NSDI 2.0 – Joining the European Information Society

Status of the ongoing NSDI Strategy Update

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Agenda

- **Background**
- **Project sketch and first Analysis**
- **Strategic challenges**
- **Conclusion**

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Background

- **Croatia scheduled to join the European Union on 1st July 2013**
    - > Transposition of European Directives and regulations into national law is a major task of the accession process
    - > INSPIRE Directive is subject of the accession treaty
        - > Significant impact to Croatia's geospatial community
        - > Lays down general rules to establish an SDI for supporting an integrated European environmental policies and activities
        - > Should be based upon member state NSDI and existing spatial data and services held by or on behalf of a public authority
- **Review of Croatia's NSDI approach needed**
    - > Align with latest INSPIRE requirements
    - > Review the overall strategy to adjust to changed boundary conditions

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Background

- **Project "Service Provision for the Support to the NSDI Development"**
    - > Three components:
        1. Support to the INSPIRE directive transposition (Ljerka Rašić)
        2. NSDI strategy improvement
        3. Metadata profile establishment (Željko Hećimović)
    - > Led by NSDI Sector at SGA
    - > Financed by Worldbank
    - > Consultants from con terra (Germany) and Bloxstore Limited (UK)

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Component "NSDI Strategy Improvement"

- **Goal**
  - > Provide recommendations for the further development of the Croatian NSDI strategy
- **Key aspects**
  - > Revise NSDI Vision
  - > Identify action areas and corresponding strategic goals
  - > Recommend activities needed to achieve strategic goals
- **Basis**
  - > Analysis of information demands and NSDI development by stakeholder consultations
  - > Analysis on European and national boundary conditions

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The wider European context

- **INSPIRE and SDI need to be seen in the context of wider EU policies, namely the development of an inclusive EU Information Society, which aims at:**
  - > more effective delivery of services to citizens, business, public administration and government
  - > more informed public participation
  - > innovation
  - > the creation of added values through enhanced services and more transparency
  - > generating more jobs in the ICT sector

  (http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/index_en.htm)

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The wider European context

- **Beyond INSPIRE there are more EU policies, which are of high relevance for the European Information Society, e.g.**

- **Directive 2003/98/EC on the Re-use of Public Sector Information**
  - > facilitate the creation of Community-wide services based on or integrating public sector information,
  - > enhance an effective cross-border re-use of information for added value products and services
  - > limit the distortions of competition on the Community information market

- **2003/4/EC on Public Access to Environmental Information**
  - > ensure that environmental information is progressively made available and disseminated
  - > achieve the widest possible availability of environmental information

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Current NSDI Vision and Objectives

- **Draft NSDI vision statement as formulated in 2008, which highlights the user and market orientation:**
  - > Connect the public sector to the national and international spatial information network
  - > Support decision making processes carried out by the government, private business and private individuals
  - > Increase usage of spatial information
  - > Minimise the transaction costs for the provision and use of spatial information
  - > Boost not only the spatial information market and but all sectors of the economy, which depend on the availability of reliable spatial information resources
  - > Align with INSPIRE

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Achievements so far

- **Legal foundation to establish an NSDI (Law on State Survey and Real Estate Cadaster – Chapter V)**
  - > Defines NSDI subjects and obliges them to…
    - > publish metadata describing their data
    - > offer their data via interoperable services
  - > Defines public spatial data themes to be provided by NSDI subjects
  - > Provides the institutional framework and defines the NSDI bodies and their responsibilities.
  - > Assigns responsibility to host a national catalogue to SGA
  - > Harmonized with the INSPIRE idea
- **Operational institutional framework (Council, Committee, WGs)**

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Achievements so far

- **National Metadata Profile**
  - > INSPIRE compliant profile is already drafted
- **Draft data sharing agreements for NSDI subjects**
  - > Focuses on a joint agreement amongst NSDI subjects (public sector)
- **First service offerings**
  - > In particular SGA has started to offer their data in a compliant and interoperable way
- **Collaboration with neighboring countries to align SDI approaches**
  - > Share experiences and identify best practices

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First analysis of status quo

● **Legal framework good basis to further develop the NSDI from a public sector perspective**

