ESMERALDA

Meetings with Stakeholders, e.g. DG ENV, EEA to discuss inter-operability of ESMERALDA outputs into Open-NESS/OPERAs Common Platform and BISE

Milestone 31, Part 2

(Meeting 2 out of 4; 20.01.2016 in Brussels)

January 2016

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Dissemination level
Restricted

ESMERALDA

Enhancing ecosystem services mapping

for policy and decision making

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Background (based on ESMERALDA DoA; state April 2015)

ESMERALDA planned inter-operability with the "Common Platform" of OpenNESS, Operas, and BISE to ensure the perennity of the end products. OpenNESS (Operationalisation of Natural Capital and ES: from concepts to real-world applications) and OPERAs (Operational Potential of Ecosystem Research Applications) are two sister projects under FP7 related to the call ENV.2012.6.2-1. They represent the state-of-the-art of ES research in Europe and include specific objectives on biophysical, economic and social ES mapping and assessment at multiple spatial scales. Several ESMERALDA partners contribute to either OpenNESS or OPERAs. To avoid duplication, the EC asked both projects to collaborate and to provide a single information system for ES rather than a separate resource hub (OPERAs) and clearing house (OpenNESS). The EC also insisted on inter-operability with BISE, the BD Information System for Europe. Following negotiations with the EC and with each other, there is now a sound proposal on the table to create a Common Platform called OPPLA. An alfa version is available at oppla.eu

The main advantage of making outputs of ESMERALDA available through OPPLA or BISE is that both systems are designed to operate longer the project.

ESMERALDA aims to join the efforts of OpenNESS and OPERAs by focussing on specific themes of OPPLA. In the project proposal and in the DoA, ESMERALDA suggested contacting OPPLA to negotiate if, and how, its products and Deliverables can contribute to the platform, and under which conditions collaboration can occur. Specific attention will be directed to the integration of the on-line database and support mechanisms for EU member state authorities, and the multi-tiered flexible methodology for ES mapping and assessment. Furthermore, all guidelines which will be developed by ESMERALDA should be accessible for users of BISE and OPPLA. This means that ESMERALDA aims to provide its outputs in an interoperable way with these two information systems.

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Main aims of the regular meetings are therefore:

- Transfer of knowledge generated (e.g. throughout the project Workshops);
- Get stakeholders feedback to relevant European ES knowledge platforms;
- Check proposed inter-operability with the "Common Platform" of OpenNESS, OPERAs (OPPLA) as well as with BISE, ensuring perennity of ESMERALDA end-products;
- In line with the recommendations of SPIRAL, ESMERALDA aims to provide outputs that support the information hub function of BISE (especially related to BD strategy/Action 5);
- ESMERALDA will explore how validated products of the project, [and in particular the flexible methodology for mapping and the online platforms], can become part of BISE;
- Enhance existing prototype of the ESP visualization tool (ESP-VT) will be enhanced with ESMERALDA results;
- Workshops or training events will present the ESP VT and ESMERALDA's activities aiming at its elaboration.

Target participants in these workshops are stakeholders involved in ES, DG ENV, JRC and EEA.

Regular meetings are scheduled for (09) 7/2015, 01/2016, 01/2017, 07/2017. Alternatively, the meetings can also take place in combination with other relevant events (e.g. project Workshops). Milestone 31 is part of ESMERALDA Task 6.3: Integration of results (lead by CAU, Pensoft; + all partners).

1. Programme and Participants of 2nd ESMERALDA Meeting with relevant Stakeholders

Date: 20.01.2016
Time: 10:00-12:15
Place: JRC headquarters, Rue du Champ de Mars/Marsveldstraat 21, 1050 Brussels
Room: CDMA 05/A197

Meeting agenda:
1. Introduction (JM)
   a. Brief Update on progress ESMERALDA
   b. Summary points of the previous meting
2. ESMERALDA fact sheets (for upload to BISE). How to proceed (JM, SR, ME)
3. More details on the OPPLA business model (CB) and opportunities for ESMERALDA products which should not go into BISE
4. OneEcosystem and ESP-Visualisation Tool (JM)
5. Discussion points
   o Who are the key customers/user groups of the respective platforms?
   o Questions of data ownerships, open access strategy of EU (i.e. in
   o OPPLA)
   o What can ESMERALDA provide, e.g. by testing systems in workshops,
   o collecting user feedback/opinions from our EU wide stakeholder
   o network

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Participants Stakeholders: Claire Brown (OPPLA), Sabine Roscher (ETC/BD; via
teleconference), Marco Fritz (EC), Sofie Vandewoestijne (EC), Markus Erhard
(EEA) (via videoconference), Anne Teller (EC) (from 11:38 a.m.), Julie ? (EC)
(from 11:38 a.m.)
Participants ESMERALDA: EB members: Joachim Maes, Benjamin Burkhard (via
videoconference)
Absent: Federico Nogara (EC)

2. Minutes from the 2nd Meeting

1. The meeting starts with the meeting introduction and an update of ESMERALDA progress and results from the first project phase (JM).

