NAP & NB Harmonisation Group

Newsletter

Issue: 1 (September 2020)

This is a newsletter of the NAP&NB Harmonisation Group. The goals of this group of National Access Points (NAPs) and National Bodies (NBs) are primarily to strengthen the position and role of NAPs as backbone of European ITS, transport and mobility data infrastructure and to support and contribute to the EU Green Deal in the decarbonisation of the transport sector. The Group will address NAP and NB specific issues and work towards harmonizing the implementation of the Delegated Regulations (EU) No. 886/2013, 885/2013, 2015/962 and 2017/1926. It will also exchange best practices and experiences to set up and run NAPs and NBs (e.g. advice on NAP architecture, common level of service, user acceptance and experience).

Last but not least the NAP&NB Harmonisation Group will respond to the EC call for proposals for a coordination mechanism to federate the National Access Points established under the ITS Directive (see also the news item on 'coordination mechanism' below in this newsletter).

If you want to join this group, please contact the chair of the NAP&NB Harmonisation Group Timo Hoffmann and/or visit the LinkedIn Group.

NAP&NB Harmonisation Group Working Groups
The NAP&NB Harmonisation Group has established 5 Working Groups, each covering different topics:

WG1 Data standards and NAP architecture: This Working Group focuses on analysis of different approaches to NAP architecture / implementation in Member States to establish common features, principles and technology. The aim is also to discuss and reach an understanding on the traffic information content and used data categories, location referencing methods, use of DATEX II format, its profiles and extensions, data delivery mechanisms and licencing of information published according to the Delegated Regulations. The way how the data is shared relates also to its metadata and the coordinated meta data catalogue, this needs to be put into context with OpenData initiatives and European metadata profile. The chair of WG1 is Petr Bureš (petr.bures@tamtamresearch.com).

WG2 National Body processes: The Working Group is focussing on the Compliance Assessment issues lying in the responsibility of the National Bodies/Nominated authorities of the Member States. The aim is to identify potential for harmonising processes and forms as well as quality and evaluation criteria. Moreover, best practices are going to be shared, gaps and obstacles will be identified, and proper common solutions will be defined. Currently, the working group is doing a survey on the status of the National Bodies in the different member states and their experiences and approaches for compliance assessment. The chair of WG2 is Damaris Gruber (Damaris.Gruber@austriatech.at).

WG3 Best practices: The aim of this Working Group is to identify, define and share Best Practices for NAP operators across Europe. In order to achieve this goal, we will start by conducting a survey on the NAPs implementation and establish a contact point list for each country. We will identify obstacles and gaps faced by NAPs operators and solve them in collaboration with the other working groups. We will analyse different legal aspects and measures taken that can be applied by others. By doing that, we will make proposals and recommendations to improve NAPs. The chair of WG3 is Lucian Ilina (lucian.ilina@andnet.ro).

WG4 External Connections, influencing and communications: This Working Group deals with the external communication of the NAP&NB Harmonisation Group, i.e. identifying the relevant external stakeholders, identifying their needs and wishes, promoting the NAP&NB Harmonisation Group activities, maintaining a LinkedIn Group, and writing the newsletter. Furthermore, this working group will identify the need for user support and training, knowledge dissemination (helpdesk, user forum, website, guidelines, webinars, workshops etc.) and promotion of results across ITS fora and congresses and stakeholder communities. The chair of WG4 is Louis Hendriks (louis.hendriks@rws.nl).

WG5 Proposal Coordination: This is the newest working group, especially created to coordinate the CEF PSA call proposal writing process. We expect the CEF PSA call to be published in October or beginning of November (see paragraph below). By that time, due to the normally quite short time to answer with a proposal, we hope to already be in a good starting position. The working group forms the main writing team of the proposal. It is planned to include content for the proposal from the other working groups, giving all active WG members a chance for input. The chair of WG5 is Timo Hoffmann (hoffmannt@bast.de).

NAP and NB representatives from 15 countries are active in the working groups of the NAP & NB Harmonization group (Austria, Belgium, Czechia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland), and we have people from 25 European countries that are kept informed about our group's activities e.g. via this newsletter.
For more information on the NAP & NB Harmonisation Group please download our Position Paper [here](#) or reach out to [Timo Hoffmann](#), [Louis Hendriks](#) or any working group chair.

Upcoming Programme Support Action on 'coordination mechanism to federate the National Access Points'
It is apparent that NAPs and NBs in each country are faced with common challenges and are looking for common solutions through working further together. The EU Commission (DG MOVE) issued a [Concept Paper](#) dated 15 June 2020 that outlines their preparation of a "Coordination mechanism to federate the National Access Points established under the ITS Directive". This coordination mechanism should be set up as long-term institution where Member States experts, NAPs operators and National Bodies/competent authorities can concretely work together on common issues related to the development, operation and evolution of NAPs for the implementation of ITS and further contribution to the Common European mobility data space. Moreover, new challenges such as data collection activities and negotiations with private data providers and/or global players will be addressed jointly. This coordination mechanism should ideally involve all Member States (and be open to EEA countries) as main members, and if necessary other public and private partners, depending on the different tasks.

The 'coordination mechanism' will be funded through a so-called Programme Support Action (PSA). A PSA, under the CEF Transport, is a specific funding tool (contract) granted by the Commission (e.g. DG MOVE) in order to support Member States in the development and deployment of a specific European transport infrastructure policy and/or objective, aiming the realisation of a robust and resource efficient European transport system including relevant European legislations and standards (i.e. ITS Directive, ITS Delegated Regulations, standardisation activities). The logistics for Member States to apply for a PSA is similar than the one related to a CEF Call, nevertheless, taking into consideration that it is a lighter process, is usually done in a smaller time window - the action normally starts 2 or 3 months after its publication. Therefore, the need for setting up an efficient proposal coordination team is critical to guarantee that the process of collecting, discussing and analysing the necessary documents (e.g. preparation of the proposal, application forms – legal and financial) is done swiftly and in a timely way.

Joint meeting of projects on 'coordination mechanism to federate the National Access Points'

On 7th July 2020 the NAP&NB Group had a first meeting with representatives of a number of EU projects and initiatives to discuss possible cooperation in response to the call for proposals for a coordination mechanism to federate the National Access Points established under the ITS Directive.

During the meeting the projects DATEX II, TN-ITS GO, Data Task Force, EU EIP, Data4PT and IDACS presented themselves and expressed their willingness to further cooperate in this call. The

level of cooperation (information, coordination, integration) will depend on the project. Further discussions with the projects' representatives are planned.

According to the European Commission this coordination mechanism should ideally involve all Member States (and be open to EEA countries) as main members. Member States, projects and private partners interested to participate in this coordination mechanism can indicate their interest by sending an e-mail to Timo Hoffmann.

Document sharing

If you are a member of the NAP&NB Harmonisation Group, you will be allowed access to the document sharing platform of the Group. If you are participating in a WG and want to have access, please send an e-mail to Benjamin Witsch.

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