

Joint UNECE / Eurostat Workshop on Implementing the Common Statistical Production Architecture: ‘CSPA for Digital Transformation’

3-5 July 2017, Wiesbaden, Germany

Evaluation Report

1. In total, 53 participants responded to the on-line evaluation questionnaire. This is over 70 percent of the participants. The workshop had plenary and parallel sessions for the three streams that were identified: Investors, Designers and Assemblers. Given the relatively high response rate and the equal relative representation of the three streams, it was felt that results are representative. The workshop was organized back-to-back with the Workshop of the ESSnet Sharing Common Functionalities in the European Statistical System (ESSnet SCFE).
2. Most participants evaluated the **overall quality** and the **quality of the organisation** of the workshop as ‘very good’. Four respondents evaluated the **quality of the presentations** and of the overall quality as ‘fairly good’, while one respondent was not satisfied with the quality of the presentations and organisation. Regarding the latter, not having tables in the main meeting room and the unavailability of presentations before the workshop were given as reasons. The distance to the different rooms and to lunch facilities were mentioned too. It was also remarked that some native speakers spoke too fast and not clear enough for non-native speakers. Those who participated in the Assemblers stream were most positive.

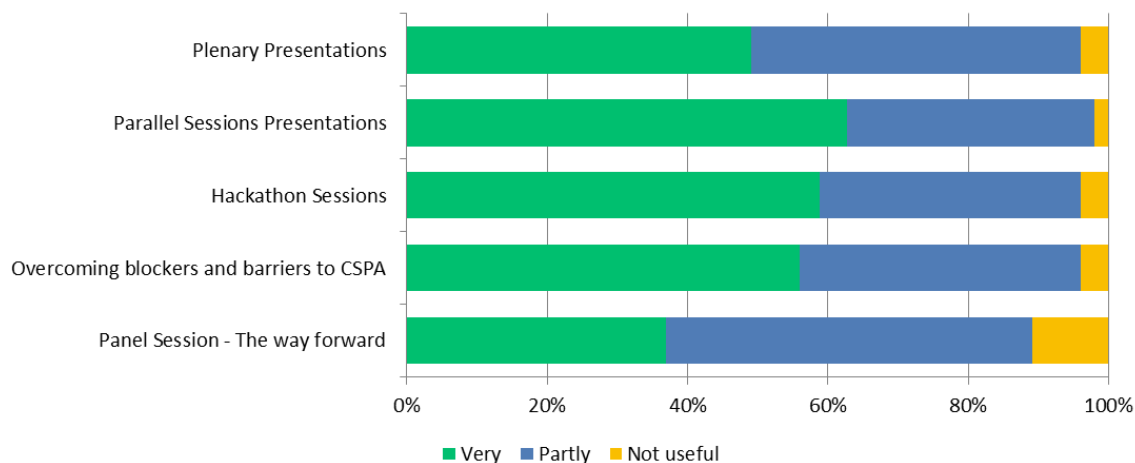
How do you evaluate the quality of the workshop in general?



3. About 90 percent found that there was a good **balance between time for presentation and for discussion**. Four respondents found it too long and one too short. The balance between presentations and discussions was considered good by 45. The remaining respondents were split on whether more time was needed for presentations or rather for discussion.
4. With respect to the **balance between presentations and the Hackathon** activity, 41 (77%) of the respondents felt it was a good balance and 9 wanted more time for presentations and 3 more time for the hackathon. There was no significant difference in responses between the streams.

5. Respondents found the parallel presentation session most useful. The panel session on the way forward was only partially or not useful according to the majority of the respondents. Only among the Investors, the majority found it very useful. Two third of respondents that participated in the Investors stream, also found the plenary presentations very useful. Participants of the two other streams had most replying ‘partially useful’ to the plenary sessions. There was not a significant difference in how the three streams evaluated the usefulness of the hackathon sessions in all groups the majority found it ‘very useful’ (though two respondents from the Designers stream found it not useful).

How useful for your work were the topics covered by the sessions?



6. Respondents were also asked to provide **suggestions for improving the Hackathon** session. Several respondents mentioned that the hackathon was very good. There were some concerns about the usefulness of the hackathon for CSPA beginners. A separate hackathon or an education session was suggested. There were also several suggestion related to creating more information exchange between the streams and between the different hackathon groups. Several respondents suggested that defining more concrete topics and deliverables before the hackathon, would improve the outcome. The need for internet, computers and materials to be used during the hackathon was also stressed. Detailed suggestions can be found in the Annex.

7. The far majority of the respondents were very satisfied with the **results and conclusions** of the workshop. One respondent was not satisfied, while the remaining quarter only partially.

8. Respondents were also asked to provide general remarks and suggestions for improvements. Several suggestions were made for follow-up actions and improvements. Those made related to the hackathon or the overall organisation have already been covered above. The organisation and the social events provided by Destatis were much appreciated. The need to clarify what CSPA compliance means was found important as well as the need to address both starters in CSPA as well the needs of those more advanced. Detailed responses can be found in the Annex.

