▸ Deliverable 6.2

Annual Review of Corporate Network Maps II

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Abstract

This deliverable includes annual report on the advance and main strategies to obtain buy-in from companies.

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1. Introduction

At the end of Q5, one year into ChainReact's project execution, D6.1 was submitted to outline concrete plans and action roadmaps for WP6 for Y2 and Y3. This report will highlight major actions taken during Y2 in line with the action plan drawn in (D6.1) including all the successes and challenges that were celebrated and addressed by the partners, as well as ongoing events and actions for Y3.

WP6 continues to be the package for building relationships with external stakeholders; whether academic, advocacy, corporate, or affected group consultations and engagement, with the aim to tackle challenges that continue to hinder the progress of transparency and openness regarding corporate supply and network chain data. The work of WP6 correlates most highly with ChainReact's second objective and specifically the sub-goal B:

Objective 2: Connect issues at corporate networks' edges to network drivers

Sub-goal B: Deepen and improve corporate network maps by engaging corporations and their stakeholders via disclosure outreach.

Below are ChainReact's objectives and sub-goals:

- Objective 1: Identify irresponsible corporate activity

    o Sub-goal A: Create a multilingual reporting platform, provisionally named "The Whistle", to solicit reports about corporate behaviour.

    o Sub-goal B: Run at least three reporting campaigns sponsored by international advocacy groups to drive participation on The Whistle.

- Objective 2: Connect issues at corporate networks' edges to network drivers

    o Sub-goal A: Seed and make navigable ChainReact's corporate relationship mapping data by automated processing of official public documents and cross-platform integrations.

- o Sub-goal B: Deepen and improve corporate network maps by engaging corporations and their stakeholders via disclosure outreach.

- Objective 3: Incentivize companies to address network issues

  - o Sub-goal A: Support community development of network-aware corporate metrics on WikiRate.org.

  - o Sub-goal B: Conduct integrated issue-focused ChainReact media campaigns that highlight corporate performance.

1.1 Updates: WP6 outputs in relation to ChainReact's objectives

This work package has been designed with ChainReact's **objective 2** in mind, most notably, **sub-goal B** (see Introduction). The work that has been done up to M18 has been key in striking some of the major achievement in Q8, not only in terms of technical improvements on relationship metrics and data aggregation and integration (WP5), but also in terms of community relationships (T8.3) and corporate relationship building (T6.2) and (T6.3).

With the work carried out under Objective 1, WikiRate, as WP6 leader, has ensured that communications channels are open with The Whistle team at every step (WP2), (WP3), and (D5.4). It is worth noting that as (D5.3) correlated with and was linked to (D6.1), (D5.4) also correlates with this deliverable (D6.2) and will be submitted to the Commission simultaneously.

For Objective 2a, and specifically under WP5, infrastructure and multiple data extraction tools have been developed to facilitate seeding and navigability of ChainReact's corporate relationship mapping data that have the ability to extract data from external public documents and through cross-platform integrations from OpenCorporates (as shown in the diagram below).
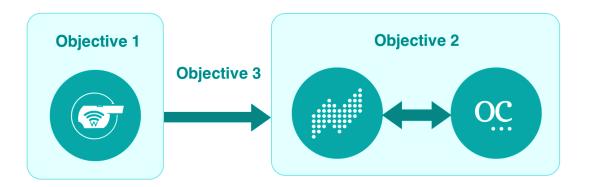
Figure 1 Cross-platform integrations in line with ChainReact's objectives

WikiRate's development of the Multi-stakeholder Action Group has its aim to incentivize companies to address network issues (Objective 3) and engage the same companies, in addition to NGOs and others to come together around a specific transparency or disclosure challenge, and with the commitment to a plan of action or specific disclosure goal. However, WikiRate has been developing other relationships with corporations in addition to the MAC which will be further detailed in this document under section 2 (corporate engagement).

1.2 Updates: SMART targets

Y1 SMART targets have been internally focused in a way to serve work package leaders with the necessary frameworks to setup and refine their work plans. For the period between M13 and M18, the set of SMART targets (WP7) has been developed to action plans for designing external campaigns and platform infrastructure (metrics and data). For Q8 onwards, the targets have been designed in a way that speaks to the external collaboration with corporate partners, such as ensuring Partnerships with Advocacy Groups (WP6, WP8) that have corporate data transparency on top of their agendas, and translate companies' interest into collaborative engagement with students and other stakeholders on the WikiRate platform.

