WORKSHOP VII

CLASSIFICATION SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SECTOR: PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION

Šibenik, 26th September 2024

EU BIM
TASK GROUP

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THE WORKSHOP

WHY?

A response to the needs of our members to share their knowledge, experiences, concerns, and challenges related to implementing responsible digitalization in buildings and cities.

WHAT?

Practical experience, insights, case studies, concerns and challenges on the responsible digitalization for buildings and cities.

GOAL:

The workshop was designed to encourage participants to reflect on various aspects of digital responsibility in the construction sector, assess the necessary requirements, and develop suggestions for implementing an effective strategy.

WHO?

The workshop participants were 20 participants from 7 countries (Estonia, Croatia, Czechia, Greece, Hungary, Italy and Spain).

THE OUTPUT IS INTENDED FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF COMMON GOALS

- A free market
- A transparent and non-discriminatory competitive
- Environment
- Efficient spending of public money
- Support fos digitalization
- The Green Deal
- Reducing the carbon footprint, etc

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FINDINGS

1 We need a **classification system** (CS) as an essential part of a common digital language to reliably and machine-readably identify different construction objects within the structured data used by whole information management (BIM). Construction objects generally mean any entities describing construction (not just elements but also technical and functional systems, types of constructions, spaces, services, etc.).

2 **CS significantly helps understand and fluently transmits structured data from different types of software** systems used by various roles throughout the construction life cycle, enabling smoother data flow and communications between different purposes and actors.

3 Participants from 7 countries face a pressing challenge—the **absence of a common CS** in their countries or organisations. This fragmented usage, coupled with deficient comprehensive practical implementation, is a **critical barrier** that hinders the realisation of the expected benefits. The need for change is urgent and immediate and cannot be overstated.

4 Workshop participants compiled the following main requirements, benefits and expectations associated with the use of CS:

- **easy to use**, understand and implement with clear rules to expand;
- to be mandatory, **free accessible**, and publicly available to ensure wide use and increase qualified usage;
- **allow reliable search**, filters, and summaries for all types of analyses, reports, algorithms and digital workflows;
- **help build trust** in quality and value for data-based decisions;
- decrease misunderstanding, errors and confusion during different sharing or handover workflows;
- **open door** for data integrations based on machine-readable different data sets;
- efficiency - provide just needed small data strictly required for specific purposes or tasks;
- allows **future** semi or full-**automatization** of **workflows**.

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CONCLUSIONS

1 To meet the requirements and expectations specified in the findings, **one common CS is needed** as a first step at a national level, complemented by the European Commission's initiative to moderate the path towards a common CS based on international standards for this domain.

2 When using CS in practice, the different terminology and concepts for identical objects for various actors and purposes are a significant barrier. As a first step, we need to find this **understanding in plain language.** The right solution is to start at the national level by building an ontology dictionary in one's own language, accompanied by precise definitions of terms and their relations. Using that dictionary, we can reliably build CS.

3 Consistently moderated consensus on the ontology and subsequent **CS will enable** the current data silos of critical stakeholders such as asset owners, designers, manufacturers, builders and asset/facility managers **to be digitally connected.** This brings expected true efficiency, lowers costs when using digital workflows, and significantly avoids data overlaps and duplicates.

4 **Role of governments** to support CS implementation in industry:

- **moderate discussion** of different stakeholders - bring them to one table;
- **organise and fund** ontology vocabulary and their governance over a long period to cover all new updates - vocabulary must be stable but also live;
- **create** balanced **regulations** to make CS mandatory for government agendas (such as digital building permits), publicly financed projects and asset management;
- **initiate and support** the European Commission in preparing **EU common CS** based on international standards with EU members' participation.