



Sustaining the European Data Infrastructure

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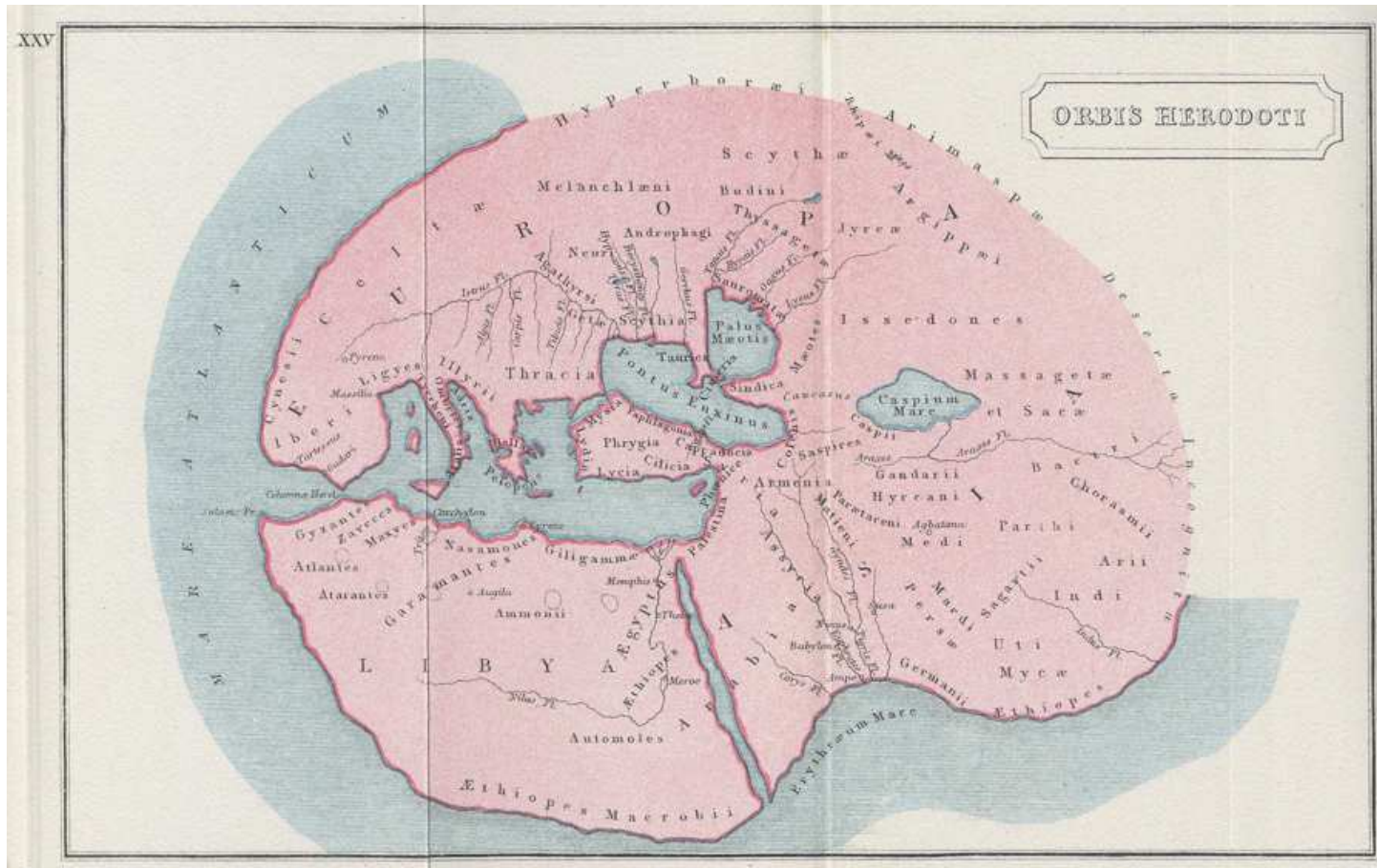
EUDAT Philosophy of Sustainability



