

Title	Workshop on Center Assessment, Copenhagen, 2013-04-25
Version	1
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Date	2013-05-02
Status	Draft
Distribution	Center Assessment Committee
ID	CE-2013-0145

Workshop on Center Assessment, Copenhagen 2013-04-25

1 Participants, time, place

Participants: Ronald Haentjens Dekker, Matej Durco, Guido Gerritsen, Ivajlo Ivanov, Bart Jongejan, Krista Liin, Wim Kok, Tomas Krilavicius, Karlheinz Moerth, Lene Offersgaard, Maciej Piasecki, Oliver Schonefeld, Kiril Simov, Ivan Skoglund, Pavel Stranak, Paul Trillsbeek, Thorsten Trippel, Dieter Van Uytvanck, Remco van Veenendaal, Kadri Vider, Marta Villegas, Freddy Wetjen, (Peter Wittenburg, during presentation)

CLARIN-ERIC office: Thorsten Trippel

Chair: Dieter van Uytvanck

Date and Time: 2013-04-25, 09:30 – 12:30 CET

Location: University of Copenhagen

2 Agenda

1. Welcome by the chair of the Standing Committee of Clarin Technical Centers Dieter van Uytvanck
2. Assessment procedures (Martin Wynne)
3. CLARIN Center Assessment (Peter Wittenburg)
4. Data Seal of Approval (Paul Trillsbeck)

3 Welcome by the chair of the SCCTC

The chair of the Standing Committee of Clarin Technical Centers, Dieter van Uytvanck, welcomed the participants and explained the motivation for the workshop.

4 Assessment procedures

Martin Wynne presented on the motivation for assessment and the procedures involved. The goal of assessment is to help centers to achieve standard compliance and show stakeholders that an institution is conformant. Various assessments for repositories exist, among them, the digitalrepositoryauditandcertification.org, NESTOR, ELRA, ICSU WDS, DARIAH, usually looking at the repositories but not at the services. CLARIN on the other hand also provides services for the data, not only data repositories.

Networks such as the ICSU World Data System can be joined by individual centers, often the procedure requires documentation, but with proper documentation for one, often the other network is easily provided.

The assessment of repositories requires commitments from other organizations such as computer centers affiliated with a Clarin center. One problem however is that a commitment is only as good as the funding lasts.

5 CLARIN Center Assessment Committee

Due to circumstances Peter Wittenburg had to join virtually for his presentation on the state and procedures of the Clarin Center Assessment Committee. One of the main concerns of the evaluators was the amount of time required for assessment. To make assessment more effective, there are a couple of issues that should be taken care of:

1. The center registry is used as an overview; as it is also crucial for other services, it should be well maintained by reporting changes to the maintainers (for the European side Dieter van Uytvanck and Thorsten Trippel will be able to edit the records).
2. The policy and IPR statements of the assessment documents should directly point to the URL containing the document's text.
3. The PID policy should make it obvious, what a PID points to and how the granularity issues are being handled at a center. If a decision on the granularity has been taken by a center, this decision should be documented and made available.
4. Before starting the CLARIN center assessment the DSA should be applied for.

At the moment there will not be a summary statement using gold/silver/bronze, but a statement mentioning which features are essential and what is crucial but missing at a center. The assessment only works for repositories, the question on how to assess a service is not taken into consideration yet.

6 Data Seal of Approval

Paul Trilsbeek gave an overview of the Data Seal of Approval. The DSA is part of the European Framework for Audit and Certification, but not a formal certification based on ISO 16363:2012/ DIN 31644 which would require a formal on-site review.

For assessing a repository there are 16 guidelines. At present, these are assessed by one reviewer each only, later a peer review process of 2 reviewers – with reviewers being recruited among those who have the DSA – will be used. The DSA is only valid for 2 years and the data centers are in charge of renewing the DSA.

The central requirement a repository needs to fulfill is to ensure consistency and to disseminate data. A logging process for accesses to resources and resource use could help to avoid misuse of data, but is not required.

To start to apply for the DSA, the link “Apply for DSA” on the website <http://datasealofapproval.org/> needs to be used. The total assessment requires some time and the preparation of the required documents can be easy if all procedures are documented well but some time to produce the documentation should be allowed. For the different questions it can be important to remember which stake holders (data providers, repositories, etc.) are addressed to avoid overlap in the answer and to see the scope of it.

(The proceedings for the joined SCCTC meeting are in a separate document.)