Annex: detailed response to open questions

9. The following suggestions for improving the Hackathon were made:
- *Beginners don't have always much to offer so perhaps they should have a hackathon of their own.*
 - *It was many that were "beginners". An education session have had helped to spread up the work.*
 - *There could be a special session for those who are new to CSPA, and maybe also the group discussions can be on different levels*
 - *Whiteboards and more workshop materials like pin boards, cards, pencils etc. rooms that are more stimulating creativity.*
 - *There were presentations in other groups which were of interest but could not attend as I was in a different stream*
 - *I really enjoy the hackathon sessions, they give the opportunity to all participants to share knowledge and experiences. However I think that it would be useful at the beginning of each hackathon to present the main outcomes of the previous hackathons, to reduce the risk to produce outputs very close to the ones obtained in previous hackathons.*
 - *It would be nice to hear in more detail about the activities in other hackathons*
 - *More time for cross-stream sharing in the second day*
 - *Shorter sessions (~2h) with in between plenary 3-2-1 debriefings and the possibility to switch group at those points --> more like the "open space" format, because in fact what we do it not a hackathon...*
 - *Internet is very important, and having decent internet connection is critical for hackathons, where one often rely on online tools.*
 - *Need internet access*
 - *Providing the means to work on i.e. computers. Evaluate the outcomes with the chair of the group i.e. should be written bullets or use case or anything else.*
 - *implementing a service*
 - *Simple developing could be done like the famous "hello world" examples. Would be very interesting and interactive.*
 - *There should be focus on deliverables to improve the standard, and/or publish (eventual) material for CSPA.*
 - *Would be good to experiment with more hackathon upfront and doing plenary afterwards to consolidate. Much talk about core logic and adaptors... a real win would have been an example (maybe an existing R package function?) linked to taxonomy (methodology based?) that allows a statistician to find it.*
 - *Avoid presentations in between Hackathon sessions*
 - *In my opinion, there are still many questions not mature enough in the international community regarding these standards for the hackathon to be very useful.*
 - *It might by difficult to organize, but more precisely description of subjects discussed (before meeting) would be advisable*
 - *lunch breaks 1 hour is too short, 1.5 hours would be better*
 - *The discussions in Hackathon are very philosophical, and very ambiguous. For example, attendees differently understand a term such as Enterprise Architecture. From the beginning it is necessary to make clear some terms*
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10. Comments on results and conclusions::
- *Conclusions were good but I wait for them to be put into concrete things.*

- *Discussions were quite much the same in last year's workshop.*
- *I am afraid that the main outcomes are very close to the results of the workshop held in Geneva last year. In my opinion we would need a more strong governance of the standard in order to proceed faster.*
- *I detect some deficit in the methodological content of the workshop. Official statistics must bridge the gap between methodologists and software developers (IT experts). My feeling is that this year's contents do not help in this direction.*
- *I was very happy with the trends and directions; now I'd be keen in these being turned into more explicit next steps, some consortiums eager to take them forwards, and some small and clearly scoped projects. For example (Some of these can be taken forwards in a boot camp):*
 - *- Catalogue updates*
 - *- Investors comms plan*
 - *- Updates to UNECE Investment Plans (i.e., nag non-responders)*
 - *- Methodology architecture*
 - *- PoC of core logic + adaptor + service package*
 - *- Ways of working: PoC of backlog approach to developing a bunch of ""stupid services"" and whether some grow into ""smart services""*
 - *- Guidance & MoUs for regional / time zone partnership approach*
- *I would expect a more detailed plan to be implemented in the near future (say one year)*
- *Partly, because still a lot of open work... ideas have to be implemented etc. and generate a real value, sometimes it was to me a lot of theoretic blabla, we need to become slightly more explicit and concrete about the CSPA idea*
- *Sadly I wasn't there for the conclusions. Maybe it was explained, but how will the feet-voting session results be analysed and used? It was a (over)long session so I hope that something will come out of it. Also the great hackathon work needs to be taken forward and published either as part of the standard or annexed to it.*
- *There were no conclusions.*

11. Other comments:

- *Distance to lunch places should be factored in when timing how long the lunch is.*
- *Great organisation and motivational facilitation from UNECE, DeStatis and all of the chairs!*
- *I think that the organization of the workshop was excellent, the balance between the hackathons and the plenary sessions was great. In my opinion we should work together on CSPA standard in order to clarify some key concepts. For example the concept of "CSPA compliance" is still fuzzy.*
- *I would like to thank Lukas for the great excursion!*
- *I would try to purse a bottom-up approach for the standards instead of a top-down driving the community to too abstract work.*
- *Liked feet voting session*
- *Many countries are very far in their technological development and it is always nice to share experiences with those countries.*
- *May be the market place session should end up each day for allowing more informal exchange and questions between participants ...*
- *Most participants did not have a clear idea of the meaning of CSPA compliant. This situation did not change after the event. There is a need to revise the conceptualization of CSPA, within the UNECE documents, to clarify the purpose.*

- *Presentations had to be made available before the event.*
- *Questions to all participants (with possible answers A, B or C) have shown real status of CSPA acceptance. It was very good point. Some questions were however unequivocal, not clear enough.*
- *Some starting point for the beginners to speed learning curve and understanding.*
- *Thumbs up for some of the real examples.*
- *The assembler track was quite interesting. Also loved the idea of the blockers gave us a quick insight on how our concerns and doubts are shared by the community.*
- *The Hackathon was the best. Was nice to work in groups and additionally you can bond better with people.*
- *Also feet voting was nice exercise and I heard a lot of new reasons how the people perceive the CSPA, also because people are sitting too much. I would expect to see some end results. Probably will be on the wiki ..."*
- *The hackathons are very good for subjects like CSPA as they bring together different backgrounds to brainstorm and put forward ideas. I also liked the friendly and informal atmosphere. Well done overall!!*
- *The sprint/hackathon format is tiring but good.*
- *Good results were achieved"*
- *Too long if you attend both workshops*
- *Very rich interactions with all the good people of CSPA!*
- *Very well organized, I learned a lot! I look forward to next time*
- *We need to look at how we manage the two speeds that are emerging, i.e., both groups for:*
 - *Advancing and consolidating CSPA and related standards*
 - *Introducing to, and enabling, organisations to gain from CSPA*
 - *Currently both groups share one forum but they do have different needs (Assemblers was full of the first group's members!).*
- *WiFi and whiteboards for the Hackathon.*