP28	M48	M48
D29.1	Project Website	WP29	M38	M40
D29.2	Dissemination and Exploitation Report	WP29	M48	M48
D30.1	Project Report	WP30	M48	M48

Table 2: Overview of revised delivery dates for project deliverables.

5 Effort Spending

Table 3 sums up the planned and actual effort spending for the project per 3-monthly reporting period and per work packages.

An overspending of 1PM has happened in WP27 due to difficulties we encountered during data publishing - due to irregularities with the TourMIS dataset, extra effort was needed to refactor the database and this required one extra month of work. This effort has been covered by MODUL University Vienna as in-kind contribution.

WP	Planned Total	Spent per reporting period				Spent Total	Left to spend
		M37-39	M40-42	M43-45	M46-48		
		Oct-Dec13	Jan-Mar14	Apr-June14	July-Sept14		
WP26	3,00	3,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	3,00	0,00
WP27	3,00	0,00	2,50	1,50	0,00	4,00	-1,00
WP28	5,00	0,00	0,00	3,00	2,00	5,00	0,00
WP29	1,00	0,30	0,10	0,30	0,30	1,00	0,00
WP30	1,00	0,30	0,20	0,20	0,30	1,00	0,00
Total	**13**	**3,60**	**2,80**	**5,10**	**2,60**	**14,00**	**-1,00**

Table 3: Overview of effort spending in terms of Person Months (PM).

6 Summary

In this deliverable we provide an overview of the management activities performed in ETIHQ. To sum up: all major objectives of the project have been reached. Minor deviations in the delivery date of some deliverables was experienced due to the short project span and several technical obstacles that we encountered, most notably the poor RDB2RDF support for Microsoft SQL Server and the need to refactor the TourMIS database schema to make it suitable as a data source for linked data publication.

Due to the obstacles above, one extra person month of effort was required as additional to the 13PMs initially envisioned. This has been covered by MODUL University as in-kind contribution.

Overall, from a management perspective, we consider ETIHQ a successful project who has reached the proposed objectives and successfully handled technical obstacles despite the short time-span of the project.

References

[1] Wöber, K. 2003. Information supply in tourism management by marketing decision support systems. Tourism Management. 24(3):241-255.

[2] Sabou, M., Brașoveanu, A.M.P. 2014. D26.1 Call2: Semantic Modelling of Tourism Indicators. PlanetData Deliverable.

[3] Brașoveanu, A.M.P., Sabou, M., 2014. D27.1 Call2: The ETIHQ repository. PlanetData Deliverable.