D3.15: Collaborative environment

Workpackage	WP3 – ECOSYSTEM. Community building and engagement
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Abstract:	The present document describes the implementation of the collaborative environment tool to build the BDV PPP community and to ensure the engagement for all relevant actors, supporting the BDV PPP and BDVe project activities and coordination.

History

Version	Date	Modifications Introduced	
		Modification Reason	**Modified by**
V0.1	29/05/2017	Version for internal revision	ATOS
V0.2	07/06/2017	Revised by WP5 for alignment	OG1
V0.3	08/06/2017	New integrated version	ATOS
V0.4	16/06/2017	Polish some jam content, add mobile access screenshots, rework some content	SAP
V0.5	27/06/2017	Additional contributions and review	ATOS
V1.0	05/07/2017	Final version ready for quality review after final review	INSIGHT; BDVA; ATOS
FINAL	06/07/2017	Final version ready for submission	

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Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Acronym	Title
BDVA	Big Data Value Association
BDVe	Big Data Value eCosystem project
BDV PPP	Big Data Value Public-Private Partnership

Table 1: Definitions, Acronyms and Abbreviations

Executive Summary

The collaborative environment for the BDV PPP and the BDV ecosystem project is a tool, together with the BVD PPP website, to build the BDV PPP community and to ensure the engagement of all relevant actors. This tool is available, so far, to the community formed by the projects engaged in the BDV PPP and BDVA members, providing support to business-related functionalities in general and to the activities of the Big Data PPP projects in particular.

The environment was implemented in March 2017, month 3 (M3) of the project, using the SAP Jam platform which was offered by SAP SE (both BDVA member and BDVe partner). This platform provides content and community management functionalities like folders, blogs, forums and wikis; collaborative decision making; and planning tools such as calendar and tasks. The tool has been configured to manage three different sub-communities: Big Data Value PPP projects; BDV ecosystem project, as a subgroup from the Big Data Value PPP group; BDVA - Big Data Value Association, a community for the members of the Big Data Value Association.

Each group has its own set of content folders to organize the information. Additional content elements and tools may be added as required during the life cycle of the BDV PPP and the BDVe project. The environment is ready to provide support for the development of the activities in which the participants of the BDV PPP and the partners of the BDVe project will share and communicate the plans, activities, and results, so it is expected that the support structure will grow to accommodate the different interactions among the BDV PPP and BDVe actors. As a matter of fact, an additional group has been created to enable the organization of the European Big Data Value Forum at the time of releasing this document.

1 Introduction

This is an accompanying writing report of the deliverable D3.15 Collaborative environment, whose nature is "Others" (Websites, patent filling, etc.), and it is planned within Work Package (WP) 3, entitled "ECOSYSTEM. Community building and engagement". The main objectives of this WP3 are to build the BDV PPP community and ensure the engagement for all relevant actors. Moreover, WP3 aims to put in place the mechanisms that will allow anyone that is interested and related to the Big Data ecosystem to engage with the Big Data Value PPP.

This document is divided in 3different sections:

- Section 2 details the objectives of the BDVe collaborative environment.
- Information about the structure and functionalities of the collaborative environment is provided in section 3.
- Finally, section 4 presents the main outcomes and conclusions of the document.

2 Objectives

In order to provide the Big Data Value ecosystem project (BDVe) and the Big Data PPP community a collaborative digital environment with the appropriate set of functionalities, a software tool had to be selected and set-up.

Initially, this tool was expected to have the following characteristics:
- Available for the Big Data Value PPP projects community
- Integrated with the Big Data PPP website
- Linked to the BDVe project public website

During the BDVe kick-off meeting in Paris in January 2017 (M1) it was largely discussed how to implement such a tool, taking into account the role and functionalities of the PPP Website, the necessity of having a dedicated BDVe website (or not) and the different profiles of people inside the PPP community. The outcome of these discussions is briefly explained in following subsections.

