

On the road to an NSDI in Belgium

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Subjects in this talk

- Belgium – a complicated country
- Geoinformation at the federal level
- Implementing INSPIRE
- Do you mind a little more?
- How to build an NSDI in Belgium

A federal country

- Federal level
 - Defence
 - External affairs
 - Civil protection, police ...
 - Justice
 - Social security
 - Direct (income) and indirect (VAT) taxation
 - Space technology

Regions and communities

COMMUNITY

- Linked to the person
- Culture, education, care, science policy,...



REGION

- Linked to the territory
- Environment, Spatial planning, Economy, Public infrastructure...



Complexity

- Brussels region is not at same level as other 2
 - No subnationality for the persons – you can pick your best advantage
- Deutschsprachige gemeinschaft has been granted some regional matters
- Fusion of Vlaamse gemeenschap and Vlaams gewest
- No hierarchy between federal level and regions or communities

Geo-information at the federal level

- National Mapping Agency – NGI
- Cadastral and Land registry administration – General Administration of Patrimonial Documentation – FPS Finances
- National Statistical Agency – General Direction of Statistics and economical Information – Federal Public Service Economy

Geo-information users at the federal level

- Railroad infrastructure company
- Federal administration of mobility – air safety
- Crisis centre and Civil protection
- Police
- ...

Implementing INSPIRE

- Collaboration agreement federal – regions
 - For all elements where coordination within Belgium is needed
- Law/decreet at each level for all the rest
- Each level can regulate within limits of their competence
 - For themselves
 - For others as far as legally possible
 - Region: also for municipalities/provinces etc.
 - Federal: access constraint due to privacy rules

Implementing INSPIRE at federal level

- “big law” on geographical information and the national SDI
- “little law” only implementing INSPIRE

Little law

- Almost passed through the parliament
- Very strictly repeats the tekst of the directive, adapted where needed
- No further rules needed before entry into force
- Anchored in “the geographical infrastructure which is to be developed by the National Geographical Institute”

Little Law - Budget

- Cost of the collaboration agreement for the federal level (federal part – 30%)
 - secretariat of the CC-INSPIRE
 - National geoportal
 - ?
- Cost of transforming and distributing the available data
- Cost of the necessary network infrastructure needed for the federal level

What about the NSDI?

- INSPIRE = digital data
- INSPIRE = f(environment)
- Little law = federal level only

Do you mind if it is a bit more?

- What more would we like:
 - Other data than listed in INSPIRE
 - Private life protection
 - Homeland security and Defence
 - Not only for digital data
 - Authentic sources at federal level
 - NSDI
 - Coupling the federal and regional SDI on a voluntary basis
- => Big Law

How to make an NSDI in Belgium?

- Spatialist/Prof Bouckaert
 - Hierarchy / market / network
- 3 conditions for 'good governance'
 - From organisations with databases to databases with organisations
 - Demand driven supply
 - Multidisciplinary approach

How to make an NSDI?

- GDI doesn't create itself
- a law cannot make it work in practice
- Data <> information
- GDI has to be the 'backbone' of the 'back-office' of all facets of public authority
- Governance is the key, bureaucracy and power thinking are the bolts

Questions? Discussion...

