



Infrastructure geospatial data

The *Wageningen Common Data Solutions (WCDS)* programme is striving to connect use cases from Wageningen University & Research (WUR) research institutes to the research data management infrastructure for FAIR Data. Open source tools such as iRODS and Yoda are used for this purpose. WCDS is funded by the Ministry of LVNV for two years with a budget of 2 million euro.

The pilot project *Infrastructure geospatial data* aims to develop a new infrastructure for WUR staff and students to access geospatial data for research and teaching. The outcome of the project will be a more accessible and future-proof infrastructure for the provision of geospatial data.

Technical results

- We have tested Yoda as a replacement of the W: drive. Due to disappointing results, this has not been realised.
- Due to the limited budget, we could not have Yoda tested by someone else from another science group.
- We encountered several issues with Yoda. It is too slow in use and not all files were uploaded completely, so these files became corrupt. Next to this, Yoda is not as user-friendly as the W: drive.

Current limitations for further improvement

At this moment, Yoda is not suitable for our use.

Additional developments and implementations planned

The Geodesk and DUIN project will continue without using Yoda, at least for a while.

Key outcomes

- We have realised the proposal: testing Yoda for our use. Detailed test results are available.
- We have learned a lot about Yoda, but no scientific output has been produced.
- There was collaboration between the DUIN project (WOT N&M) and the Geodesk. Within these projects, geospatial data is being provided within WUR in a more or less FAIR way.
- Because we will not use Yoda in the near future, no budget is needed for that.
- For selecting suitable storage options, we direct to the Storage Finder.

Reflections

One of the challenges in this project was its late approval in BAPS and uncertainty about what was expected as project result: a report, a presentation or a briefing report.

Project takeaway

If the budget stays the same, we would not submit for a WCDS pilot project anymore. Given the time needed for creating the proposal and attending WCDS meetings, too little time remains for the 'real' work.

Recommendations

- Investments in technical infrastructure will always be needed to keep up to date with regulations and other requirements. Investment in better policy is only useful if the policy is actively being communicated. Our notice is that people within WUR often do not really know about data politics.
- Double the budget for pilot projects. Or even better: define a budget range for projects, for example from € 20.000 to € 100.000.
- Make sure that approval in BAPS does come in time.
- Do not only focus on Yoda and iRods.
- Make expectations about results clear in advance and make sure that these activities can be done within time.
- Clarify the role of the project contact and the institute contact.

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