Interreg North-West Europe BE-GOOD
European Regional Development Fund

BE-GOOD: Newsletter 1

An introduction to BE-GOOD

Data is becoming more and more a major asset of the future knowledge economy. In this context the Interreg VB North - West Europe project BE-GOOD was developed to generate value from and stimulate sustainable ecosystems for open data in regions in North - West Europe.

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A challenge in the picture

As one of the BE-GOOD partners, Dublin City Council is working on two challenges. One of them is “Rate my public Transport Stop” and will look to develop a system to retrieve and analyze stop specific information.

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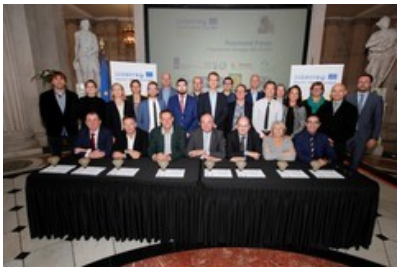

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Questions to project manager: Raymond Feron

As a conclusion to his first BE-GOOD newsletter we asked the project manager of Rijkswaterstaat: Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment from the Netherlands what his experiences have been in this first phase of the project.

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www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/begood

Project Duration: 25/02/2016 - 31/05/2020

Total Project Budget: € 6.45 million

Total ERDF: € 3.87 million

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BE-GOOD is a pioneering project aiming to unlock , re-use and extract value from Public Sector Information (PSI) to develop data driven services in the area of infrastructure and environment. The market potential to re-use Public Sector Information, such as geospatial data, is significant. Currently however, the market for PSI based services is limited as innovators face major barriers:

- Lack of public body experience with the publication of Public Sector Information, limiting the availability of data
- Limited attention to commercial potential of data, limiting relevance of data
- Shortage of links between PSI initiatives and SME solution providers, limiting market uptake

BE-GOOD will deliver 10 pilots to extract commercial value from Public Sector Information. To achieve this goal, the project uses a novel demand driven approach, starting with public delivery challenges across North – West Europe.

By unlocking datasets and better engaging with the market place, the development of applications, software or algorithms for traffic management, air and water quality monitoring and infrastructure maintenance will be made possible.

The partners that will be involved during the course of the project are the following:

Belgium: Vlaamse Milieumaatschappij

The Netherlands: Ministerie van Infrastructuur & Milieu - Rijkswaterstaat, Hoogheemraadschap van Delfland

France: Communauté d'agglomeration Orléans Val de Loire, Conseil Départemental du Loiret

United Kingdom: Glasgow City Council

Ireland: Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath (Dublin City Council)

Luxemburg: Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology

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A challenge in the picture

Dublin City Council is working on two challenges in the context of the BE-GOOD project. One of them is “Rate my public Transport Stop” and will look to develop a system to retrieve and analyze stop specific information.

Dublin City Council will investigate how this can be provided to public transport service providers in order to improve the level of service and incorporate a public transport user feedback mechanism to enable dialogue between service users and -providers.

The challenge is to provide a system to allow for the measuring and improvement of public transport performance and offer the customer an alternative to their stop. All of this will be based on stop performance information through the analysis of the data generated.

One proposal to analyze the performance of public transport stops and the level of public satisfaction with the service provided is the development of an app. Using the application will allow transport users to rate stops against each other using a set of service measures as predefined criteria to establish a rating for these stops. The information gathered can be assessed to provide a rating for stops and a valuable data base to measure bus stop performance and customer satisfaction with the aim to improve the level of customer service.

The challenge will provide a complete solution to allow public transport users a means to engage in a dialogue with the service providers on their user experiences and a back end system to analyze and enable a level of service to be measured.

It is envisaged that the system will be used by both public transport users and public transport providers. The former will use the system to provide useful feedback on stop performance as a mechanism to rate the level of service at a chosen stop and make informed choices about service levels in their areas of choice. The latter will make use of it to analyze the data received and use this as a way to measure and improve the provided services.

