

GREENER EU

Integrated Development Network Design - Europe

D4 Monitoring report



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Introduction

The "Digital Platform Monitoring Report" serves as a comprehensive examination of the collaborative digital platform developed under the project deliverable: "D3 - PLATAFORMA DIGITAL COLABORATIVA". This report encompasses an evaluation of both functional tests and a qualitative assessment of the External Platform, shedding light on its strengths, areas for improvement, and overall impact. The platform's pivotal role in facilitating joint planning, sharing needs, resources, and pedagogical materials for the two partners is emphasized. Built upon user-friendly standards, the platform aims to be inclusive, engaging non-expert users and drawing inspiration from successful network platforms. Developed by ZK with open-source software, the commitment extends beyond the project's conclusion to ensure continuous improvement, including training and support for the partner team's autonomous management. The server provisioned by AMPT, with inclusive access for partners and user-level access for at least two non-partner Master Units, adds a layer of accessibility and collaboration beyond the project's immediate scope. This report not only captures the platform's current state but also lays the groundwork for future enhancements and collaborations.

External Platform

Functional Testing

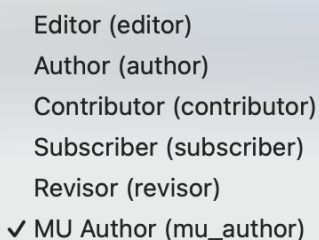
- Identification and resolution of any bugs or technical issues.
- Evaluation of platform performance in different usage scenarios.

A comprehensive series of tests were conducted to assess various aspects of the platform's functionality, covering a wide range of features and functionalities. These tests included, but were not limited to, the following:

- 1. User Registration** - Testing the process of user registration to ensure seamless onboarding and access to platform features.
- 2. User Permissions** - Evaluating the assignment and management of user permissions to control access levels and administrative capabilities.
- 3. User Interactions** - Assessing user interactions such as drafting, publishing, updating, reviewing, and finalizing content.
- 4. Content Creation**
 - Institutional Content - Testing content creation and management by the MUN team and volunteers with IT competencies, instructed and trained by the ZK team.
 - MU Specific Content - Examining content creation by individual MU teams, often with support from MUN volunteers with IT expertise.
 - External Content - Evaluating the integration of content from social media and other external channels like YouTube and Facebook.

5. General User Interactions - Specifically focusing on interactions related to the map functionality and exploring special search and filter functionalities (planned but not yet implemented).

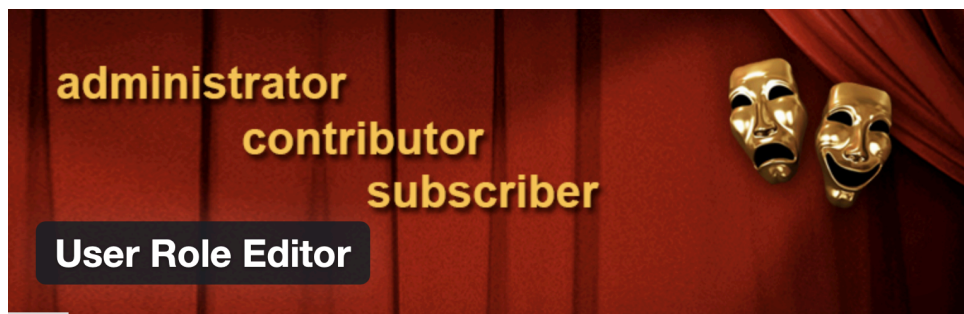
6. Administrative Capabilities - Utilizing plugins like User Role Editor to customize granular access and administrative rights for different user roles. A new role, "MU Author," was created to grant autonomy in editing content specific to a MU while still allowing review by a Revisor.



Editor (editor)
Author (author)
Contributor (contributor)
Subscriber (subscriber)
Revisor (revisor)
✓ MU Author (mu_author)

Each test was meticulously designed to simulate real-world scenarios within the MUN ecosystem and evaluate the platform's responsiveness, user-friendliness, and reliability under various conditions.