No.	Action / Objective	Work Package	Specific	Measurable	Appropriate	Realistic	Time
ST58	Import Relationship Metrics on WikiRate.org	WP5, WP6, WP8	Import relevant relationship metrics on WikIRate.org	5 honed relationship metrics on WikiRate.org	Work with advocacy groups, active community members and companies (through working groups) to test and hone relationship metrics to ensure they are ready to be included in a campaign	Good metric design necessary for campaigns	Q08
ST59	Import network-aware Metrics	WP6	Test and hone network-aware metrics	Add 3 honed network-aware metrics to WikiRate.org	Work with advocacy groups, community members and companies (through working groups) to test and hone supply network metrics	Good metric design necessary for campaigns	Q10
ST60	Soliciting company account use cases	WP6	Initial corporate engagement push to promote adoption of the newly deployed company accounts feature	3 companies create a company account on WikiRate	This is a foundational step for direct communication on WikiRate.org between companies and users, enabling the community to hold corporations accountable.	Starting with a moderate number of use-cases will allow us to test the newly developed feature before doing a broader corporate engagement push.	Q10
ST61	Preparation for Multi-stakeholder Collaboration	WP6	Develop concept for multi-stakeholder supply chain transparency action groups and build strategic partnership.	concept note with format, timeline, and challenges in collaboration with the strategic partner.	This dynamic type of collaboration and dialogue will help ensure the relevance of the ChainReact reporting tools, for the industry's	A targeted set-up will ensure both the participating stakeholders and ChainReact consortium will get useful outcomes.	Q09

No.	Action / Objective	Work Package	Specific	Measurable	Appropriate	Realistic	Time
					stakeholders.		
ST62	Launch of Multi-stakeholder Collaboration	WP6	Kick off multi-stakeholder action groups working on supply chain transparency topics	Kick off 3 action groups, all including at least 3 different stakeholders from the industry, affected by the issue under review.	The aim is to solicit disclosure on supply chain topics that are currently known to some stakeholders but need to become available to all stakeholders influenced by it.	The groups should work toward practical next steps assigned to the different stakeholders, to ensure words are put into action. An agreement of sorts may be needed.	Q10
ST63	Design network aware metrics	WP6	Design network aware metrics ready to launch on WikiRate.org	Spreadsheets with relevant network aware metrics	This will support the development team (DC). Needs to be completed prior to import	Aligns with dev plan and relevant targets	Q09
ST64	Strategy to gather Campaign Feedback (capture learnings)	WP6, WP8	Develop a brief strategy to capture campaign feedback	A brief strategy document outlining how to gather user feedback specific to the campaign	Need to develop a strong process to capture feedback	Gathering feedback is essential to good campaign design and scaling	Q08
ST65	Partnerships with Advocacy Groups	WP6, WP8	Secure partnerships with Advocacy Groups with interest or knowledge of (supply) network data	Sign MoUs with 3 Advocacy Groups who either have or are interested in researching (supply) network data	Strong partnerships are essential to the campaigns	Already in conversations. next step is to secure partnerships formally	Q08

No.	Action / Objective	Work Package	Specific	Measurable	Appropriate	Realistic	Time
ST66	Transparency-focused Messaging	WP6, WP8	Develop transparency-focused messaging to be used alongside campaigns	Transparency-focused messaging tested with 3 engaged companies. Transparency Policy or guidance page on WikiRate.org	Must be aligned with the transparency score (WRIT) and tested prior and during campaigns	To maintain neutrality WikiRate must have strong and concise messaging focusing on transparency	Q10

Figure 2 WP6-related SMART targets

As previously detailed in D6.1, the SMART target exercise is a continuous effort and collaboration for strategic articulation through receiving feedback and dialogue with multiple stakeholders of supply chain, relationship and other ESG performance data.

1.3 Updates: Strut Integration

The consortium continues to fulfil its goal in ensuring integration between the project's three data struts (The Whistle, OpenCorporates and WikiRate) through ensuring technical and communications flow of data and processes.

CERTH, as a primary gatekeeper to ensuring seamless integration between WikiRate and OpenCorporates, has developed tools and widgets (T5.2) to facilitate data imports of relationship metrics and trademark data from

Figure 3 ChainReact Struts

OpenCorporates to WikiRate. One of many advantages of having OpenCorporate's data present on the WikiRate platform is honing companies' interest in deeper collaboration with

WikiRate. Internally, the industry metrics of OpenCorporates will facilitate filtering on WikiRate.org for the development of the *WRIT[1]* (*WikiRate Index of Transparency*) which will be an integral feature for WP6.

1.4 Updates: Two years in review

ChainReact reached the two year point in December 2017 and has made good progress towards the project's objectives, notably after receiving positive feedback from the reviewers during the Volos mid-term progress review.

Concerning WP6, the reviewers broached the issue of collaboration with external partners within industries that have already been a focus for ChainReact (textile, poultry, telecom), and suggested a few organisations focused on the most vulnerable of groups that the consortium would benefit from contacting. To that end, more effort has been made in terms of reaching out to companies who work closely with the targeted groups (WP5 + WP6) and not just reaching out to those with available data.

1.4.1   Progress report (Y1 + Y2)

Year 1 of the project can be translated into a planning and preparation phase. During Q1 and Q2, most of the work carried out in terms of Preparing the reach out to companies (T6.1) was consultative. As reported in D6.1, progress in these quarters (Q1 + Q2) centred around research and continuing to build relationships which could yield value to ChainReact. Very early on, the partners realised that the availability of supply chain data is a big unknown in the industry and is ripe for disruption with ChainReact. Concerning (T5.1), the requirements for the integration of Ground Truth Datasets have been laid out and effectively presented on wikirate.org by Q4.

