Project No. 730938
D3.14 – Integration of INTERACT Station Catalogue data
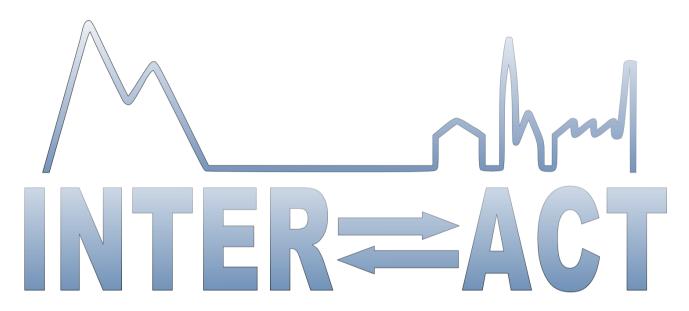and project metadata in INTERACT Station GIS

Integrating Activities for Advanced Communities

D3.14 - Integration of INTERACT Station Catalogue data and project metadata in INTERACT Station GIS

Project No.730938– INTERACT

H2020-INFRAIA-2016-2017/H2020-INFRAIA-2016-1

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Author: Tomas Thierfelder

Dissemination Level		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the Consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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Publishable Executive Summary

The INTERACT Station Catalogue has now been fully implemented in the INTERACT GIS and it was demonstrated for the INTERACT community at the INTERACT GIS Workshop arranged at the Station Managers Forum III, held in Vahrn 19-23 March 2018. This means that all current INTERACT Stations are represented with an electronic version of the original paperback Station Catalogue, and that stations may be queried with respect to the contents of the Station Catalogue in the INTERACT GIS database. The implementation of the Station Catalogue in the INTERACT GIS introduces a number of benefits, such as the possibility for individual stations to edit and update their part of the catalogue contents themselves which is a sustainable long term solution for the INTERACT Station Catalogue.

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1. Implementation of INTERACT Station Catalogue into INTERACT GIS

The INTERACT Station Catalogue has been fully implemented in INTERACT GIS as demonstrated at the INTERACT GIS Workshop arranged at the INTERACT 2020 Station Managers' Forum III, held in Vahrn, 19-23 March 2018. This means that principally all current INTERACT Stations, they number to approximately 83 units, are represented with an electronic version of the original paperback Station Catalogue, and that stations may be queried with respect to the contents of the Station Catalogue. In fact, the public filtering of stations that fulfil user-defined INTERACT and/or EU PolarNet Criteria is now available at the top-page of INTERACT GIS.

Having implemented the Station Catalogue in the INTERACT GIS introduces a number of system effects, such as the possibility for individual stations to edit and update their part of the catalogue content themselves. This should be considered as a major change since it decentralises the editing of the Station Catalogue into a sustainable systems level that is considered a long term solution. Another important system effect is the resulting distinction between stations that merely are represented in INTERACT GIS with their part of the Stations Catalogue, and those stations that use INTERACT GIS for active station management. Having stations represented in INTERACT GIS with the Station Catalogue is "rather mandatory", whereas the usage of INTERACT GIS for station managers is optional (as it is the stations themselves that pay for the implementation of their stations' specific requirements). The distinction between the two types of usage has required rather deep changes to the system code.

Much as a result of having implemented the Station Catalogue into INTERACT GIS, all stations will be represented when the system goes into production mode during spring or early summer of 2018. It may be assumed that this will trigger stations to use the system also for active stations management. A campaign will be launched to support the latter process once the production system is available online.

2. Import of Stations Activities Backlog Data into INTERACT GIS

When used for active station management, INTERACT GIS collects, stores, and accumulates station activities data more or less automatically. Since all active stations share a central database, the collective register of station activities is available for public query. Since permission is required in order to perform any station activity, and since permission deadline is around six months prior to actual performance, activities data are likely to be harvested prior to the actual performance of station activities. This means that activities data may be shared for collective planning of the field-season across stations, which introduces the important system effect of regulating stations activities in order to optimise the collective activities effort. There is little doubt that the regulated collective approach points towards future schemes for organising station activities into a surveillance network.

Since the predecessor of INTERACT GIS has had active users for several years, quite large bulks of activities data have already accumulated in the system's database. With the new version of

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INTERACT GIS being "altogether new", including the shift of operational platform, the first step of importing activities data into the new system is to import existing work-data from the older platform. This must be done prior to the release of INTERACT GIS version 1, in the late spring or early summer of 2018, in order to guarantee a seamless shift of systems for already active users. In order not to delay the release of version 1 unnecessarily, it has been decided to wait with the import of additional activities back-log data until the release of INTERACT GIS version 2 (around the shift of years 2018/2019). One advantage with this approach is that it will provide information regarding the exact identity of stations that actively use INTERACT GIS version 1, and hence a blueprint for prioritising the additional import. Back-log data concerning stations that do not actively use INTERACT GIS also introduces the requirement of further distinction between stations represented only with the Station Catalogue, with the Station Catalogue AND back-log data, and fully active users. This expanded set of user categories needs to be implemented with program code, and it is still too early to know the exact solutions to this expanded systems design. It will have to wait until the release of INTERACT GIS version 2, around the end of 2018, beginning of 2019.