2.1 Role of the PPP Website

The PPP website is intended as the one-stop shop for Big Data Value in Europe, this website is part of deliverable D5.11, and developed in task T5.3 of the BDVe project. Its ambition is to become the reference point for all European actors willing to understand how Big Data technologies may help them to create value and who are the best partners to leverage. Therefore, the website will be the main media channel to share with the community all the contents identified/aggregated/produced by the BDVe project and it will cover a series of functionalities related to business, skills and general informative and collaborative aspects.

The following business-related functionalities are considered:
- Catalogue of:
  - Big Data solutions and best practices;
  - Big Data PPP projects portfolio;
  - local, regional and national initiatives set up in the EU (T3.3);
  - EU initiatives that have potential relationships with BDV PPP (T3.4)
- Map of the main Big Data players
- Action clusters to discuss and jointly work on relevant topics of the data economy;

The following skills-related functionalities are considered:
- Network of National BDV Centers of Excellence (T4.1);

- Link to the Big Data Value Education Hub (T4.2);
- Data Scientist Mobility Programme (T4.4)

Other functionalities:

- **Share and collaborate (Collaborative Environment, this deliverable)**
    - Blogs
    - Chat rooms
    - Message boards (discussion forums)
- Keep-up-to date
    - News,
    - Events,
    - e-Library (documents, presentations,…);
- Extra functionalities
    - Search
    - Docs and file sharing
    - To-do's
    - Schedule
    - Calendar
    - Email notification

2.2 BDVe Website

BDVe project is the Coordinating and Support action of the BDV PPP. Being a Coordination and Support Action, the main role of the BDVe project is to support the members of the community within the BDV PPP framework. As part of this task, the PPP website is to be developed with the structure depicted in Section 1.1, which will provide a space for assets coming from the different PPP stakeholders, including the different activities of BDVe project, and other actors outside the PPP.

It was decided not to develop an independent website for the BDVe project in the sense that the website will be known and referenced as the PPP website (and ideally at some point in time as the European Big Data reference website without any associations to the particular implementation programme of the Big Data Value PPP).

2.3 BDV PPP Community

The BDV PPP community consists of different people who could be categorized in the following groups:

- Organisations and individuals belonging to one of the PPP projects, but not members of the BDV Association (BDVA).
- Organisations and individuals belonging to the BDVA, but not participating currently in any of the active PPP projects. As BDVA members, these individuals or companies are still part of the BDV PPP as BDVA represents the private side of it.
- Organisations and individuals belonging to both the BDVA and participants in one (or more) PPP projects.
- Organisations and individuals not part neither of the PPP nor the association but interested and somehow contributors

As different communities are bounded by different contracts, and therefore to avoid confidentiality and privacy issues it is considered mandatory to provide these groups with different spaces in which the collaborative activities should take place, ensuring the independence of documents, folders, chat rooms and whichever other resources dedicated to each of them.

Apart from the people belonging to the PPP community, and following the openness and accessibility of the website explained in the previous section, other individuals or companies outside the PPP should be able to interact and contribute to the PPP website and its contents, but obviously not allowed to participate in the discussions, fora, folders, etc. of the PPP collaborative environment.

2.4 Platform decision

To technically implement the collaborative environment solution, two different options were discussed:

a. To use some content management platform, integrated in the PPP Web Portal, for supporting the previously described collaborative functionalities.
b. To extend the collaborative environment in place already for the BDVA to the BDV PPP and the BDVe project.

The use of an integrated platform on the website means:

- Program, host and maintain a separate platform with access control in a private area of the site.
- Define, create and implement an access level policy to the different assets within the collaborative environment.

- Include a private area in the site, which is intended to be open and accessible to any individual or company dealing with Big Data, forwarding the image of a close community.
- BDVA members who are part of one of the PPP projects will be prompted to register in two different platforms, which could lead into confusion, mismatching information and low efficiency.

After discussion by the BDVe project partners, the option b was selected. The BDVA collaborative environment which relies on SAP Jam platform was therefore implemented for both the BDVe project and the BDV PPP in month 3 of the project (M3).