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[1] The WRIT measures how extensively companies provide answers on WikiRate.org to metrics the WikiRate community deems important. Companies are given a WRIT score of 0-10. A 10 would indicate complete answers provided to all factored metrics and 0 would indicate none.

For the second half of Year 1, more attention was given to the fact that targeting partners (T6.2) and (T6.3) will have to be relevant to the targeted groups and availability of data, i.e. working in the fashion and textile industries for example, while keeping in mind that selecting these partners has to be also relevant in terms of designed and creating appropriate supply chain metrics (WP5) which started in Q3 with the Walk Free foundation to investigate metrics of relevance to company reports on the Modern Slavery act, implemented during Q4 and refined in Q5.

D6.1 presented some of the warmest and most viable partnerships struck during the first year such as the Fair Labour Association (FLA) who provided data on companies on WikiRate.org and Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) - which has so far been a very positive partnership with favourable outcome and will continue to be so throughout the lifespan of the project. In addition, a very important meeting took place during Q4 with a multi-brand e-commerce platform for fashion based in Berlin, Germany, who showed great interest in ChainReact's concept and a tool for monitoring traceability of brands they deal with as well as their own label branded goods. This relationship continued to be explored and synergies aligned to date.

The company offered to introduce WikiRate (as part of ChainReact) to the partnership for Sustainable textiles -a multi-stakeholder initiative based in Germany, where the main results of that meeting were to recommend that WikiRate, as a lead NGO in the sector of ESG reporting, would facilitate a working group within the textile industry, to ensure momentum and sufficient coverage of issues from the different material perspectives (supplier side, corporate side, industry level and NGO side).

Following the Volos review in July (Q7) and recommendations, a series of online meetings between WikiRate and DELab took place to maximise effort on delivering on the recommendations of the reviewers. This translated to coordinating a set of meetings with Polish companies in the telecom and textile industries (T6.2). Q7 also explored contacting for the first time trade unions and labour networks to explore collaboration channels with ChainReact. The partnerships with the Walk Free Foundation and Amnesty International expand beyond Year 1 regarding the ongoing Modern Slavery Act research project on WikiRate (organized by the Walk Free Foundation) and the Conflict Mineral Sourcing

research project (organized by Amnesty International) and have attracted broader academic engagement.

In addition, WikiRate began to conceptualise a Multi-stakeholder Action Group, to engage corporations, NGOs and others to come together around a specific transparency or disclosure challenge. The MAG has been a focus for WikiRate in particular in Q7 through Q8 and resulted in serious discussions with a potential partner host in Germany - a multi-stakeholder initiative with around 150 member representatives from five different actor groups (German Federal Government, business, non-governmental organizations, unions, standards organizations). Outcome of these MAGs will also be instrumental in directly feeding in of open data onto WikiRate.org as per the diagram in Figure 4 below:

Figure 4 Data landscape
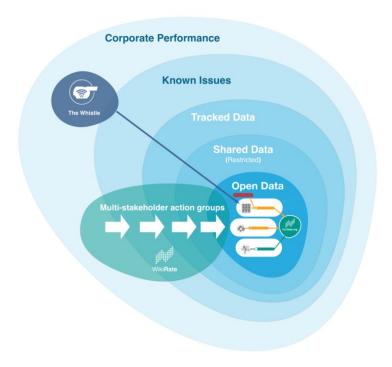
1.4.2   Further activities and outputs (Y3)

Year 3 started with the continuation of building supply chain research partnerships and the running of a large workshop in Berlin with the fashion company WikiRate is in partnership with tackling the question of what the value proposition for companies would be to get involved in WikiRate's supply chain mapping activities (T5.2) and T(6.3).

The consortium is looking forward to Year 3 with an action plan that includes further investment in the Multi-stakeholder Action Groups with the ultimate aim of ensuring that both the participating stakeholders and the ChainReact consortium will get useful outcomes from these groups, their proceedings, and resulting actions.

In terms of data collection, Q9 will be the launchpad for network aware metrics and building research around supply chain metric data and understanding capacity around these metrics (ST63). To this end, WikiRate.org will offer the ability to extend research to understand network relationships between companies, suppliers, owners, investors, etc.
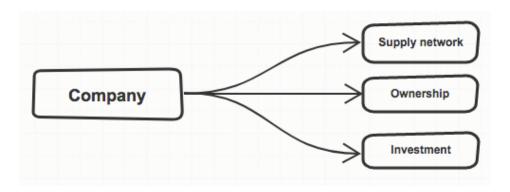

Figure 5 Metrics to provide research possibilities on linking relationships

This will segue into Q10 when Work will extend beyond in-house testing and importing to include advocacy groups, community members and companies through the working groups to test supply network metrics.

This preparation (including work to be carried out under WP5) will facilitate corporate engagement on WikiRate.org (T6.3). The platform will serve as the bridge between companies and the community who holds the responsibility to monitor corporate actions and accountability. With this in mind, WikiRate continues to be a member of the Multistakeholder Advisory Committee to the Corporate Action Group around reporting on the Sustainable Development goals, convened by the United Nation Global Compact (UNGC) and Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which continues to be a good platform for WikiRate to engage directly with companies around their effort on supply chain transparency, and invite these corporate members to engage with users directly on WikiRate.org.

