Spatial data have always been crucial for governments. The introduction of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) represented a significant development in the handling of these data. The focus was initially on individual use within separate organisations, but we are now seeing an increasing shift towards the shared use and hence exchange of data across different organisations. In past years, various initiatives have been taken to promote and optimise spatial data access, use and sharing. These initiatives are often referred to as a whole with the term Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI).

The research presented in this report forms part of the SPATIALIST project. The key objective of this project is to examine what the requirements are for the further development of a successful SDI in Flanders. By means of various research activities, the SPATIALIST project aims to identify these requirements so that recommendations can then be made about the future development of the SDI. In view of the complexity and multifaceted nature of an SDI, the research is multidisciplinary in its approach. As well as engaging in scientific research, SPATIALIST also aims to feed into and stimulate the debate about the SDI in Flanders.

The report “A stakeholder based approach for evaluating the development of the Spatial Data Infrastructure in Flanders: The Multi Actor, Multi Criteria Analysis (MAMCA)” describes the MAMCA approach in detail. Moreover, it presents the application of this approach in regard with the further implementation of the Spatial Data Infrastructure in Flanders for which five implementation scenarios were determined: 1) Going concern, 2) Extending the Hierarchy by enlarging the legal basis, 3) Maintaining the current Hierarchy with an increase of the Market for other demands, 4) Decreasing the Hierarchy and extending the Network, and 5) Decreasing the Hierarchy and extending the Market.
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