As detailed in Section 2, SAP Jam offers the possibility to open as many spaces as needed, differentiating between PPP level, Project level, Activity Level, Governance Structures and the like, providing the PPP with:

- A proven tool, already tested and functional, controlled and administered by SAP SE, coordinator of BDVe Project, the CSA supporting the full PPP.
- A tool in which BDVA structures are already working for the past two years.
- A cloud based tool operated within Europe by a European provider, which guarantees the privacy and security needed for some of the documents, discussions, etc. to be shared inside the different users groups and bodies.

3 Structure and functionalities

SAP Jam tool delivers secure social collaboration in professional environment – it can be embedded inside existing applications, it provides a responsive web experience and can be accessed with a dedicated app on a mobile device. A summary of its functionalities are:

- Enterprise Social Networking – Connect and communicate using groups, feeds, discussions, and document sharing
- Work Pattern and Social Business Processes – Connect people, content, applications, and real-time data from back-end enterprise systems or other social medias
- Structured Collaboration – Brainstorm, problem-solve, and make decisions with tools for pro/con analysis, forums, ranking, and more
- External Collaboration – Create groups to collaborate with specific people, customers, partners, vendors, or suppliers
- Security and Administration – Take advantage of enterprise-grade security and pre-built, extensible integration with SAP and third-party software

SAP Jam is daily used by all SAP employees and numerous companies; it is also the main collaborative tool used within the BDVA. SAP and BDVA, as members of BDVA and partners in BDVe project offered the platform as an extension of the current BDVA collaborative environment. SAP Jam is a cloud based tool operated in the SAP Cloud and it is managed and administered by SAP team with a professional level SLA. The tenant used for the project is operated in Europe.

The URL for accessing the platform is: https://jam4.sapjam.com/extranet/jamatsap.com.

SAP Jam allows applying for registration that should be approved by the platform administrator.

This collaborative environment will be linked from the BDV PPP/BDVe website once the website is online.

3.1 Group Structure

SAP Jam is an easy to use and a highly customisable tool, new groups can be created, their entry points can be fine-tuned using widgets or new tabs in a WYSIWYG manner, new members can be added, folders or subgroups can be restricted to a subset of members.

This section reflects the initial setup done to fulfil the initial collaboration needs of the BDVe project/BDV PPP and the smooth integration with the pre-existing BDVA communication tool: this setup is expected to evolve according to the different user community needs.

SAP Jam has been configured in three different groups to allow specific access according each user profile and to ease the access towards information:

- **Big Data Value PPP**: Big Data Value Public Private Partnership
- **BDVe - Big Data Value eCosystem project - BDV CSA**: As a subgroup from the Big Data Value PPP for the BDVe project (Big Data Value eCosystem)
- **BDVA - Big Data Value Association**: This was a pre-existing Jam community for the members of the Big Data Value Association. BDVA members participating to BDVe/BDV PPP can reuse their credentials and dedicated sharing capabilities allow pushing more efficiently the content from one group to another.

Depending on the profile of each user, some or all of these groups will be available.

The information is organized around the following types of items as listed below. More detailed description on the functionalities of SAP Jam can be found at the SAP Jam User Guide [1]:

- Content
    - Folders
    - Blogs
    - Decision making tools (decision, poll, pro/con table, ranking, comparison table)
    - Links
    - Planning tools (agenda, , timeline)
    - Multimedia (audio/video, playlist)
    - Wikis

    It allows upload of different content types as documents (MS office, PDFs, text and zip files, images), presentations and videos
- Forums
    - Discussions
    - Ideas
    - Questions
- Events (calendar)
- Tasks

3.2 Folder Structure

For each group a specific set of content folders has been created to organize the information, but this organization is subject to changes as the project and PPP will evolve.