2. Corporate Engagement

As indicated in section 1.4 above, Years 1 + 2 have been well utilised to set the stage for corporate engagement in Year 3. During the last Huddle that took place in Berlin in November (Q7), SMART targets (reference to table Figure 2 above) were developed to include focus on corporate engagement, how to incentivise corporations to collaborate (Objective 3), and how to make that collaboration material.

The reviewers' comments were taken into serious consideration by the ChainReact consortium through focusing on reaching out to companies that are in direct contact or are directly affecting the most vulnerable of groups/communities rather than focusing on working with companies and NGOs that have data and data expertise.

With this in mind, ChainReact is considering which potential partner would be best fitted to play this role while keeping in mind the serious issues that exist regarding ambiguity throughout the supply chain (companies unaware of their suppliers' information/chain).

Therefore, the consortium (mainly WikiRate as WP6 leader) has explored the possibilities for further collaboration with Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) regarding corporate disclosure of their Tier 1 information. While this remains a very sensitive topic and the access to people and information is still a hindrance to front-line organisations such as CCC where they still encounter resistance in disclosing information that lies behind what is evident. The Whistle (WP4) tends to provide leverage to access this information by providing the necessary bottom-up tools to the workers and the most affected groups. But in terms of direct engagement with NGOs who are trying to break the barriers between workers and suppliers, and between workers and information, WikiRate and CCC are discussing how to integrate a widget on the WikiRate platform specifically with the workers in mind, where they would have access to information that is directly affecting them or their social and environmental surroundings.

One important outcome CCC realised as part of their direct engagement with workers is that often enough, workers are in the dark when it comes to what they're producing; for example, a worker in Bangladesh in a factory in the outskirts of Dhaka produces garments to a well-

known global brand, but has no information regarding what that brand is, and where and at what price his product is being sold. This widget will provide the possibility for a user to inquire about who her/his factory works for by simply entering the name or address of the factory. This dissemination widget (WP5, WP6, WP8) will help those directly involved and affected to learn more about their work and impact.

2.1 NGO/Student driven engagement and capacity building

The direct involvement of students researching corporate performance remains a vibrant aspect of the project. Professors are collaborating with NGOs through WikiRate.org which serves as a bridge for connections and collaborations.

2.1.1 The UNGC and PRME

D6.1 reported on the signing of the MOU between WikiRate, the UNGC, and the Bertelsmann Foundation to initiate a project that empowers students to support and advance the SDGs by proactively identifying, aggregating, analysing, and sharing the achievements of companies in their role towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In its first year, the pilot engaged over 1,300 students at 11 higher education institutions in 9 countries, and generated over 20,000 data points on corporate sustainability performance. The engagement of students through this project plays a significant role in providing not only a form of knowledge for these students, but a viable data landscape that would showcase corporate involvement and impacts with regards to the SDGs. It also provides direct incentives for companies to join the conversation of the 2030 agenda. Most importantly, this project has provided a structured mechanism of tracking company performance towards the SDGs and the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles, testing a broad selection of metrics of performance from standards like the Global Reporting Initiative and UN Global Compact's Poverty Footprint.

Initial outcomes were presented at the SDG Business Forum as part of the UN's High-Level Political Forum in New York in July 2017 and right after the Volos review to showcase

company progress towards achieving the SDGs.

2.1.2   The Walk Free Foundation

A great and continuing collaboration between the Walk Free Foundation and WikiRate (T8.3) (T8.4) is growing through grounding the crowd research model of engagement of students and researchers on the UK Modern Slavery Act, where the work has been used to leverage policy makers in Australia and elsewhere to pass regulations concerning the acts of modern slavery within the corporate world.

The MSA project has been detailed at length in previous submissions (D6.1) and (Q6 end of period report), and continues to harbour interest from academics to engage their students in a theory-to-application context using the project[2] designed on WikiRate.org. The project scaled from involving one university cohort and one volunteer researcher to engagement of five university students who have so far been able to research 484 companies worldwide using 15 Walk Free designed metrics and inputting more than 5,700 metric-related answers on these companies.

