

From Spatial Data Infrastructure to Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure: the Role of Management and Financing Models

Martin Saeter (Norway)

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SUMMARY

The Norwegian spatial data infrastructure (SDI) facilitates the use and sharing of geospatial information in both the public and private sector. The infrastructure consists of data, metadata, solutions, and services that supports the distribution and use of geospatial data. It also encompasses legal, administrative, technological, and organizational prerequisites. A key part of the SDI is based on collection and sharing of data through cooperative structures such as Norway Digital and Geovekst.

The focus on collaboration, standardization, and shared application in building the SDI has paved the way for enabling geospatial data to be used to address societal challenges and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In recent years, there has been an ambition to evolve and transform the Norwegian spatial data infrastructure into a geospatial knowledge infrastructure (GKI) where the delivery of knowledge, based on geospatial data, is the aim. However, this transformation faces challenges due to shifts in the framework conditions that underpin it.

The use of both data and applications have increased exponentially and the costs of managing solutions and services have significantly risen. An increasing number of cyber-attacks has forced significant investments into ensuring adequate security and control. The existing financing and management models in the infrastructure is already facing increasing challenges. To meet these challenges and to help with the transformation from SDI to GKI, it is necessary to adopt new models for funding and manage the infrastructure. The Ministry of Local Government and Regional development has over the past several years examined new models for funding of and collaboration in the infrastructure.

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This paper will present the Geospatial data knowledge infrastructure (GKI) concept and how it can contribute towards handling societal challenges and reaching the SDG. The paper will also present the key components of the current SDI in Norway, and the changes in framework conditions. Lastly, the paper will present the work of the Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development in exploring new alternative models for funding and management of the infrastructure, and how these can contribute to the transition towards GKI.

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