

Does any real European SDI exist? The practical approach

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Definition of SDI

- Spatial data infrastructure
 - collection of technologies, policies and institutional arrangements that facilitate the availability of and access to spatial data (*from SDI Cookbook, 2001*)



Progress of SDI initiatives

- current progress for SDI initiatives throughout the world show that after many years of effort these initiatives still do not receive support from all community members, depending on the political/administrative level to which they belong (*from Rajabifard, Escobar & Williamson, 2000*)



What is the reason?

- marginal view of society on geoinformatics and geodata?
- misunderstanding because of bad communication of professionals (geoinformaticians, geographers, cartographers and others) towards politicians?
- why is not SDI considered as a normal part of our every day life?



SDIs in Europe

- investigation about SDIs in Europe
- proposed overview



	SDI or "SDI" defined?	Components of SDI		
		Technologies	Policies	Institutional arrangements
Countries	Yes - no	Yes - no	Yes - no	Yes - no
		Examples of tools and data implemented and used as a part of SDI (software, data warehouses, etc.)	Laws and documents relative to SDI	Institutional documents defining the position of organization within SDI, definition of activities leading towards establishing the local part of SDI
Belgium	Yes - no
Denmark	Yes - no
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes - ...	Yes - ...	Yes
.....and also for other European countries	Yes - no



Proposed management of table

- filling in of table
- hosted and overseen by a pan-European agency, e.g. EuroGeographics



Perception of SDI

- differs from country to country
- many initiatives are not labeled as SDI
- giving credibility to a formal business case of SDI (GSDI)
 - it is needed to answer key questions
 - Who are stakeholders? How can they be defined?
 - Is GSDI/SDI a process, general framework, particular product?
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Recommendations

- People who are not experts in GI, need to realize that SDI has greater impact on them than they could ever imagine.
- To change this situation:
 - to gain political support, talk to local politicians
 - be clear and avoid scientific „slang“
 - make use of media – use examples



Who is going to start?



Thank you

Questions?

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