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[2] http://wikirate.org/UK_Modern_Slavery_Act_Research

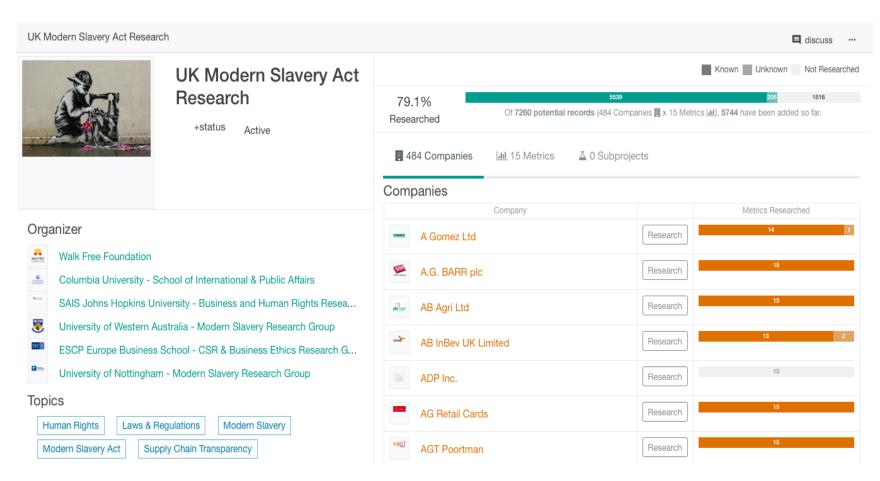*Figure 6 UK Modern Slavery Act Research Project on WikiRate.org*

The continuation (and expansion) of this project is working towards increase and improvement of supply chain data on the WikiRate platform. Continuous monitoring and data checks are being carried out by the programme manager to ensure that the data is ready for publication in the Global Slavery Index[3], an important and significant impact ChainReact has had on the aggregation and analysis of data concerning global modern slavery.

The programme has also registered other impacts, this time concerning involved companies. WikiRate was approached by certain company representatives with clarifying questions about how research was conducted and how data was collected. As a result, WikiRate has begun scoping the possibilities for more targeted corporate engagement in the MSA project going forward not only through classical means of communications such as email, but also directly involving companies in asking metric-specific questions and talking about specific datasets that involve their own performance and impacts. Respectively, WikiRate users have, following their participation in a research project, already contacted companies directly to enquire about disclosures, without any prompting or integration on WikiRate.

2.2 Expanding outreach for corporate engagement

Work package 6 focuses on soliciting disclosures for corporate network maps through reach-out to companies as well as giving a greater role to collaborations with NGOs that already work towards greater corporate transparency, and improvements to the performance of both the large corporates and the companies within their supply networks (Q6). Working towards implementing processes and programmes, WikiRate and Clean Clothes Campaign (CCC) developed an investigative research project involving crowd-research activities led by students. During the series of research projects, the students will be researching possible forms of transparency at the suppliers' levels which translates into companies that are performing with limited to no external marketing efforts (clandestine performance). The research findings will be collected and analysed through the use of relationship metrics (T6.1), and with the aim to capture tier 1 and tier 2 suppliers of approximately 70 fashion

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[3] https://www.globalslaveryindex.org

brands. The supplier lists that will be covered in the first two projects are those of H&M and C&A.

To that end, WikiRate approached the C&A foundation and H&M and had a series of interesting and positive talks. The apparel sector is in some senses leading the way when it comes to supply chain transparency, an increasing number of companies publish lists of their direct (tier 1) suppliers, and some go even further to publish information about tier 2 suppliers or subcontractors. H&M's Arket brand takes this a step further by associating individual products with the production facilities and companies where they were assembled.

Further talks with the brands identified two barriers to transparency to improve working conditions: Firstly, supplier data exist in many places and formats, each company tends to publish its own list in a bespoke format on its own website. This limits the utility of the data such that it cannot easily be used to answer even basic questions, like "which other brands are produced at this facility?". The second barrier is that the disclosure of suppliers comes with very little information about those suppliers. In principle, disclosure of suppliers should enable consumers to make a more informed choice about their purchases, but in practice that requires one to know how facilities or supplier companies perform relative to each other. Such information is scarce, and when it does exist it is disconnected from the supplier lists published by branded companies. Further talks included possible remedies to the existing challenges in supply network transparency. Questions such as how to consolidate publicly available information about supply chains and suppliers to maximises its utility? And how would WikiRate offer its platform to provide resources and structures for representing relevant sources and data about organisations, and their relations to other organisations? What can be done to strengthen the bargaining position of workers who are directly affected by the lack of transparent corporate disclosure? And what would the impact be if these vulnerable groups have access to information about working conditions in other facilities that supply the same brands?

2.2.1   Building on Corporate (member) Network outreach

Within the apparel (fashion) sector, direct conversations with corporations has progressed

well with an initial workshop delivered to a large e-commerce fashion retailer and further dialogue proceeded with the C&A foundation who are very active in the apparel transparency movement, as well as with some of their major partners (including Project Just, the Open Apparel Registry and further contacts). D6.2 covers in a little more detail how the approach is being structured, and how the work progresses.

Whilst Multi-stakeholder action groups were and are a part of the planned strategy for Y3, it seems that more direct engagement with various parties is proving more valuable, with no one entity ready to lead an action group. Whilst the German Partnership for Sustainable Textiles initially expressed interest, it seems they are keen that ChainReact drive forward the relationships and approach, and will maintain an interest in the activities that flow from the efforts of ChainReact. In lieu of this partnership, WikiRate has strived to enhance its existing relationships with networks and influential entities in the transparency/accountability space including, but not limited to the International Corporate Accountability Roundtable (ICAR) and their members, and the C&A Foundation and those they work with around transparency in Apparel supply and labour chains. WikiRate's leverage as a small data platform is limited in isolation so working with these networks and their members helps WikiRate gain greater reach and potential engagement both with labour workers/unions and influence in terms of corporate engagement as well. WikiRate has been working on these networks intensely over this last quarter in preparation for the SMART targets around Multistakeholder Advisory Group milestones, and with a view to wider engagement and impact from the work being pursued.

