

 **NOTES FROM THE PLAN4BUSINESS PROJECT**

Dear Reader

In April 2012 the plan4business project started its activities. Its main goal is to develop a service platform to aggregate, process and analyse urban and regional planning data. The project will continue until March 2014. Now, nine intensive months have passed and the project has achieved its first results.

At the beginning, we have collected and analysed a wide range of stakeholders' requirements building the basis for the platform specification. Related to this analysis, the involvement of the Stakeholder Board plays an important role. Therefore we invited domain experts from all over Europe to participate in the project as members of the plan4business Stakeholder Board. Based on the collected requirements the development team has started its work. The Code Camp in Plzen (CZ) marked the start of the development activities.

I am delighted to announce that already at this early stage, we presented the project at numerous conferences and events. Wherever we introduced the project, it found positive resonance. We hope that you will find it interesting as well. Enjoy reading and please do not hesitate to send us your feedback.

Dr. Joachim Rix, Co-ordinator of the plan4business Project

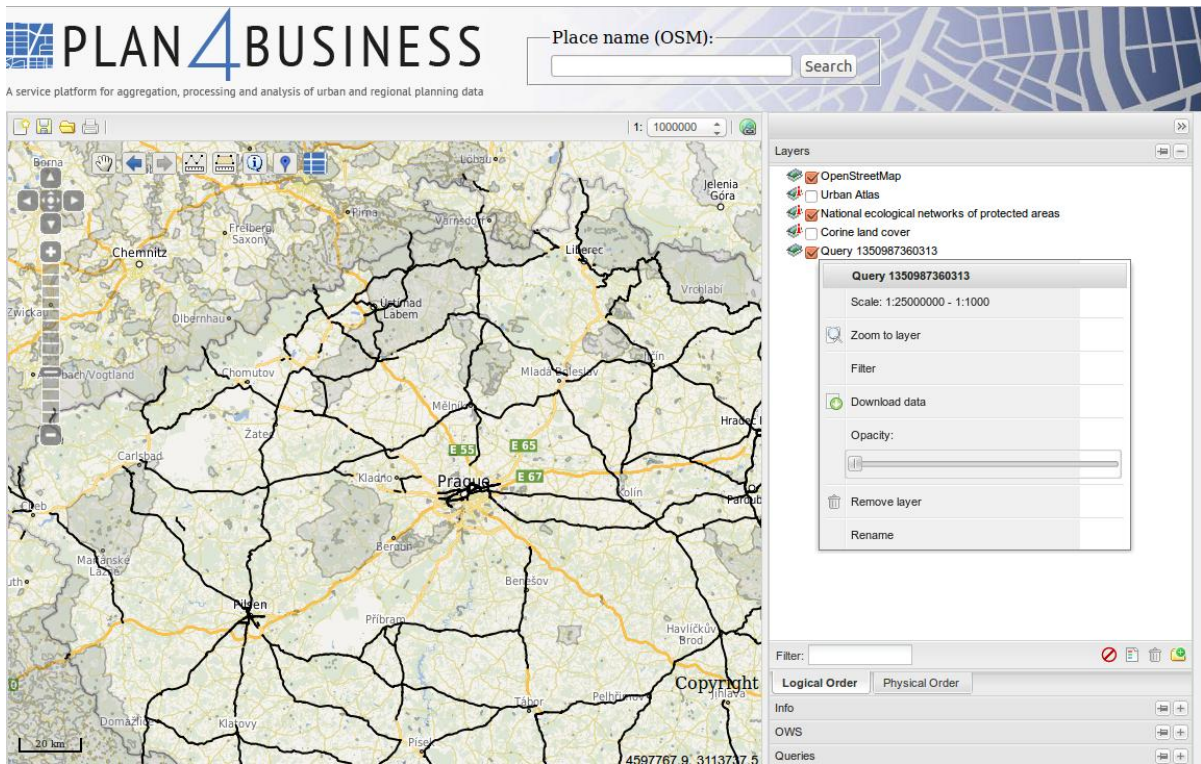
Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research, Darmstadt, Germany

 **PLAN4BUSINESS IN BRIEF**

Today, urban and regional planning datasets are not aggregated and not easy to use for business issues: planning data users are confronted to fragmented data sets, unable to create comparative analysis, monitoring and analysing urban statistics, or developing urban inquiries and projects. Researchers, spatial planners and professionals from the real estate world as well as other disciplines, such as insurance industry, investors, or market-relevant activities related to urban development have a growing stake in such capabilities.

Consequently, the plan4business project is aiming to develop a web platform, which will offer urban and regional planning data users a full catalogue of harmonized planning data and services such as transport infrastructure, regional plans, urban plans and zoning plans. To be competitive on the business market, this platform will offer the data itself in integrated, harmonised and thus ready-to-use form, but it will also have to offer rich analysis and visualisation services via an adapted Application Programming Interface (API) and an interactive web frontend. Functions offered will have to range from simple statistical analysis to complex trend detection and to 2D/3D representations (WebGIS).