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BE-GOOD launch event

From the 11th - 14th of October 2016, Dublin City Council hosted a number of events for the Interreg VB North West Europe project BE-GOOD which culminated with the official launch at The City Hall, on Friday the 14th of October .

During the 'Open Data for a Smarter Society' events, the 8 partners from 6 different EU member states came together to introduce the ambitious BE-GOOD project to the wider public which concluded with the inauguration of the project.

During the week the BE-GOOD partners attended a Smart Dublin Showcase event where they met international smart city practitioners and learned about a range of smart projects that are being deployed across the Dublin Region. Partners also provided a BE-GOOD stand where members of the project disseminated information on the project content to a wide and varied audience.

The Dublin launch event brought the BE GOOD partners and steering group members together and marked the official opening of the Interreg VB North West Europe project and through its success provided a springboard to what hopes to be a successful and innovative collaboration.

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The 3rd International Open Data Conference (opendatacon.org) took place in Madrid on the 2nd week of October 2016. This worldwide event gathered 1.500 participants from different professional areas, but with a common interest in Open Data. The conference targeted three main goals:

- bringing together innovative Open Data solutions
- Identifying future opportunities and generating new debates on Open Data
- Enhancing international partnerships.

Within the scope of BE-GOOD, Vanda Turczi (Community agglomeration of Orleans Val de Loire) and Slim Turki (Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology) attended the conference to learn from best practices in Open Data. The overall goal was to connect these best practices with the BE-GOOD methodology and challenges, to engage innovation networks by a direct contact of international stakeholders and to communicate BE-GOOD principles.

The BE-GOOD project poster was presented on the Open Cities Summit, one of many pre-events of the IODC (opencitiessummit.org). This was a good opportunity to present the main base-lines of the project and start discussions on the challenges. Vanda and Slim were also able to identify other case studies and initiatives, relevant for the BE-GOOD challenges, such as platforms for crowdsourcing flood related information, improvement of road safety using geospatial open data and collaborative users' information, predicting pollution, crowd-sourced law enforcement, etc.

The participation at many IODC conference sessions not only allowed to see show cases, best practices and lessons learned on Open Data. It was also made possible to interact with experts on various Open Data areas: platforms, incubators, business models, transport, disaster management…These experiences to refine the BE-GOOD methodology and help us to advance in Open Data release and challenge.

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Total project budget: **€ 6,45 million**

Total budget received from Interreg North West Europe (2014-2020): **€ 3,87 million of ERDF**

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Questions to project manager:
Raymond Feron

What is the role of Rijkswaterstaat (Agency for Public Works and Water management) - Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment in this project?
Rijkswaterstaat has two roles in the project. As lead partner we are responsible for the overall project management and together with ensuring coherence between the work packages we have to maintain focus on the overall goals of the project. Secondly we are –like all the public partners in the project- responsible for two pilots. The first one is about predictive road maintenance to assert safer roads and the second one is called vital assets, which will provide insight in the health and durability of infrastructure.. These challenges are centered around day-to-day problems of the Rijkswaterstaat organization, where we try to find new solutions using a data-driven approach.

What is the added value of working in an Interreg VB North West Europe project?
The added value of working in this Interreg project is twofold: exchange of knowledge and ideas and transnational collaboration in finding new solutions for problems in public organizations, especially searching for solutions that are based on available data and can be of added value for more than one partner. Solutions will be designed for one partner, in such a manner that it can be used by more partners at different organizations in North West Europe.

What are the biggest challenges you encountered until now?
There are two big challenges that immediately pop into my mind. The first challenge we faced was starting up the project and getting all the formalities and administrative things in place for the project. The second one is combining the interests of all the different partners, with numerous professional skills. That's a task which is never easy, but nevertheless, I am very happy with the active and positive collaboration between all of the partners, and with their flexibility.

Do you have any experience with other Interreg projects?
I have worked with European projects in an earlier stage of my career but working as a project manager is also for me brand new. I am very excited to get this project of to a good start and hopefully also towards a good end result.

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