Additionally, plugins like User Role Editor played a crucial role in fine-tuning role capabilities, ensuring efficient management of user roles and permissions.



administrator
contributor
subscriber

User Role Editor

Editor
Description Installation FAQ Changelog Screenshots Reviews

User Role Editor WordPress plugin allows you to change user roles and capabilities easy.
Just turn on check boxes of capabilities you wish to add to the selected role and click "Update" button to save your changes. That's done.
Add new roles and customize its capabilities according to your needs, from scratch or as a copy of other existing role.
Unnecessary self-made role can be deleted if there are no users whom such role is assigned.
Role assigned every new created user by default may be changed too.
Capabilities could be assigned on per user basis. Multiple roles could be assigned to user simultaneously.
You can add new capabilities and remove unnecessary capabilities which could be left from uninstalled plugins.
Multi-site support is provided.

Try it out on your free TasteWP [test site](#).

To read more about 'User Role Editor' visit [this page](#) at [shinephp.com](#)

Version: 4.64.1
Author: [Vladimir Garagulya](#)
Last Updated: 4 months ago
Requires WordPress Version: 4.4 or higher
Compatible up to: 6.4.3
Requires PHP Version: 7.3 or higher
Active Installations: 700,000+
[WordPress.org Plugin Page »](#)
[Plugin Homepage »](#)

AVERAGE RATING
★★★★★
(based on 276 ratings)

REVIEWS

The PublishPress suite plugins were also instrumental in facilitating a proper workflow for authors, though certain features deemed non-essential were not integrated into the existing workflow at this time.



PublishPress Authors

The PublishPress Authors plugin allows you to add many authors to one WordPress post.

[Get the Authors plugin](#)

PublishPress Planner

PublishPress Planner helps you organize, schedule and plan your WordPress content.

[Get the Planner plugin](#)



PublishPress Blocks

PublishPress Blocks is the plugin that gives you more control over the WordPress block editor. You get over 20 extra blocks plus many ways to control user access to blocks.

[Get the Blocks plugin](#)



PublishPress Permissions

PublishPress Permissions allows you to customize your WordPress permissions in very advanced ways.

[Get the Permissions plugin](#)



PublishPress Capabilities

PublishPress Capabilities is trusted to manage the permissions for over 100,000 WordPress sites.

[Get the Capabilities plugin](#)

PublishPress Revisions

PublishPress Revisions is the plugin for managing, scheduling and approving WordPress revisions.

[Get the Revisions plugin](#)



PublishPress Checklists

Using PublishPress Checklists, you can define tasks that must be completed before your content is published.

[Get the Checklists plugin](#)



PublishPress Series

PublishPress Series is a publishing plugin that allows you to organize posts into issues or series. This is ideal for magazines, newspapers, short-story writers, teachers, comic artists, or anyone who writes multiple posts on the same topic.

[Get the Series plugin](#)



PublishPress Future

PublishPress Future allows you to automatically unpublish posts and pages on a future date.

[Get the Future plugin](#)

PublishPress Statuses

PublishPress Statuses allows you to add custom statuses for your posts. You can create pre-publishing statuses so you can prepare your content to go live. You can also create visibility statuses to control who can see your published content.

[Get the Statuses plugin](#)



Some key features to enable a focused search of the specific MU in the platform were given by the WP MAPS PRO plugin, with several interesting features and able to provide a visually appealing presentation of the various members globally distributed.

Plugin Features

Our WordPress map plugin offers a range of features, from basic to advanced, that are highly flexible and customizable. With an intuitive backend, website admins can easily adjust both UI and functionality to fit their needs.

Posts on Google Maps

Showcase posts, pages, or custom post types directly on your maps.

Display Listing & Filters

Admin can display beautiful listing along with filters below map.

GDPR Compliance

Seamlessly integrate with popular GDPR plugins, ensuring user data protection and legal compliance.

Form Submissions

Show forms submissions on maps. Contact Form 7 & Gravity Fields supported.

Page Builder Supported

All major page builders supported. e.g WPBakery, Elementor, Beaver, Divi and Thrive

All Themes Supported

Tested with popular themes. e.g Avada, Astra, Divi, SeedProd, Ultra & OceanWP

Custom Fields Utilization

Show custom fields to display additional data in info windows. Advanced Custom Fields Plugin (ACF) Supported.

Custom Filters

Let users filter locations by custom fields, Taxonomies, Locations Fields.

Routes & Directions

Easily create and display multiple routes on Google Maps for visitors to access directions.

