

HarmoNET & eTourism Watchtower to support interoperability in tourism

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About HarmoNET



- A non-profit association
 - to help overcome interoperability problems
 - in the travel and tourism domain.
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- Outcome of an EU eTEN project (Harmo-TEN),
 - and based upon Harmonise technology.

Objective

- Intention was a legal framework for deployment of Harmonise
- and support for Harmonise actors:
 - „User“ from travel industry
 - Technology provider
 - Research (tourism and technology)

Members

- Industry bodies
 - UNWTO, ETC, etc.
- Industry players („User“)
 - NTOs, Tiscover, etc.
- Research
 - ECCA, EC3, CPR, etc.
- Technology provider
 - [x+o], eCTRL, Segitour, etc.

Activities

- Continuous improvements by partners
 - Ontology development
 - Harmonise 2.0
- Bringing related projects forwards
- Professional support for
 - Ontologies and data organisation
 - Technology and run-time activities
 - Mappings and mediation
- Annual meeting (at ENTER)

Current status



- Involvement of partners in related projects
- Ontology was made public
- Development of Harmonise 2.0
 - Central portal
 - Easy to maintain and upgrade
 - Easy to follow activities
 - Easy to setup new services!



Summary



- A professional network,
 - established in the context of EU-projects
 - and focusing on the interoperability issues,
 - exists already
 - as a non-profit association!
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- A perfect starting point for the Watchtower



The vision of an eTourism Watchtower



- A pan-european body identifying relevant standards and reference lists in the area of eTourism
- Propose means of mediation and harmonization based on best practice cases
- Being a consensus building instance
- Building a forum for future activities



Objectives



- Keeping map of semantic landscape
- Monitor relevant standards and reference lists
- Offering technologies and recommendations to mediate between existing standards
- Help to identify existing standards or frameworks for object identification
- Keep track of technologies and projects easing the problem of data and process interoperability
- Promote best practises for data models and for interoperability approaches
- Offering a data mediation service between the recognized standards in the field, to serve as a central data meditation service.
- Publish recommendations and reports



Setup



- Build upon existing projects and organisations
- HarmoNET as an existing non-profit network established out of a European project and dedicated to data mediation in tourism is the ideal starting point for this watchtower.
- Invite projects and bodies in the field to join



Services



- Define criteria for relevant/qualified standards and references
- Keep repositories of them
- Make recommendations on usage
- Financed by
 - Consulting & support services
 - Mediation service between existing standards
 - Project involvement

Next steps

1. Write an outline for setup
2. Find initial funding
3. Bring together relevant partners
4. Setup the watchtower