Currently, for the BDV PPP the following content structure has been put in place:

- BDV PPP projects

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- BDV – Steering Committee
- BDV – Technical Committee
- BDV Communications & Marketing
- BDV dissemination material

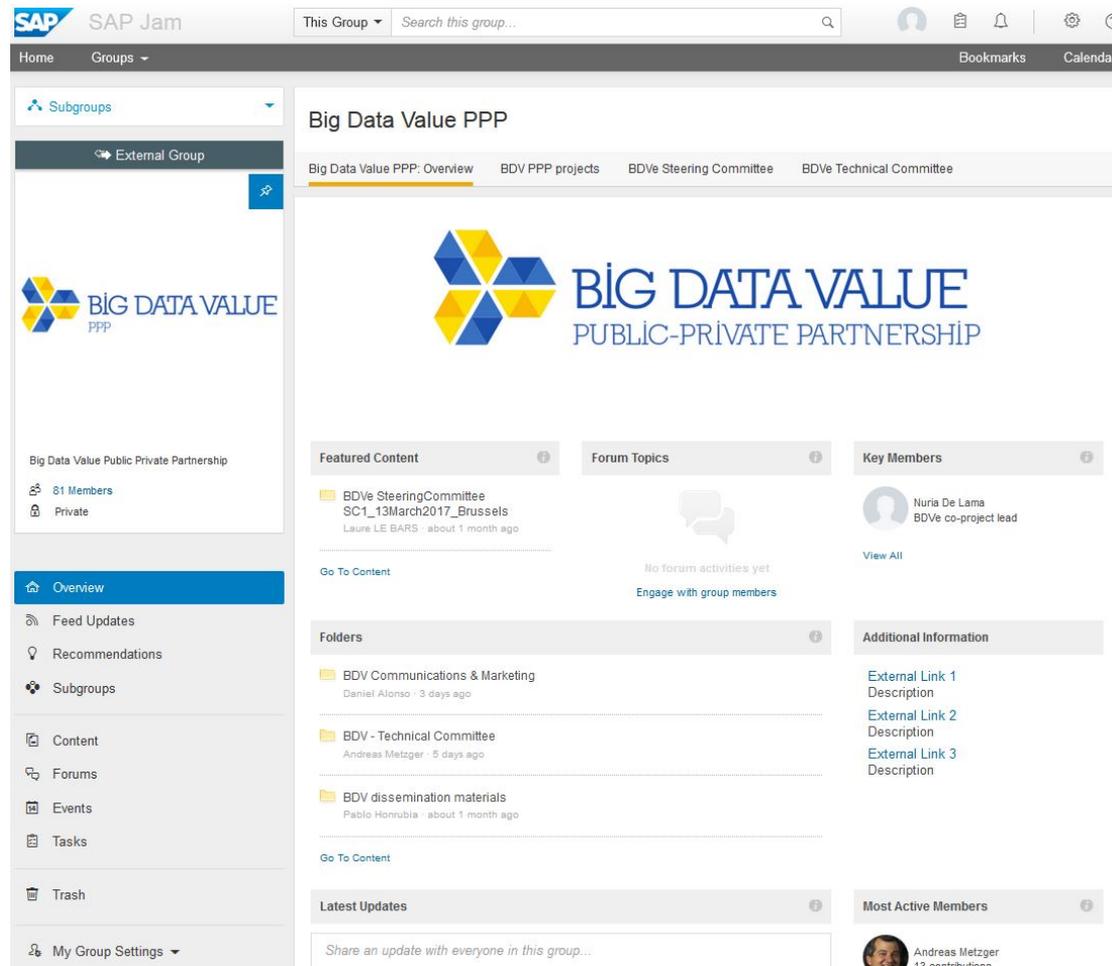The landing page for the BDV PPP currently looks like this:

Figure 1 : SAP Jam BDV PPP landing page

For the BDVe project the following content structure has been put in place:

- WORK PACKAGES
- DELIVERABLES
- Minutes
- EVENTS
- DISSEMINATION MATERIALS
- CONSORTIUM MEETINGS
- GOVERNANCE
- TEMPLATES
- OFFICE
- REVIEW MEETINGS

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The landing page for the BDVe project currently looks like this:

Figure 2 : SAP Jam BDVe project landing page (web access)

