

# **IMPACT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FRAMEWORK ON A FREE FLOW OF GEO- INFORMATION AND GEO-SERVICES**

**PhD Research Summary**

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## **SUBJECT BACKGROUND**

This research will investigate the institutional aspects of the EU framework on access to public sector geo-information and its effects on the free flow of geo-information and services, with special attention to geo-information infrastructures (GIIs). A model will be developed to assess the positive and negative institutional effects of the EU framework on a free flow of geo-information and GIIs. This research will build on work already carried out between 2006 and 2008 for the GeoPortal Networks project (RGI-006) and Geodata project (RGI-117), part of the Dutch BSIK Space for Geo-Information (RGI) Program.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

For this research proposal the main research question will be:

**WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF THE EU FRAMEWORK FOR A FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION AND SERVICES ON ACCESSIBILITY TO GEO-INFORMATION FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ON THE CREATION OF VALUE ADDED SERVICES?**

The following questions will further be addressed:

1. What is a theoretical framework for evaluation legislation from a public administration perspective?
2. What is the EU framework covering access to geo-information
3. What has the EU framework achieved to date?
4. Which principles are behind the division and separation of public tasks and private enterprise? Is there a level playing field for the private geo-sector in the EU?
5. What is the current situation in a number of EU Member States with respect to implementation of a geo-information infrastructure and accessibility of geo-information?
6. Which model can be developed to assess institutional problems and/or bottlenecks with access to geo-information? Can this model be used to predict positive and negative effects of EU legislation implementation?
7. How can such a model be applied in practice to EU Member States?
8. Which conclusions and recommendations can be drawn from this research?

## **□. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED RESEARCH**

This research proposes to carry out a comprehensive literature investigation into relevant EU treaties and directives that form the general framework, including jurisprudence. It will also include an evaluation into the effects of the current EU legislation, both intended and unintended effects and strategic behaviour. To carry out such an evaluation, the various theories from the field of public administration & policy management will be investigated. These public administration theories will form a framework for evaluating the effects of the EU legislation. Out of this evaluation a conceptual model will be developed in order to test if legislation will have a positive or a negative effect on the accessibility and free flow of geo-information. The focus will be on the institutional aspects of implementation of EU legislation into national legislation. The conceptual model will be tested for legislation in EU Member States from a theoretical perspective using existing literature. Special attention will be paid to the underlying principles of public sector mandates, private sector mandates and conditions for a level playing field. The conceptual model will then be tested when applied to a number of case studies. The case studies will lead to further refinement of the model.