

Spatial Data Play-Offs in Political Decisions

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ABSTRACT

We all are part of the information and knowledge society being aware that creating, organizing and protecting our living space is more and more influenced by reliable information.

Through enabling the exchange of compatible spatial data between government, business, and customers, decisions can be made with more thorough and more accurate information. Even though there is a plethora of reference data regularly being collected by government agencies and private industries, this data is yet to be made available to potential customers through a spatial data infrastructure. Reference data has especially in recent years proven its importance in making both political and governmental decisions. Some figures state that as many as 80 percent of business decisions are made based on georeferenced spatial data.

Therefore the political will of Northrhine-Westphalia's government is to open the geodata treasury and to stimulate the geoinformation market which is only at 15 % of it's potential (NRW market study).

Northrhine-Westphalia will provide the users, as well as private industry, access to all available public and private geodata holdings over a homogeneous infrastructure easily available over the internet. Geodata will be available for everyone by fast access, by reasonable prices, and by equal conditions.

Through stimulated government, business, and customer interaction, users can benefit from better-informed decision making, resulting in growth.

Inter-governmental information sharing has also become an important facet of the spatial data infrastructure. With easier inter-communication, governmental branches can rely on sharing better geodata, resulting in more consistent and accurate solutions. Through the improvement of inter-governmental communication, these steps support our development towards e-Government. Based on this idea, interaction between the government and private customers or business will continue to be more and more based on electronic means, a more efficient and economic way of information and knowledge transfer.

Northrhine-Westphalia is looking forward to realize these goals in the international mainstream and in co-operation with national and international partners via public- private-partnership. International co-operation which also leads to interoperability in GIS will help us to meet the needs for the future.

International co-operation is reasonable if the situation around the globe is reflected and documented so that the data flow is functioning from local to global and vice versa. The society only realize the knowledge if the people are able to create and use the new tools. In this context education is one of today's most important domains.

We hope to get more experience by transfer of technology and knowledge between different cultures creating similar initiatives in telecommunication, spatial information systems, positioning technologies, co-operation in research, providing technical and financial resources. During the development of the geodata market new services, new jobs, and economic growth will be possible.

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