Country report for Statistics Faroe Islands

Introduction

Release of new web site
- During the past 2 years, one of the main goals of the Statistics Faroe Islands, Hagstovan, has been to provide our end-users with an easier approach to statistics. As part of this process, our website has been through a complete makeover and is expected to be released within 2-3 weeks. The new website is tightly connected to the API.
- At the same time we will also deploy the latest version of PxWeb.
- As an initial startup activity, regarding PxWeb, we had a small workshop with Lars Petersen, who did visit us from Statistics Greenland. During the workshop we went through a test installation of PxWeb and went through some related discussion points, e.g. using Git for versioning of PX files.

Continues Integration of PX files
- Our versioning and deployment procedures of PX files, have been redesigned to use tools like Bitbucket, Bamboo and Jira. Where we previously used a standalone Git installation for this.

Prototyping a new PxWeb frontend layer
- As something new at Hagstova, we are having a student in software engineering, doing his bachelor thesis at Hagstova. The subject is prototyping a new web user interface based on PxWeb. The idea is to create a PX site as an overlay to PxWeb, which will have a more modern flow of interaction and can point to any PxWeb installation available on the web. The project is scheduled to be done in January. We are currently trying to overcome some challenges due to the restrictions of the API. We hope the project can be used as input to future improvements or new features in PxWeb,

Other PX news from Hagstova
- The hosting environment for our web platform, including PxWeb, has been changed to a private cloud provider. The new platform is mainly a Windows platform. Before this the platform was a combination between Linux and Windows servers.
- A generic R script has been programmed for calculating trends for time series. The script uses the API for fetching data, and is currently used for a small selection of statistical productions.
- We continue to travel around to schools showing the Lego City.
- Hagvarpið, our Kiosk solutions, is getting more request for usage.
- A new service has been delivered for the municipality of Torshavn, for showing specific trends and data, the service uses the API.

Information and experiences

- We do often hear from our intermediate users, that PxWeb has a steep learning curve.

What are your future plans (related to the programs)?

- Hagstovan is in the process of re-evaluating and improving our end to end processes, when creating statistical productions. We consider automation as a main target and as part of this work, we will continue to further improve and automate our dissemination process.

Something you would like to show or discuss at the meeting?

- What are the pros and cons when comparing the usage of flat files and SQL database for PX. Is there an official recommendation for future support?

Contact persons

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