SAP Jam provides a feed functionality to keep up to date with the latest additions through a collection of posts called feeds. Feeds display updated activity in the groups. Feeds can be customised through a feed filter function.
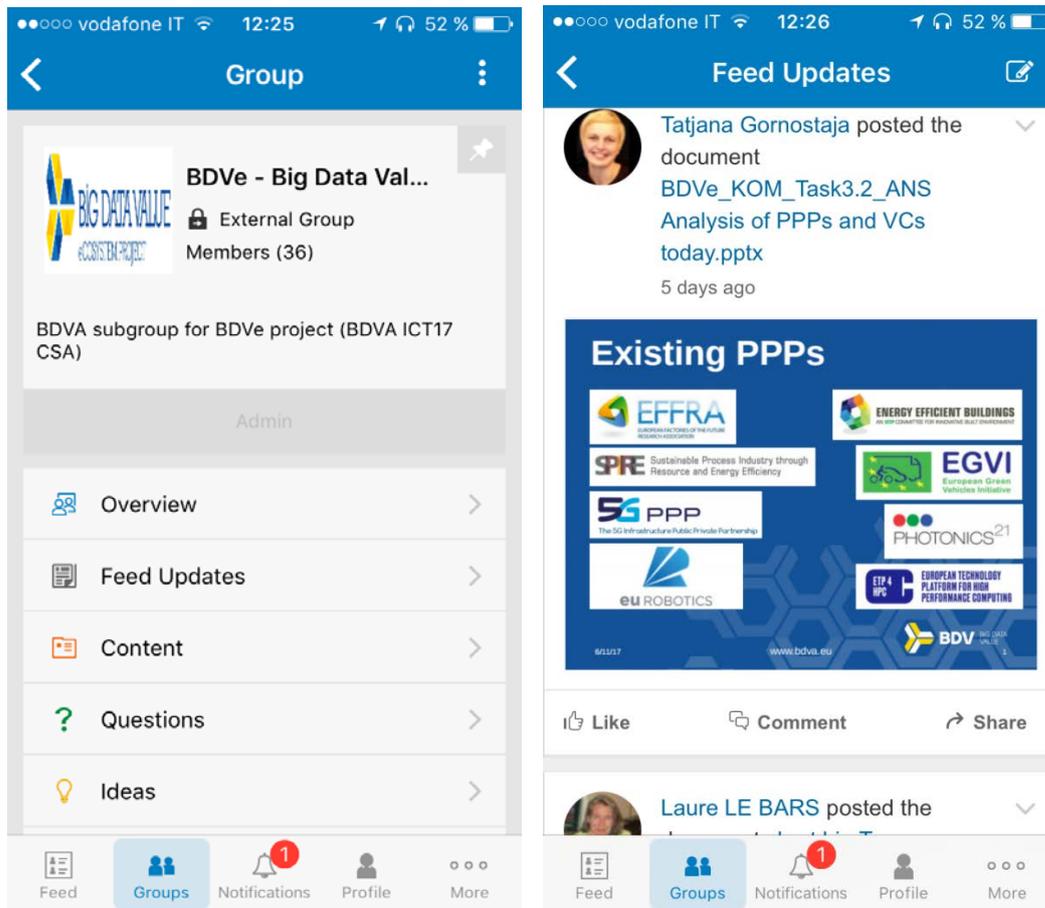
3.3 Mobile Access

Figure 3 : SAP Jam BDVe project landing page (mobile access)

Additionally SAP Jam offers the possibility to receive notification emails on new items and group activities in addition to personal or group notifications from other users. The frequency of such notifications can be customised by each user. Every community member can also access the SAP Jam through their mobile phone.

Additional content elements and forums may be added as required during the life of the BDV PPP and BDVe project.

4 Conclusions

The BDV PPP collaborative environment has been implemented with a set of enriched functionalities, ready to provide an ideal support for the development of the activities in which the participants of the BDV PPP and the partners of the BDVe project will share and communicate the plans, work and the results.

On top of the current content structure this environment will allow building the required containers that will provide support for the information flow between the PPP projects and the BDVe project. In order for this last one to support the decision making process in the PPP and developing the community around it.

References

[1] SAP SE, "SAP Jam Collaboration User Guide 1705," 05 2017. [Online]. Available: https://uacp2.hana.ondemand.com/user_guide/sap_jam_user_guide.pdf. [Accessed 24 05 2017].