

The best practice network GS SOIL and its contribution to INSPIRE



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Workshop Description and Goals

The best practice network GS Soil „Assessment and strategic development of INSPIRE compliant Geodata-Services for European soil data“ contributes essentially to the paralleling INSPIRE processes, especially to the development of data specifications for the annex III theme “soil” via reference material as well as to harmonization and provision of soil geodata. The project results will enter in a GS SOIL best practice guideline for soil data specification development under INSPIRE.

The activities regarding INSPIRE compliant GS SOIL data specifications led to the definition of GS Soil specific metadata profiles for soil geographic datasets / dataset series and data services. They were developed following the INSPIRE IR for metadata, other international, and national standards (like the ISO 19115 and ISO 19119), and the needs of the data users. Proposed methods on data quality will be discussed. Also the results regarding the application schema as well as results of the soil specific test cases in terms of harmonization will be presented.

Substantial product of GS SOIL is „the one stop portal <http://gssoil-portal.eu/>“ and its relevant network in order to provide an easy access to European soil data and to visualize the GS SOIL results. Integrated will be, besides others, a soil specific multilingual thesaurus, which is designed as extension to GEMET and uses SKOS/ RDF as formal language.

Workshop Topics (90 Minutes)

- 1.) Introduction to GS SOIL**
- 2.) The soil specific multilingual thesaurus**

The GS Soil consortium decided to establish a soil specific multilingual thesaurus. This thesaurus shall be created as an extension of GEMET and shall contain the soil vocabulary ISO11074, the concepts of WRB and concepts created and/or defined during the GS Soil project. The architectural decisions and the willingness to keep to widely accepted standards lead to the decision to use SKOS/ RDF as formal language and therefore an SKOS/RDF compatible thesaurus editor, which allows for collaborative work, is chosen as tool for the establishment.

3.) Metadata and data quality

Presentation of changes in the GS Soil metadata profile with respect to INSPIRE documents released after 31st May 2010 (i.e. release date the GS Soil metadata profiles), proposed methodologies on data quality and structure of guidelines for creating and maintaining soil metadata.

4.) GS Soil soil data exchange - application schema and preliminary testing results

GS Soil has developed a practical solution for soil data exchange based on existing ideas for standardised exchange of soil-related data. The application schema has been tested with soil profile and spatial data from several European countries and at a variety of scales.

5.) GS Soil portal

In the GS Soil Portal <http://gssoil-portal.eu> all soil related information from web pages, over data bases to data catalogues will be made available and accessible. Search results will be ranked and listed in shared result lists. Spatial soil data from OGC compatible Web Mapping Services (WMS) and Web Feature Services (WFS) will be visualized in a map viewer. For all tasks within the project the GS Soil Portal will be used as platform for an improved access to the soil data. GS Soil Portal has been built in an iterative cycle, adopting the relevant INSPIRE Implementing Rules (Network Services and related). Also general open tools and services will be provided for re-use by the project partners (data / service providers) and later technical integration of services and underlying geospatial data sets. Particular focus will be placed on mutual harvesting (CSW) with external systems. The current version of the GS Soil Portal is already available in 13 project languages.

6.) Discussion and feedback

Workshop Instructors

EBERHARDT, Einar, Dr.,
Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources, Germany (confirmed)

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European Commission, DG Information Society and Media

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SCHENTZ, Herbert,
Environment Agency, Austria (confirmed)

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Infologica, Bulgaria (confirmed)

Intended Audience

Representatives of eContentplus-projects or related projects, members of the JRC (INSPIRE team, Soil action team, ESDAC etc.), data providers (soil), service and technology providers, people related with INSPIRE implementation at national and/or regional level, stakeholders, data specification experts.