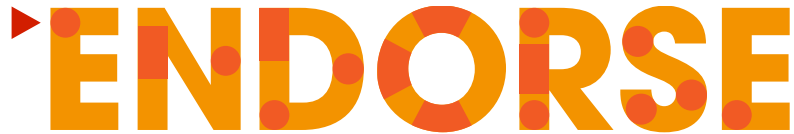


Makx Dekkers

▶ Agreeing on standards and standards to come



THE EUROPEAN DATA CONFERENCE ON REFERENCE DATA AND SEMANTICS

Makx Dekkers: my background

- Library and information networking, metadata
- Standards involvement:
 - **1987-1997** ISO TC46/SC 4 Information and documentation/Technical interoperability: Search and retrieve ISO23950, Interlibrary loan ISO18636
 - **1997-2011** Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (also ISO15836)
 - **1997-2009** CEN/ISSS: Cultural diversity, eGovernment
 - **2011-..** W3C (invited expert): Government Linked Data, Data on the Web Best Practices, Dataset Exchange (DCAT)
 - **2011-..** ISA/Interoperable Europe: ADMS, Core Vocabularies, DCAT-AP

Main benefits of standard development

- Using common standards supports **interoperability**
- Creating agreements above and beyond interests of individual stakeholders
- Establishing level playing field for software and service providers
- Empowering users to find the best products and reduce risk of vendor lock-in

Challenges

- Using standards reduces autonomy
- Standards development takes time
- Need for:
 - Establishing trust among stakeholders
 - Finding consensus and compromise among a range of interests – especially between large and small players
 - Balancing vocal and silent participation
 - Creating awareness among providers and users – explaining benefits and challenges

Good practice

- Be transparent, e.g. use open discussion platform, establish clear processes and procedures
- Be inclusive, e.g. attention to gender, culture
- Make sure that the right people and organisations are involved in the process – at least in public review
- Build cooperative atmosphere to reach consensus
- Take all comments seriously to ensure buy-in
- Publish open, free-to-use specifications



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