Import Locations

Quickly add numerous locations using CSV files, streamlining the process and saving you time.

SEO Optimization

Maps are optimized for SEO, ensuring they contribute positively to your site's search engine ranking.

Rich Infowindow Content

Incorporate multimedia content like images, videos, and links in your infowindows for enhanced engagement.

The characteristics of spatial distribution of the network allows a quick and efficient navigation, with a pop-up with basic description.



The popup includes an hyperlink to a more detailed description in a separate webpage, divided in two parts, one provided by generic details to be filled inside Advanced Custom Fields,

Extend WordPress with powerful custom fields, post types, and taxonomies.

Advanced Custom Fields (ACF)

[Description](#)[Installation](#)[FAQ](#)[Changelog](#)[Screenshots](#)[Reviews](#)

Advanced Custom Fields (ACF) turns WordPress sites into a fully-fledged content management system by giving you all the tools to do more with your data.

Use the ACF plugin to take full control of your WordPress edit screens, custom field data, and more.

Add fields on demand.

The ACF field builder allows you to quickly and easily add fields to WP edit screens with only the click of a few buttons! Whether it's something simple like adding an "author" field to a book review post, or something more complex like the structured data needs of an ecommerce site or marketplace, ACF makes adding fields to your content model easy.

Add them anywhere.

Fields can be added all over WordPress including posts, pages, users, taxonomy terms, media, comments and even custom options pages! It couldn't be simpler to bring structure to the WordPress content creation experience.

Show them everywhere.

Load and display your custom field values in any theme template file with our hassle-free, developer

Version: 6.2.6.1

Author: [WP Engine](#)

Last Updated: 1 day ago

Requires WordPress Version: 5.8 or higher

Compatible up to: 6.4.3

Requires PHP Version: 7.0 or higher

Active Installations: 2+ Million

[WordPress.org Plugin Page »](#)

[Plugin Homepage »](#)

AVERAGE RATING

★★★★★
(based on 1,205 ratings)

Providing fields that in the future could be used for filtering and searching in a more structured way:

Ananda Kalyani

By MUN-admin / April 30, 2022



Summary: Ananda Valley is a project focused on spirituality and all-round regeneration (environmental, economic and social) and local development, with a vision of being a model and educational hub for sustainable 21st century living.

State: Portugal

Website: <https://www.anandavalley.org>

Social media: Facebook, YouTube, Instagram,

Residents: 20

And a generic description that is completely defined and modifiable by the MU team. In this case the MUN administrators will provide simple guidelines describing best practices to maintain the content homogeneous and easily comparable by users that will probably select a handful of different options and will have to navigate between them to better understand the differences. The main proposed structure is a subdivision into N sections, depending on the MU specificities. One section relates to the "Unique features" of the MU, while the others touch on topics of interest to the general public, categorized in sections such as "Volunteerism," "Visits," "Events," "Third Sector Involvement," "Environmental," "Social," "Socio-Economic," "Preparedness," "Education," "Art and Culture," just to provide some examples.

Qualitative Evaluation

Feedback was systematically gathered from users (mainly from Europe and South America) across various testing phases and real-world usage scenarios (mainly from Europe and South America) to gain valuable insights into their experiences and perspectives while interacting with the platform. This feedback was important to identify both the strengths of the platform and areas where enhancements were needed to improve its overall usability and effectiveness.

Administrators prioritized aspects such as security, scalability, and future feature capabilities as well as the initial ease of network growth. The assessment yielded positive results, and their focus was mainly on evaluating the intuitiveness, clarity, and usability of the user interface, recognizing the significance of present and prospective platform functionalities. Essential training was provided to key volunteers, with plans for ongoing refinement of the platform over the next 1-2 years to iteratively enhance its usability and efficacy.

MU Authors, responsible for maintaining accurate information about individual MUs, were interested mainly in a streamlined, standardized, and well documented process even if it will become stable only in 1-2 years (time needed for MUN to become more widespread and include more different scenarios). They found the interface user-friendly and suitable for their needs, but they identified minor CSS presentation issues with certain plugins, notably WP MAPS PRO and Advanced Custom Fields. Following a thorough analysis, adjustments were made to optimize the user experience, even if these changes only partially met the expectations of some MU Authors. Future plans were discussed, to involve developing a more tailored plugin interface, although the evolving landscape of MUN needs and technological requirements (especially of third party plugins) may pose challenges and become non-efficient. Currently, a well-crafted guide and effective help desk support were evaluated as the most practical approaches to address MU Authors' suggestions.

