

1. Annex II: Studying and surveying the existing infrastructural problems: the Methodology



Table of Contents

. Annex II: Studying and surveying the existing infrastructural problems: the Methodology.....	i
1. Scope	3
2. Database Fields.....	3
3. Definition of the database fields.....	3
4. Result.....	5
5. Location of the database.....	5

2. Scope

This document describes the infrastructural weaknesses analysis methodology.

3. Database Fields

- **1. Weaknesses**
- **2. Cause(s) of the weakness**
- **3. Measure(s) to attack/upfront the cause mentioned**
- **4. Impact(s) of the measure**

4. Definition of the database fields

1. Weaknesses

Weaknesses refer to INFRASTRUCTURAL/STRUCTURAL weaknesses, i.e. those related to the specific infrastructure of an area (either a region or a country, depending on the geographical scope of your organisation). A weakness should be described in one sentence and in such a way that it is immediately clear to the reader what is meant. Please avoid also specific terminology that can only be understood by experts.

Examples of weaknesses are (examples taken from the Extremadura region):

- Lack of connectivity points in the region
- Difficulty of access to the new technologies and the acquisition of related skills
- Lack of IST based companies in the region
- Low penetration of IST and Open Source in SMEs in the region

They should be generic enough to address their causes, etc, and should provide an overview of the difficulties faced in a general overview. Avoid too much detail.

In case there are currently no weaknesses in your country/region, please go back up to 3 years ago and use the ones over the last years and the solutions opted. In case no weaknesses were there, just a brief email stating this is sufficient.

2. Cause(s) of the weakness

Each of the weaknesses mentioned has its causes, one weakness of course has more than one cause. The database will allow for the connecting and linking of more than one cause to a weakness. Please be precise and to the point on the cause of the weakness. Describe it in general terms.

Examples for weakness 1 (Lack of connectivity points in the region) mentioned for Extremadura are:

- Disperse and uneven distribution of the population
- Large extension in combination with low number of total population
- Large access providers not interested in providing connectivity (lack of potential for profit)

3. Measure(s) to attack/upfront the cause mentioned

Each of the causes mentioned has been “attacked”, or its consequences have been addressed in a set of measures or initiatives that try and give an answer to the causes of a weakness. One cause of course can have more than one measure related. The database will allow for the connecting and linking of more than one measure to a specific cause. Please be precise and to the point on the measure. Describe it in general terms.

Examples for the causes of weakness 1 (Lack of connectivity points in the region) mentioned for Extremadura are:

Cause 1: Disperse and uneven distribution of the population – no measures have been taken, as it concerns population

Cause 2: large extension in combination with low number of total population – no measures are taken as the extension and population are a given

Cause 3: Large access providers not interested in providing connectivity (lack of potential for profit) – the following measures were taken:

1. Development of a intranet by the regional government
2. Programme on the expansion of high broadband width

4. Impact(s) of the measure

Each of the measures taken has had an impact, which can be either positive or negative. Thus providing information on how a set of measures has impacted the causes and a specific weakness. The database will allow for the connecting and linking of more than one impact to a specific measure. Please be precise and to the point on the impact. Describe it in general terms.

Examples for the impacts of the measures to taken to “attack” the causes of weakness 1 (Lack of connectivity points in the region) mentioned for Extremadura are:

Measure 1: Development of a intranet by the regional government – impacts:

1. Providing connectivity to 1400 points with access to internet
2. 383 villages and towns connected to the intranet

Measure 2: Programme on the expansion of high broadband width – impacts_

1. 42509 ADSL connections installed
2. Agreement with Telefonica for 100% coverage of ADSL in Extremadura

5. Result

The result is a cascade type set of chains which analyse the infrastructural weaknesses of the participating regions/countries of the tOSSad project. It will allow to extract:

1. A set of good practices concerning measures that have been taken in other areas to attack a set of problems and which could be transferred to other regions
2. An overview of the infrastructural weaknesses as faced in Europe, and allows for a comparative of measures taken and the impact that they have caused.

The report addressing the analysis should address both issues mentioned and will describe, first the infrastructural weaknesses in the participating regions and their incurrence, i.e. those that are similar, if there is a similarity either by geographical location (NSEW of Europe) or economic development.

It will then identify those measures that can be considered good practice and that allow for transfer to other regions/areas.

This report will constitute an interim deliverable of WP 1.

6. Location of the database

The database can be accessed on the following URL:

<http://www.xlab.si/tossad/>

Partners can preview the possible answers, add and edit them, and view statistics by geographical area while logged in there.

Answers can be filled in by anyone on page

<http://www.xlab.si/tossad/selectform.php>

For identification, the person filling in needs to input at least one piece of personal information: name, email address, company, then click **Proceed** to start filling in the weaknesses database.

Answers are filled into the database by selecting a weakness, then its cause, an appropriate measure and its impact from drop-down selectors, then clicking **Add**.

Statistics about answers are viewable by logged-in partners and administrators on <http://www.xlab.si/tossad>