

Experiences out of the European SDI establishment for "soil data" – special focus on GEO/FOSS

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Abstract

The main issue with environmental geographic data and their associated metadata is that they are often scattered across numerous data providers around the world or just within a country/federation (including the EU). There is a large variability in the used formats and presentation/delivery methods, especially at the web service level. The EU INSPIRE directive aims at "making available relevant, harmonised and quality geographic information to support formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and activities which have a direct or indirect impact on the environment." In this context interoperability affect the dimension among themes and between EU member states.

The eContentplus project GS SOIL "Assessment and strategic development of INSPIRE compliant geodata services for European soil data" is a best practice network that supports the developments of the INSPIRE data specification for the theme "soil". It provides best practice guidelines for metadata profiles, the creation and maintenance of metadata, for content-framework for interoperable soil data in Europe, data harmonization etc. GS SOIL provides access to the soil data in its network via a one-stop-portal www.gssoil-portal.eu. It provides compliant metadata, view and download services of the participating partners, thus providing a Spatial Data Infrastructure for soil data.

Geographic Free and Open Source Software (GeoFOSS) was partly used for the establishment of the SDI, which is compatible with the geospatial standards and specifications introduced by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC). It distributes the geospatial content on the web through widely accepted services (e.g., WMS, WFS, WCS and CSW).

In this session the different steps of the establishment of the SDI for soil data will be introduced with focus on the use of GeoFOSS, especially for creation and maintaining metadata.