2. ESMERALDA fact sheets
- Discussion about ESMERALDA country fact sheets (Milestone 8) and EU member state clustering according to their state of MAES implementation (Deliverable 2.1).
- Suggestion to assess success of ESMERALDA by doing a follow-up clustering in a later project phase
- Existing country fact sheets are state-of-the-art reports from the countries; no update foreseen in current ESMERALDA working plan.
- Suggestion that EU MS MAES representatives could take care for the updates of their information themselves, ESMERALDA could do the further analyses of progress; Make sure to motivate EU MS actors accordingly.
- Fact sheets are in final formatting now, ready to be uploaded very soon
- Options for upload in BISE: country-specific section, MAES catalogue of case studies (accessible via country map), in MAES-related developments in EU MS section, topic centre, or via link to ESMERALDA ICP
- ESMERALDA will make fact sheets available via email to SR and ME. Fact sheets (Pdfs) shall be labelled as ESMERALDA products.
- Discussion whether ESMERALDA facts sheets shall be added to or replace existing fact sheets in BISE (from MESEU, TRAIN)
- Include (perhaps sensitive) information on MAES implementation status in EU MS?
- MAES information needs to be updated regularly in order to reflect high dynamics in the process.

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- General discussion about current BISE structure: modify current structure or integrate new information? Current structure too event-driven; users need to know where to find what.
- BISE needs to be transparent in terms of information, indicating sources (originating from EU or MS representatives?)

3. CB gives update on OPPLA
- OPERAs and OpenNESS have developed governance structure for OPPLA (e.g. how to become part/owner of OPPLA)
- A legal entity shall be established for OPPLA, the business model is under development
- Note: everything developed with public funding needs to be publicly available
- Make clear the added value of OPPLA, e.g. how to create revenues from it?
- Contact to other projects, plans to develop corporate identity
- Contacts to IPBES on how to develop policy support tools
- OPPLA platform is working, will be tested on policy day
- Next version ready end of Feb, public version ready end of Sep
- OPPLA starts generating different kinds of resources (e.g. webinars) – co-operation with ESMERALDA? Identify users.
- ESMERALDA can offer to test OPPLA inside the consortium or within its stakeholder network in EU MS;
- OPPLA could also be used for communication and dissemination of ESMERALDA results (e.g. guidance materials), in combination with BISE
- Discussion whether OPPLA can support the stakeholder network created in ESMERALDA
- What can OPPLA's long-term strategy be, use of social media spaces, link to ESP
- Based on recent OPPLA meeting minutes (CB) + BISE perspectives (ME & SR), a strategy document describing the complementarity between OPPLA and BISE will be developed, including tasks of both platforms, differences, similarities, target groups, pros/cons for different purposes, information access
- OPPLA could harvest the research outcomes from projects, BISE acts as clearing house mechanisms for EU

4. JM gives updates on the new journal OneEcosystem and the ESP visualisation tool
- New Open Access online data journal OneEcosystem (edited by ESMERALDA EB members) can be used to communicate MAES-related data; link to ESP-VT under construction
- The ESP-VT is working, JRC working on a new version (available in 2017)
- ESMERALDA and ESP are populating the ESP-VT with ES maps and data
- Discussion about the relation of the ESP-VT and the BISE digital atlas: ESP-VT globally, BISE EU focussed; BISE provides links to web services & visualises, no data access provision

Further points:
- Include further topics such as nature-based solutions, green infrastructure or disaster risk reduction in activities

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3. Conclusions

- ESMERALDA fact sheets (from those countries who have accepted their publication) will be made available in BISE, as Pdfs in BISE or via link to ESMERALDA ICP as immediate action.
- ESMERALDA fact sheets content will be used later on to update existing information in BISE on MAES-related activities in EU MS, adding to/replacing current information and texts.
- In future, EU MS MAES representatives take care for the updates of their information themselves
- BISE will be used as central information repository for MAES activities (including MAES-related activities from the EC), replacing other fact sheets and information collection via the MAES WG.
- Updates will go together with MAES WG meetings 2 times per year. BISE people will implement the updates based on documents sent in by EU MS representatives.
- ESMERALDA facts sheets, EU MS clustering and plans for future MAES implementation in BISE will be discussed at next MAES WG meeting (March)
- BISE structure needs general improvement, information flow and authorisation for updates need to be checked.
- OPPLA could harvest the research outcomes from projects, BISE acts as clearing house mechanisms for EU
- A strategy document describing the OPPLA and BISE will be developed (CB)

4. Next meeting

The next (3rd) meeting is scheduled according to the ESMERALDA DoA in January 2017. Meanwhile, discussions between all involved partners will continue during different occasions.