“The time you want the map is before you enter the woods”

Brendan Burchard

Map we started from





Sustainability and Evolution

- EUDAT is a three year project with ambitious plans to build a sustainable and inclusive European data infrastructure
- Purpose of sustainability and evolution workpackage is “To ensure the continued relevance of the shared services adopted during the project and the viability of continuing the services developed beyond the immediate funding window through the setting up of a sustainable entity”
- We don’t have a detailed map (yet) but we are working on it with input from numerous communities
 - EUDAT Rolling Plan is a document with a three year horizon that will be updated and re-issued on a yearly basis in March.



What is the Rolling Plan?

- It's an EUDAT “manifesto” which sets out a vision for the European Data Infrastructure and produces a roadmap for the next three years based on genuine user requirements
- It also looks ahead to possible emerging needs from new communities, new users etc.
- It focuses on sustainable services – not just on meeting the needs of the core EUDAT communities
 - Offering services that meet the needs of the widest set of potential users...
 - ...on a timetable that is realistic and compelling so that users know when the services that they need will be available
 - ..understanding that sustainability depends on economies of scale and on widespread support and uptake



Format of Rolling Plan

- Rolling Plan starts by considering the needs and expectations of a wide range of fictional user persona
- Designed to capture patterns of service usage already identified amongst the data-driven research community and to provide a guide to service delivery over the lifetime of the EUDAT project and beyond
- Helps both users and service providers to understand and articulate service dependencies and provides a framework for discussions about priorities and about the relationships between core and community services



Example: Field BioInformatician

- David Debard graduated recently in Life Sciences and is now a postgraduate researcher in an international team studying genetic factors behind disease resistance in African cattle. For the last couple of years David has spent much of his time in the field in sub-Saharan Africa gathering data on cattle populations and disease patterns.
- David is an enthusiastic user of modern Internet tools, although as a “driver” rather than a “mechanic”, and has strong opinions on the usability of technology. He makes extensive use of tools like Evernote, Dropbox and Microsoft Skydrive to collect research data, personal photographs and anything else he comes across, and tweets whenever he has the chance.
- David would like a way of **uploading** arbitrary research data – notes, photographs, spreadsheets – in a reliable way to a location **shared** by the rest of the research team. He has no interest in how it works, although given the nature of internetworking in sub-Saharan Africa it needs to be able to **run in the background** and **keep trying** if it doesn’t work first time. He’s finding he’d like to add a little more contextual information to the data he uploads – **tags**, **GPS** coordinates, other **metadata** (although he doesn’t use that term himself) – and Evernote, while cool, doesn’t quite have the structure he needs.



Sustainability Plan

- Rolling plan will be complemented by a Sustainability Plan
- Sustainability for EUDAT is not primarily about identifying funding streams, it's about developing an approach based on strategic planning in partnerships with user communities and other agencies, answering questions such as:
 - What role should EUDAT play in the data ecosystem?
 - What would users and prospective users like it to do ?
 - What stage in the developmental lifecycle of the European Data Infrastructure are we in?



Elements of Sustainability Strategy

- Community balance – incorporating a range of communities that can contribute to its well-being as users and providers
- Resources balance – offering resources which are sufficiently diverse to meet the needs of different groups
- Offering services which meet community needs and which are readily accessible
- Offering core services which interface with community services
- Networking with other projects, agencies etc. to provide a comprehensive service



Engaging with EUDAT

- Sustainability for EUDAT depends on:
 - Establishing a suitable **partnership model** for sustaining common services
 - Building **consensus** about how a shared services model can meet identified needs on an on-going basis
 - Facilitating the **integration of additional data-providers and data-users** within the shared services network
- You can engage with us immediately by providing feedback on the first version of the Rolling Plan, by contributing user persona based on typical usage patterns from your communities, by engaging with the work of our task forces.