Some reflections on EPOS from the UiB Team in Bergen

Karen Tellefsen,
Kuvvet Atakan
UiB, Norway

The Norwegian part of the EPOS IT Team is situated in the city of Bergen, where it rains for more than 200 days per year – lots of time to sit inside and develop a research infrastructure! The EPOS-IP project is now finished, and we have asked the team at UiB to describe their efforts over the course of the project, point out the challenges for the future and to give their best advice to anyone wanting to launch a grand research infrastructure.

What was your contribution to the EPOS-IP project?

Kuvvet

First and foremost, I have been the leader of WP6: ICS-TCS integration and Interoperability, which involved a great deal of coordination and collaboration with WP7. Together with Keith Jeffery, Matt Harrison and Daniele Bailo, we have led the ICS development team. I have been a member of the PDB, SCB and BNSR, involving a range of meetings, discussions and reporting. I have also participated at BGR meetings together with the Norwegian representative. My contribution in EPOS has involved a lot of strategic work and coordination. As a WP leader you always need to be one step ahead of the process, with constant thought of what comes next. This must then be conveyed to your co-workers, reminding them of the next steps and the bigger picture.
Jan

I have mostly managed the DDSS master table and coordinated with the different TCSs in updating the table. I have also been involved with the coordination of the metadata collection. Together with WP3 (Harmonisation) I have collected the consortia agreements and associated information. I have also been checking the integration of the master table and then pushing it to the GRDB (Granularity Database) for deployment and for public use. For the last year I have been heavily involved in the ICS-TCS workshop organization, as well as for the UFG (User Feedback Group) workshops. This of course included preparing reports from the workshops. Other than that, I have contributed to the reports and deliverables of WP6 and 7.

Terje

I have years of experience from working with a range of international projects, and I have tried to contribute by providing my advice in the many discussions we have had throughout the EPOS-IP project. I was involved with the drafting of the first use cases and user feedback groups, and I also contributed to the CREW testing facility in relation to WP9: Near Fault Observatories. We did IT testing on early warning systems and real-time acquisition of data.

From the beginning I was never dedicated to a specific task in the IT team, but mainly helping out where assistance was needed. Later, I joined the GUI development team. I have also developed the TNA (Trans-National Access) and TCS portals. Currently, maintenance of the GRDB (Granularity Database) is my main task. Of course, I have also joined meetings and discussions and contributed to the reports and deliverables of WP6&7.

Christian

When I started EPOS, I was mainly involved as administrative coordinator of the Norwegian node of EPOS (EPOS-Norway), but I have become more involved with EPOS-IP over the years. My tasks here include organising and editing the ICS Technical Bulletin, I am part of the editorial board of the EPOS Newsletter, I help out with organising meetings and workshops, writing reports and deliverables, and act as contact person for WP6. I have also acted as substitute member of the IPC.

Karen

What made you want to join the EPOS-IP project?
I have been involved with EPOS since the Preparatory Phase (EPOS-PP) Project, and as we were planning the proposal for EPOS-IP, I noticed that there was one WP on integrating all of the thematic data into a central IT system. This was considered to be among the most challenging tasks of the whole project, so – naturally – I went for that one. The most difficult task would definitely be the most interesting one in my opinion, so if I was going to join EPOS, I wanted the biggest challenge! And in retrospect I can honestly say that I made the right decision, thankfully. It has been challenging, but very rewarding. If I had chosen something else, I might have gotten bored.

Firstly, it fit my life at that point. Secondly, I had made the decision to try to branch out from the pure research and do something more technical. EPOS was at a European scale with the possibility of meeting new people and learning new things. It was a challenge, but at the same time very exciting. I liked the idea of bringing all these different datasets together in one environment and getting to see how it would all work out in the end... I learned a lot of things completely outside of my original field, which is great!

What is – in your opinion – the greatest future challenge of the EPOS project?

What is your best advice to anyone wanting to start a similar project?

This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 676564