With respect to Corporate engagement WikiRate is working with corporate member networks including the Global Reporting Initiative, and UN Global Compact with a view to driving further corporate engagement around it's research and engagement work. In Q9/Q10, WikiRate will increase its activity here and look to work with these organisations' member companies around what sort of impact the data being brought out by ChainReact can and will have.

2.2.2   Engagement with Companies: Fashion

One significant partnership that has been expanded significantly within the ChainReact realm (T6.3) (T8.4) is the partnership between WikiRate and a leading e-fashion company based in Berlin. With their new involvement with the Fashion4Good initiative[4], this company is looking for innovative initiatives that could bring systematic change to the Fashion Industry, and came up with the idea to collaborate with WikiRate to brainstorm with them on key challenges that the fashion industry is facing regarding transparency and reach out to the bottom of the supply chain (mapping). With that in mind, issues were raised concerning why and how companies should and could directly contribute to influence the removal of barriers between the end user (consumer) and the frontline producer (worker) by providing WikiRate as the ideal platform to begin these conversations and involvement since the technology is designed to facilitate supply chain mapping exercises, as well as providing a data landscape that is ideal for companies to reference and analyse.

In light of this, WikiRate has been invited to represent its work through the ChainReact project during one workshop organisation by the company and was also invited to host a Hacker-Night to tackle specific technological (UX) challenges existing in the industry today (to be organised at a later date in Q9).

The workshop was very open and transparent in voicing out concerns and challenges within the private sector, stating that while the most vulnerable groups represented by workers themselves or the communities they live in understand the clear benefits for transparency of information along the chain, the same understanding becomes somewhat skewed from a corporate perspective, and this is due to either explicit high-level decisions to keep information in silos or due to underlying issues that are outside companies' control (monitoring or mapping their own supply chain).

Feedback from in-house as well as external participants was geared towards the creation of solid action plans to get the ball rolling on supply chain mapping immediately: What can external stakeholders, namely company employees and lobbyists do to tackle current -and real- issues and grievances? What can be done to collect and connect all available datasets?

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[4] https://fashionforgood.com

How to get vulnerable groups safely involved? How to make use of the global supply directory? How can one (or a conglomerate of) companies become an industry enabler? In what ways can investors, media, and other stakeholders get incentivised to participate? All of these issues and many more will be translated into an actionable plan in collaboration as next steps and further refinements.

2.2.3   Engagement with Companies: Telecom

During Q7, DELab organised a series of meetings with telecom company Orange Polska, and sat with representatives working in corporate social responsibility areas to discuss sensitivities and challenges around supply chain mapping. Orange Polska is interested in pursuing a more active role within its own supply chain and welcomed collaboration with ChainReact represented by DELab on the issue of access and transparency.

As part of this collaboration, DELab will provide support in areas that ChainReact have already developed, i.e. know-how developed within WikiRate and the wider consortium (WP8), experience in employing technology for strut integration and data flow (WP5), and other network mapping suggestions and prospects already in motion (WP6) (CCC and Zalando for example). DELab will also take the opportunity to learn about the corporate network mapping activities Orange is carrying out or involved in and assess what drivers (and challenges) that facilitate (or hinder) public disclosures of supply network information.

This project and collaboration will expand throughout the next months.

3. Integration with The Whistle: Use cases and actions

In the second year of the project our discussions with possible partners have indicated that there is considerable demand for the type of resource which the WikiRate/Whistle integration is aiming to deliver – but that there are blockers to executing this integration as planned. It is worth recapping the plan for integration and what this would produce as it stood at the end of the project's first year.

A partner NGO runs a reporting campaign using the Whistle in which they receive reports from their target population through a bespoke input method like a tailored web form. When a reporting campaign is relevant to companies, at the design stage we work with the partner to determine how data from reports will be aggregated at the company level and what forms this data will take when it is passed to WikiRate. When the reporting campaign is running, the partner NGO takes responsibility for "verifying" incoming reports (the level of verification required is up to them, it could require supporting evidence to be reviewed or it could be as simple as filtering out obvious junk data). Under this plan, the detail of individual reports is private and accessible only to the partner NGO, and therefore this NGO is taken as the source of aggregated data which is passed to WikiRate.

In the original conception of the WikiRate/Whistle integration, aspects of reports would be published openly and aggregated from there. This was deemed to expose reporters to too much risk. In the current plan this risk is largely passed on to the partner NGO, published outputs are attributed directly to them rather than the reporters. Unfortunately, most of our discussions with possible partners reach a point where this risk becomes a stumbling block for the NGO, sometimes early in the process and sometimes much later. We are yet to locate an NGO partner that wants to 1) collect verifiable evidence from workers/reporters *and* 2) publish information about these reports aggregated at the company level.