General public - feedback was solicited from a limited number of individuals from the general public. A broader feedback will appear only once a significant portion of MUs will be incorporated into the MUN with comprehensive descriptions and varied presentation approaches. Anticipated feedback from users across different continents is expected to bring major changes and thus significantly enhance the platform inclusivity and accessibility, enabling more streamlined access and impactful information delivery for users worldwide. The evaluation prioritized navigability to ensure ease of information retrieval and seamless platform navigation, with careful consideration given to accessibility for users with diverse abilities and needs. Overall, the qualitative evaluation provided valuable insights into user experience, guiding iterative improvements to enhance platform usability and effectiveness.

External Platform Impact

The External Platform, tailored mainly to improve engagement with the general public, volunteers, participants of activities, and various partners, holds significant potential for impact in several key areas, including collaboration, outreach, and knowledge dissemination beyond the Master Unit Network (MUN). While currently in testing phases with small sample sizes, this section outlines the anticipated impacts upon wider deployment of the External Platform.

1. Expanded Outreach and Engagement: The External Platform will serve as a gateway for expanding outreach efforts beyond the MUN, enabling broader engagement with external stakeholders, potential partners, volunteers, events' participants and the general public. With intuitive interfaces and user-friendly features designed to extract needed information easily, the platform is expected to facilitate seamless communication and information exchange, fostering meaningful connections and collaboration opportunities.

2. Facilitated Cross-Border Collaboration: Upon full deployment, the External Platform is anticipated to facilitate cross-border collaboration among diverse stakeholders. By providing a centralized platform for sharing project updates, resources, and collaborative initiatives, the platform will streamline communication and collaboration processes, transcending geographical boundaries and fostering global partnerships, as already demonstrated improving connections and cooperation between Spain and Portugal MUs, as well as European and South American volunteers interested to fully support the MUN growth.

3. Improved Visibility and Brand Awareness: Through strategic utilization of customizable content and multimedia integration features, social media interactive content and media presentations that are easily accessible and of great interest for both MU teams and interested audiences, organizations and initiatives within the MUN are expected to gain increased visibility and brand awareness on a global scale. By showcasing impact, initiatives, and achievements effectively, the platform will enhance credibility and recognition in the international community, driving greater visibility and support for MUN initiatives. The Global Ecovillage Network is an example of this improved visibility, where more MUs are now an active part of this wider network, and representing MUs potentialities and unique characteristics.

4. Inclusive and Accessible Engagement: The External Platform prioritizes accessibility and inclusivity, aiming to ensure that information and resources are easily accessible to a wide range of audiences. By providing exposure to diverse realities and experiences, spanning MUs from Europe, Africa, South America, Russia, and beyond, encompassing both newly established and longstanding MUs with decades of experience, and representing a spectrum of focus areas from social to environmental, cultural, and educational sectors, the platform fosters equitable engagement and participation. This inclusive approach promotes a collaborative environment where MUs can share best practices and volunteers from various backgrounds.

5. Iterative Enhancement and Feedback Integration: Since the early deployment, the External Platform adopted an iterative enhancement approach, continually refining its features and functionalities based on user feedback and evolving requirements. By actively soliciting input from users and integrating feedback into platform improvements, the External Platform will remain responsive to the needs of its users and MU Authors, ensuring ongoing relevance and effectiveness.

In summary, the External Platform holds significant potential to drive positive change and foster collaboration, outreach, and knowledge dissemination beyond the MUN. As organizations within the MUN leverage the platform for external engagement initiatives, its anticipated impacts are expected to grow, driving collective growth and facilitating positive change on a global scale.