The first prototype of the web platform has already been developed and will be accessible online soon. The screenshot below illustrates the current stage of development. As soon as the portal goes online our project newsletter will announce further details.



plan4business portal in its current stage of development

The project partners are:

- Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research, Germany
- University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Czech Republic
- HSRS, Help Service - Remote Sensing, s. r. o., Czech Republic
- ISOCARP, International Society of City and Regional Planners, The Netherlands
- GEOSYSTEMS Polska, Poland
- AVINET, Asplan Viak Internet as, Norway

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Learn more about plan4business by visiting our website www.plan4business.eu.

PLAN4BUSINESS NEWS

Kick-off in Darmstadt successful

13 representatives of all six plan4business partners met at the two-days kick-off meeting in April 2012 at the location of the project coordinator, Fraunhofer Institute for Computer Graphics Research in Darmstadt. After the roll call, where the partner organisations introduced themselves and their expectations, the consortium has drafted a road map for the development of the platform and agreed on strategies how to involve the stakeholders and present the project to the public already from the beginning.

Data Requirements collection continues

With the aim to create a web platform offering urban and regional planning datasets and services, it was necessary to identify the key user groups and to analyse their needs and expectations as well as data requirements. For this purpose at the beginning of the project, we developed a methodology on how we will build a reliable database of requirements. Following this methodology an [online questionnaire](#) helped to acquire the requirements: what do the users need related to the urban planning datasets and their quality, accessibility, format, etc. We also developed typical operational uses cases based on realistic situations and business activities in the praxis. We decided to continuously collect further requirements in involve users opinion in the on-going development. All our users are welcome to submit their input on the requirements [online](#).

We combined the initial results of this survey in a report on data requirements, which is available [online](#). The report focuses on the topics user requirements, users typology and user demand on data.

There is a substantial amount of geo-data on the market: as long as they are not harmonized and not accessible in an integrated way, their value may be not considered in the future. This is precisely the aim of the project plan4business.

Stakeholder Board established

We invited international domain experts to participate in the project activities with their expertise and advise. We would like to welcome following members of the Stakeholder Board and thank them for their commitment.

- Maria Cabello – TRACASA
- Marie Cugny-Seguin – EEA, European Environment Agency
- Cristina Garzillo – ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability European Secretariat
- David Lovell – President EUROGEOGRAPHICS
- Angus MacIntosh – Real Estate Forecasting Limited
- Bruce McCormack – President EUROGI
- Tony Mulhall – RICS Europe
- Bertrand Porquet – Vice-President Urban Solutions GDF SUEZ
- Thorsten Reitz – ESRI Inc.
- François Salgé – TWG LU/LC
- Cédric Van Meerbeek – Associated Director European Head of Research DTZ
- Robin Waters – Director RSW Geomatics

Code Camp 2012 in Plzen

The plan4business platform development began with an intensive week at the Code Camp 2012, organised and hosted by the University of West Bohemia in Plzen. At the Code Camp 2012 a group of 15 project developers and experts met to code, brainstorm and test the first components, such as integration engine, storage engine and analysis engine. The basis for the development work provided the initial database of the user requirements. The outcomes from the Code Camp 2012 have been used to create a pilot application in form of a portal enabling spatial analysis on pan European datasets. This portal is the main point-of-access of the plan4business platform. It includes the functionality for user management and payment options and enables the user to access the different services the platform offers.



PLAN4BUSINESS AT CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

We cordially invite you to visit plan4business at the following conferences:

- [plan4business Customer Workshop](#) on 8 March 2013 at RICS in London, UK
- [MIPIN 2013](#) on 12-15 March 2013 in Palais des Festivals in Cannes, France
- [HANNOVER MESSE 2013](#) on 8-12 April 2013 in Hannover, Germany
- [REAL CORP 2013 – Planning Times Workshop](#) on 20-22 May 2013 in Rome, Italy
- [INSPIRE Conference 2013](#) on 23-27 June 2013 in Florence, Italy
- [EXPO REAL 2013](#) on 7-9 October 2013 in Munich, Germany
- [INTERGEO 2013](#) on 8-10 October 2013 in Essen, Germany

You will find further details about our presence at these events at our website www.plan4business.eu. We thank all our visitors at all past events for their valuable contact and feedback:

- [Workshop plan4business](#) on 15 May 2012 in Schwechat, Vienna, Austria
- [FOSS4G-CEE](#) on 21-23 May 2012 in in Prague, Czech Republic
- [European Data Forum \(EDF\)](#) on 6-7 June 2012 in Frederiksberg, Denmark
- [INSPIRE Conference 2012](#) on 23-27 June 2012 in Istanbul, Turkey
- [World Urban Forum 6](#) at the UN HABITAT on 1-7 September 2012 in Naples, Italy
- [Geomatics in projects](#) on 3-4 October 2012 in Kozel Castle, Czech Republic
- [INTERGEO 2012](#) on 9-11 October 2012 in Hannover, Germany
- [Inspirujme se](#) on 27-28 November 2012 in Prague, Průhonice, Czech Republic
- [Symposium GIS Ostrava](#) 2013 on 21-23 January 2013 in Ostrava, Czech Republic



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