The issues with this approach are as follows:

– The NGO is concerned that they may be subject to litigation by the companies they name and publish data about

– The NGO is concerned that they may be subject to hacking attempts by well-resourced actors

– The NGO is concerned that their members may be targeted

– The NGO is concerned that reporters may be identified and targeted based on analysis of the aggregated data alongside scrutiny of the NGO's actions (in a scenario where they have an ongoing relationship with reporters)

– The NGO aims primarily to work with subject companies to improve their performance, in which case publicly naming (and in some cases shaming) the subject companies would be counter-productive

It seems likely that we will have to dial down some of the ambition of this integration to make it practical within the project term, and a number of ways of doing this are being explored.

As reported at the interim review, the initial solution to get things moving with the Whistle was to temporarily abandon the requirement that Whistle reporting campaigns would produce usable inputs for WikiRate. The first Whistle reporting campaign with Global Rights Nigeria, poised to launch in February, is as such, but we hope that subsequent campaigns will be more tightly integrated with WikiRate.

The possibilities for achieving this are as follows:

- A time-lag on publication of data from a reporting campaign. In some scenarios, those in which concern about reporters' safety is paramount, delaying publication of data about reports by a year or two would diminish the associated risks. This is problematic however because it would mean data would not be published until after the ChainReact project has concluded, and such a lag likely diminishes the impact of data.

- Data from a campaign is not aggregated at the level of specific companies but by other criteria such as region or sector. This would mitigate much of the risk associated with publishing data about companies, provided that the data is aggregated in such a way that each region/sector has plenty of reports. The problem with this approach is that it significantly weakens the proposition, data is less useful to ChainReact if it doesn't concern companies that can be located within networks, and WikiRate does not yet have the capacity to hold data about regions or sectors. This could at best be a stepping-stone to more company-oriented outputs.

- Shift towards data which is more oriented towards worker sentiment, rather than documenting specific issues or violations. A reporting campaign which asks questions about less sensitive subjects and doesn't attempt to verify reports would expose reporters and the partner NGO to significantly less risk. However, the lack of supporting information that facilitates verification of a report would leave the system more open to abuse and weaken the impact potential of outputs appearing on WikiRate. This model is similar to that of Labor Voices, and our discussions with this organisation have been very informative, their provision of data for import on

WikiRate.org will help us to test the integration and value proposition of this kind of data.

– Shift towards contexts that are "safer", away from regions where workers and organisations are more exposed (but where most egregious violations occur) towards NGO partners and workers that have less to fear from companies. The Whistle aims to collect reports about human rights violations, but the places where the most egregious violations occur also represent the highest levels of risk for reporters and local NGO partners if they participate in a reporting campaign. After starting initially with discussions about campaigns in high risk areas, we have moved to consider partners in regions where the risk is lower. This is a two-pronged approach, looking for local partners in "safe" jurisdictions (like the EU) and bigger partners that have a more global reach, where we would aim to start with a campaign in a low to moderate risk region.

– Integration of partners that are oriented towards publication of aggregated data. Where the local NGO which needs to collect reports does not feel confident about publishing company-level aggregated data about those reports, this could be addressed by forming a small consortium with additional partner(s) who are comfortable taking on the role of "publishing" company-level data. Publishing data means at minimum producing a source that can be cited on WikiRate, but could go beyond this to also publishing in additional venues. One avenue being explored in this regard is that of news or journalistic outlets that are comfortable with publishing information about companies (following their process). We are in early stage discussions with two groups about this, and the signs are positive that this could be a way to bypass issues of risk for the local NGO. This approach could actually be much more effective if the aggregated data coming from a campaign is attributed to an organisation that has a stronger reputation for journalistic integrity.

With the launch of the first Whistle reporting campaign in February, we have set this month as the target for agreeing on a campaign with our second NGO partner. This is an important decision, as it involves setting a course for the integration of the Whistle and WikiRate. One of the aims here is to establish the Whistle in its own niche, and to avoid re-inventing a wheel that already exists. Some of the possibilities outlines above are well served by existing

organisations – for example the collection of data which is more akin to an anonymous survey is well served by efforts like Labor Voices and Ureport. ChainReact is taking the approach of (WikiRate) working more closely with these organisations to explore how their products can be integrated into the open knowledge repository – while the Whistle will pursue an approach of developing the tool to be of use to a specific NGO partner whose use-case is not well served by existing offerings.

As it has been difficult to find the "perfect" use case that fulfils all criteria for the Whistle/WikiRate integration, it is likely that the second and third reporting campaigns will pursue slightly different approaches to this. We are however in early stage discussions with one possible partner that is interested in developing a benchmark/rating that leverages existing WikiRate data alongside new metrics, some of which may involve the collection of reports from workers directly. If this proposal is developed further, it may have an ideal role for the Whistle to play that is integrated with WikiRate.
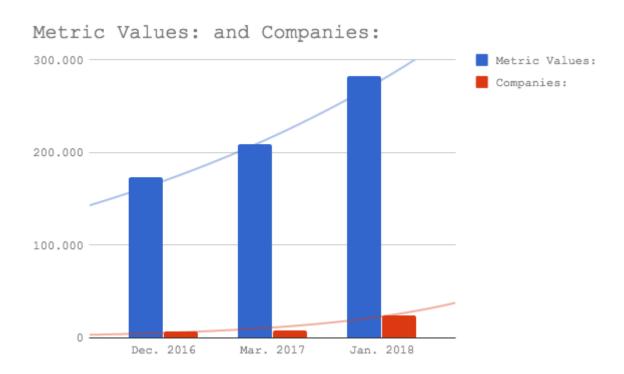
It should be noted that the Whistle is being well received by potential partners in general. There are a number of opportunities on the horizon to facilitate reporting campaigns with new partners which would likely not produce publishable company-level data. There opportunities are currently de-prioritised in favour of seeking company-relevant reporting campaign partners, but in some cases the current iteration of the Whistle seems well suited to the NGOs needs. We are exploring the possibility of facilitating some of these campaigns on a "light-touch" basis, where an NGO partner has a need for a tool like the Whistle and can use the existing iteration with minimal customisation - the lack of a publishable company-relevant data should not be a reason to delay such uses. We would however not count these as part of the three reporting campaign pilots described in the DoA.

4. Scaling

4.1 Scaling efforts within the scopes of WP6 and WP8

Building on D6.1 strategy for scale in line with WP8, WikiRate and the wider consortium were able to identify streamlines for scale and impact. Scaling of WikiRate outreach through specific projects (such as the MSA project expanding to include four new universities) or through partnership building and maintenance (T8.4), WikiRate's growing community, its continuous outreach (and outreach by wider ChainReact partners such as DELab within the Polish context), research and engagement on the platform, etc. have all been instrumental in achieving steady scale. Projects that have started a year ago have continued with both refinement and scale, and for the first time WikiRate receives company feedback on supply chain transparency on its platform.

WikiRate recorded exponential growth of its data per user. Since the submission of D6.1 around March 2017, a massive increase in company entries on the platform has been recorded partly through the successful implementation of the data extracting tool that has been integrated between the two struts WikiRate and OpenCorporates (T5.1) but also from user growth and engagement. A thousand new users have registered in the past year (65% increase since March 2017), and were responsible for researching over 25% of the overall existing metric data points on WikiRate.org. Users are making use of advanced features on the platform including relationship and calculated metrics.

There is still a lot to do in terms of scaling for outreach to include attracting corporate interest in mapping corporate networks and supply chains, which will eventually lead to more engagement of workers and vulnerable groups that are otherwise too afraid to speak up or participate.

Projects such as the Modern Slavery Act, Amnesty's Conflict Minerals, or PRME's corporate SDG mapping that continue to be research on WikiRate.org set the landscape for growth through connecting work packages WP6 and WP8. Academic, NGO, and private sectors are showing interest in jointly coming together to discuss and action solutions for corporate and supply network mapping, reaching all the way through the end of the chain with workers.

Outreach efforts towards companies (T6.1), (T6.2), and (T8.3) have more programmatic focus within WikiRate since Q7. To that end, the consultation rounds with a few select corporate targets towards the end of Y2 have been translated into action points and recommendations for ChainReact and the partners' outreach efforts towards corporations. WikiRate still maintains its membership of the Multistakeholder Advisory Council (MAC) to the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Corporate Action Group (CAG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which has been so far very effective in terms of potential corporate engagement. Other partnerships (such as the Business for Social Responsibility network, and Reporting 3.0 network as explained above) that have been maintained within the scope of (T8.3) and (T8.4) are also paving way towards broader engagements, collaboration and sustainability of the project beyond its grant lifespan.

4.2 Further updates on the WRIT

WikiRate, together with partner Decko and Cambridge have worked to develop the final concept note on The WikiRate Index of Transparency (WP5). With that in mind, and with further development of ChainReact's effort to gamify disclosure for companies. The WRIT will be developed in such a way that additional disclosures by a company can only improve their score and perceived transparency, which incentivises companies to be more active in answering missing metric questions and completing an otherwise incomplete data profile that

a company has on WikiRate.org. By directly engaging in inputting data on the platform, companies will also encourage user discussions and feedback.

In a nutshell, this concept note identified the WRIT as The WRIT a metric that measures how extensively companies provide answers on WikiRate.org to metrics the WikiRate community deems important. Companies are given a WRIT score of 0-10 with zero representing the lowest point a company can receive and 10 the highest. As the WRIT depends on the aggregation of multiple metrics, these metrics are chosen by how important they are, either by using the metric vote-up or vote-down function on WikiRate.org, or the frequency of a research metric being used as a variable in a calculated metric.

In certain cases, the company itself may find that its WRIT score is significantly low, not because of lack of available data, but because a specific metric (for which the company has data) has not been voted up on the importance scale and have not been sufficiently converged into a calculated variable. This forms another direct engagement that the company can have on WikiRate.org.