Strengths of the Platform

Here are the main strengths of the External Platform, emerged from the MUN monthly meetings:

- **User-Friendly Interface:** The platform is very simple and has a user-friendly interface, making it easy for users to navigate and access relevant information efficiently.
- **Comprehensive Content Management:** With robust content management capabilities, the platform enables MU Authors and Administrators to create, organize, and manage a wide range of contents effectively.
- **Customization Options:** Offering extensive customization options, the platform allows MU Authors and Administrators to tailor their contents according to their specific needs and preferences.
- **Integration Capabilities:** Seamless integration with other tools and platforms enhances the platform's functionality and extends its reach in the future.
- **Scalability and Flexibility:** Built with scalability and flexibility in mind, the platform can adapt to evolving needs and accommodate network and audience growth without compromising performance or user experience.
- **Responsive Support:** Dedicated support to less experienced MUs showed the importance of providing timely assistance and guidance to MU Authors, ensuring a smooth and satisfactory experience of content creation for less IT savvy volunteers.

Areas for Future Improvement

Here is a list of future improvements, not implemented at the current time as they will require feedback from a larger number of users, and a prolonged use of the platform to allow enough quality content to be published.

- **Enhanced User Onboarding:** Implementing improved MU Authors onboarding processes can help streamline the initial user experience and reduce barriers to entry for new MU and volunteers dedicated to content management.
- **Advanced Search Functionality:** Enhancing search functionality with more advanced filters and options can improve content discoverability and facilitate efficient information retrieval.
- **Optimized Performance:** Continuously optimizing platform performance and responsiveness can ensure smooth user interactions, even as the platform scales and the services will evolve.
- **Expanded Integration:** Exploring opportunities for expanded integration with additional tools, platforms, and data sources.
- **Accessibility Enhancements:** Continuing to prioritize accessibility enhancements can ensure that the platform remains inclusive and accessible to users with diverse needs and abilities.
- **Feedback Mechanisms:** Implementing robust automatic-feedback mechanisms will facilitate ongoing user engagement and provide valuable insights.
- **Content Moderation:** Developing more robust content-based content moderation processes will help maintain quality and integrity of the External Platform.
- **Localized Support:** Providing a double language feature, English and a localized language version can cater to the needs of a diverse user base and enhance the platform's global reach and impact.

Internal Platform

The Internal Platform, serving as the backbone of the Master Unit Network's (MUN) internal knowledge-sharing infrastructure, will undergo systematic monitoring, evaluation and changes to keep its effectiveness, usability, and alignment with organizational goals. This report provides an assessment of the Internal Platform's performance at today, highlighting its strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

Platform Preparation

The Internal Platform was developed with a focus on simplicity and functionality, requiring less effort compared to the External Platform. Given its primary function as a Knowledge Base (KB) for consolidating content from various Master Units (MUs), the platform was designed to be user-friendly and intuitive, even if it was evaluated by MU Authors not as simple as widely used collaborative word processors like Google Docs. Its primary purpose is to serve as a central repository for resources, facilitating easy access to information for Working Groups and other stakeholders within the network.

Feature Evaluation

The KB plugin selected for the Internal Platform was deemed suitable for its intended purpose, offering sufficient functionality for content creation, organization, and retrieval. While not as streamlined as some collaborative word processors, it provides the necessary tools for Working Groups to populate the platform with relevant material and for other users to efficiently search and access information. The overall evaluation was positive, even if more feedback will be expected when the platform will be actively used by all the Working Groups.

Integration Efforts

Efforts to integrate additional features, such as a funding platform and a volunteers platform, were considered in the architectural phase, evaluated as possible due to the flexibility of the chosen WordPress platform, and are at the moment in the early stages of integration. Requirements gathering and testing are ongoing, with the aim of streamlining processes and enhancing the platform's capabilities in the future. Identifying potential partners and conducting feasibility studies are essential steps in ensuring successful integration and functionality of these features.

User Feedback

Feedback from MUN users of the Internal Platform has been generally positive, with users of several Working Groups appreciating the platform's ease of use and accessibility. Suggestions for improvement have primarily focused on enhancing search functionality, improving content organization, and streamlining the user interface. Incorporating user feedback into future iterations of the platform is essential for addressing user needs and enhancing overall usability.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the Internal Platform has the potentiality to actively facilitate knowledge sharing and collaboration within the Master Unit Network. While it has demonstrated strengths in terms of functionality and usability, there are areas for improvement, particularly in the integration of additional features and refinement of user experience. User engagement is also a topic to be highlighted, especially in the early stages of the network establishment. Continued monitoring and evaluation will be crucial for ensuring that the Internal Platform remains a valuable resource for MUN members and continues to evolve to meet the changing needs of the network.