



# SDI Practice: Opportunities and Constraints

Wrap-up of the  
11<sup>th</sup> EC GI & GIS Workshop:  
ESDI Setting the Framework

Contributors: Many-to-one  
(Participants and Chairmen)

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# Opportunities: General

- SDIs are being developed. No longer just talking about it. Many regional/local implementation delivering real services to citizens.
- SDI can play a key role in the modernization of public administration, increasing quality of service, and improving cost-effectiveness.
- Importance of SDI for economic development being increasingly recognized
- Environmental directives as driving force to set up cross-border solutions, and tie Europe together e.g. WFD reporting obligations

# Opportunities 2: Practice

- Body of experience developing rapidly on key technical components including:
  - web mapping,
  - feature querying and access,
  - data discovery,
  - Semi-automatic metadata generation
  - schema translation
  - serving large volumes of gridded data
  - Developing modules for rights management, authentication, authorisation, and e-commerce

# Constraints 1: Institutional

- Strong governmental commitment needed as government has key role as data producer, user, and regulator.
- In some cases, legislative backing helps to knock heads together, in others consensus driven approach already delivers.
- In any case political support needs to be maintained and survive political cycles and fragility of reorganizations

# Constraints: Institutional 2

- Documenting benefits of SDI investment critical and still too little evidence is available.
- The many initiatives across Europe are scattered and sometimes difficult to trace.
- Role of large municipalities underestimated. Need to document, share and build on their operational experience too.

# Constraints 2: Data Policy

- Data policies need to support the wider use of GI across all segments of society. Need to find the appropriate business models that delivers this goal.
- Issues of auditing, liability, and IPR still needs to be satisfactorily resolved.
- No clear border line between public task requirements and commercial activities complicates legal framework.
- Level playing field needed and clear rules. Involvement of the private sector to help define rules, spot opportunities, and develop the market still too limited in most instances.
- Building and maintaining TRUST among players difficult

# Constraints 3: Technical

- Tensions between harmonising the many different data models and interoperability via services
- Need still to work on common classifications, and domain ontologies, also in different languages
- Address multilinguality, and different granularities of data, and related quality descriptors,
  - scale of the problem
  - quantity of terms (e.g 26000 terms for boreholes in 7 languages!)
- Real time provision of data ( esp. Meteorological, disease, oceanographic) and related “travelling” metadata.

# Key Issues 1

- Need to extend the usage of GI across society and enable wider participation of the public in decision making at the local level
- Work harder to define user requirements
  - hide technological complexity, aim for simplicity
  - reduced functionality for specific mobile uses
  - Appropriate business models for different types of users

# Key Issues 2

- Key requirement for success of INSPIRE is develop the skill base, including the provision of a range of education, training, and certification opportunities
- Documenting the benefits crucial for continuing awareness raising and case support
- Sharing of experience across sectors and communities critical (e-gov., Grid, etc.)

# Summary

- INSPIRE: Setting the Framework
  - General consensus on **where** we want to go, with some remaining differences to be resolved
  - Process of **how** to get there clarified (Implementing Rules development process)
- INSPIRE already acting as a catalyst for many of the developments taking place across Europe
- Many of the outstanding issues can be resolved through partnership research/practice, sharing of experience, and developing together the details i.e. the Implementing Rules

**To do so we need your continued support and we look forward seeing you next year at the 12<sup>th</sup> EC-GIS workshop**

# Thank you for your help and support !

INSPIRE:

<http://inspire.jrc.it>

11th EC GI & GIS Workshop,  
ESDI: Setting the Framework  
<http://www.ec-gis.org/Workshops/11ec-gis>