

2nd Danube eRegion Conference – DeRC 2012

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<http://eLivingLab.org/CrossBordereRegion/DeRC2012>

Cross-border eSolution/eService Prototype Development

Prototype title:

MDES - Master Data Exchange Solution (data pool)

Short description of the prototype (problem to be solved, expected benefits, main stakeholders, expansion opportunities, related EU projects, references):

The MDES or the Master Data Exchange Service data pool (known as GlobeCat® in Croatia) is a software application platform designed for e-business, and the basis for a service that facilitates product information (master data) exchange among all supply chain stakeholders (regardless of size). Accurate and up-to-date data are an indispensable precondition for establishing e-business. On a technical level, the data pool, or electronic master data catalogue (e-catalogue), is a software solution that includes a database used by supply chain stakeholders to exchange master data in a uniform manner. The platform facilitates direct master data exchange (M2M – machine to machine) – connectivity with the ERP system.

For example, this solution allows the suppliers or retailers (subscribers) to continuously harmonize product and location information with their partners in the supply chain, which makes it possible for the right quantity of goods to be available at the right place and at the right time.

The software platform which is the basis of the MDES has been built on modern information technologies, and designed to facilitate localization for individual markets and customization according to the requirements of specific subscriber groups (market segments). The MDES complies with GS1 BMS, and fully meets the specifications which are the basis of master data exchange and synchronisation within the GDSN system, consisting of a network of master data e-catalogues.

The architecture has been designed so as to enable the users to access the platform:

- Via any standard web browser;
- Through an ERP connection – easier communication is evident due to the flexible XML format used for data exchange with the user's ERP system through a web service;
- Using the TXT format for data exchange;
- Transfer of documents (XML and TXT) via SFTP;
- Enabled exchange of business documents (EDI) in accordance with the BMS.

Additionally, the software solution facilitates:

- The possibility to edit/verify attributes (validation with the application of business rules) prior to their publication to the data pool, i.e. entry into the ERP;
- Timely user notification of changes in the data pool;
- Easier data entry due to an intuitive (ergonomically adapted) interface.

Depending on requirements, the MDES facilitates direct connections to the GDSN data pool (the global master database) as well as direct information and document exchange, and thus supports all activities related to master data manipulation - publication, subscription, registration of data. Each data pool has to be certified by the GDSN in order to guarantee to data pool subscribers that the information published or downloaded from the data pool can be synchronized through the GR (Global Registry) and thus be available to everyone, regardless of the existing data pool that they are subscribed to. Data pool subscribers can exchange data by publishing it only to certain groups (companies) that are subscribed to the data pool, or publish data to everyone or to certain groups subscribed to any other data pool in the world that is part of the GDSN system.

MDES – the Master Data Exchange Service software solution that the service is based on is available in the following versions, i.e. configurations:

MDES-SA is a platform intended for an autonomous data pool. It facilitates master data publication, synchronization, and exchange within a group of subscribers subscribed to the concerned data pool only.

MDES-AF is a platform intended for a regional data pool. It facilitates publication, synchronization, and exchange of master data about products within a group of subscribers, and it is also connected with one of the data pools in the GDSN system. It is via this data pool, let's call it the master data e-catalogue, that the users can publish, synchronize and exchange data with all data pools within the GDSN system.

MDES is a platform intended for autonomous data pools within the GDSN system. It is connected to the GR (Global Registry), and listed on the list of GDSN-certified data pools.

Noticeable results that can be seen in case of companies that are members of the global network, regardless of the stage of the supply chain, are significant: timely identification of out-of-stock situations, or less time required to harmonize discrepancies between orders and shipments of goods, i.e. invoices, while human resources no longer need to be engaged on master data maintenance tasks.

Furthermore, the service eliminates the need to transcribe data from one's own ERP system into the data pool system or when exchanging business data. In this way, data entry errors can be avoided, which results in great savings in terms of time and funds, since human resources are no longer needed for data entry and validation.

The decision to start with the development of a new solution was based on the hitherto experience and the expressed needs of the users, as well as economic parameters indicating that maintenance costs, costs of updating to the new versions of GS1 BMS, as well as enhancing the software solution with new features and up-to-date technological standards would be significantly reduced.

Market - SMEs, big companies, government and public institutions

The innovative component of this solution is reflected in the technology used, as well as procedures and business rules that have been built into the software solution itself.

ICT requirements for the prototype deployment:

Proposer (contact person)

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Existing partners (representative, position, organization, country):

What type of partners are we looking for?

SMEs

Service providers/platform providers

Governmental / Public Institutions

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Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments