

eSDI-NET+ -

Network for promotion of cross border dialogue and exchange of best practices on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI's) throughout Europe

With co-funding by the EU eContentplus programme, 20-21 September saw the kick-off meeting of eSDI-NET+ in Darmstadt, Germany. Over 3 years, INI-GraphicsNet Stiftung will coordinate the participation of 21 organisations from 15 countries to establish a Thematic Network for Geographical Information (GI) across Europe.

Technological developments and an increasing awareness of the importance of geospatial data have created extraordinary amounts of this rich digital content. Such data assets, however, lack adequate dissemination and accessibility measures. Although the intelligent and effective use of GI comes through engaged and knowledgeable user-domains, these frequently coalesce in disparate virtual communities tied to e-government initiatives, programmes and projects. As such, GI is typically clustered by application segments and its reuse is often not foreseen. Such issues impact on the real ability to access geospatial data and lead to the costly, unnecessary duplication of resources. In contrast, the recent INSPIRE Directive has recognised that the value of GI can be maximised through semantically well-defined metadata and its reuse supported through the widespread implementation of SDIs.

The objective of eSDI-NET+ is to target users and bring together key European SDI-stakeholders through a Thematic Network- a platform for communication and knowledge exchange at all levels, from local to global. Through the promotion of high-level decisions and technical discussion, the network will help to raise awareness of the important role SDIs play in the enrichment and reuse of GI. In addition, eSDI-NET+ will tackle the multicultural and multilingual barriers to accessing, exploiting, using and reusing GI. As a result, greater steps will be made towards interoperability through the expression of common standards between national digital collections and services, especially in cross-border contexts.

By defining and identifying examples of best practice, eSDI-NET+ will integrate expert perspectives from across Europe to create synthesised SDI guidelines and standards. Through the network's membership, the gap between local and European levels will be narrowed, helping to support the better use of GI found in pan-European initiatives such as INSPIRE, GMES and GALILEO. By mobilising such expertise, eSDI-NET+ offers the means to catalyse new initiatives, actions and services, maximising the potential of both GI and the communities it supports.

For further infos please contact us:

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