● **Legal framework not fully implemented yet**

> Institutional framework established and technical standards available

> But: available content is very limited

> But: no central point of access (NSDI Portal with Catalogue)

→ Legal framework is already powerful, but needs to be implemented

● **NSDI Vision and NSDI implementation address different target groups**

> NSDI Vision: public sector, private sector, citizens

> Legal framework / ongoing activities: public sector, INSPIRE centric

→ The nature of the NSDI and its relationship to INSPIRE, the private sector and the citizens needs to be understood and defined

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Identified Strategic Challenges so far

● **Understand the nature of the NSDI, the impact of European and national policies and the heterogeneity of its stakeholders**

> Currently the NSDI is very much understood and implemented as a government to government (G2G) approach

> Shall there be a NSDI beyond legislation?

> What shall and can be regulated legally?

> How does the NSDI relate to INSPIRE?

● **Practical rather than strategic challenges (but not less important)**

> Making the NSDI operational

> Increase content

> Serve the user base

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Challenge: Understanding the Nature of the NSDI

- **The Croatian NSDI is determined by various legal, economical and societal drivers**
- **Legal NSDI Drivers**
  - > Typically focusing on the public sector as (spatial) data provider
  - > The INSPIRE Directive might be the most influential, although having a narrow environmental focus
  - > The PSI Directive and the national act on the right to access information
    - > Very broad thematic scope
    - > Focusing on public information without any thematic constraints
    - > Citizens and private sector are directly addressed as consumer

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Challenge: Understanding the Nature of the NSDI

- **Economic NSDI drivers**
  - > Budget cuts and needs for cost savings require efficient information exchange and a reduction in transaction costs for the execution of public tasks and inter-governmental workflows and for E-Government services
  - > Private sector needs public data to innovate new services, to provide professional services and to generate business out of it
- **Societal Drivers**
  - > The majority of citizens are members of the internet community, frequently using E-Services in most parts of their life
  - > Citizens expect not just open access to public information, but also E-Government Services which enable them, to interact with public authorities in a way as they are experienced with (apps, high usability)

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Challenge: Understanding the Nature of the NSDI

- **The NSDI is evolutionary and heterogeneous by nature**
  - > It serves a heterogeneous user base
  - > It served multiple purposes
  - > It grows along the actual needs
- **Can only be successful (i.e. used), if the content and the supported means for service delivery meet the users requirements and serves their business cases**
  - > New strategy needs to leave enough room for a dynamic growth and evolution of the NSDI
  - > New strategy needs to stress the public sector's role as an enabler and encourage private sector and third parties to participate and leverage

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Challenge: Making the NSDI operational

- **Infrastructure services need to be implemented and made available**
  - > Currently sporadic NSDI services are available, but infrastructure backend is missing
  - > National metadata catalogue and geoportal as central point of access
  - > Ensure metadata provision by NSDI Subjects for an operational base
- **Provide initial content services**
  - > Ensure a high quality of service (performance, availability) to encourage users to bind them into their workflows / services
  - > Google is the benchmark
- **Connect to the INSPIRE network**
  - > Make Croatian NSDI resources visible to the European INSPIRE community by registering at the JRC Catalogue

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Challenge: Increase Content

- **Content is the lifeblood of an NSDI**
- **INSPIRE Annex themes are a good start, but will certainly not be a complete set for satisfying user needs**
  - NSDI subjects need to be encouraged to publish such information which enable customers to successfully optimize their business cases
    - Lower the barrier for service provision
    - Avoid too strict requirements concerning technical standards
    - Provide hosting services to allow data providers without technical means or sufficient knowledge to publish
    - Raise awareness and train NSDI subjects
- **Make interoperable information exchange the best and common practice in public procurements**

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Challenge: Serving the user base

- **Without an active user base, an NSDI becomes a purpose in itself**
- **The overarching goal is to support the user's business cases**
  - Provide services with well defined quality of services
    - Professional use in the public and private sector is only possible, if certain service levels can be guaranteed
    - INSPIRE already defines QoS parameters, however these are very demanding, so it probably needs more QoS levels to still encourage providers to share their data
  - Provide data and services which are needed
    - In terms of content, performance, quality, terms of use etc.
    - Encourage stakeholders to provide value added services
  - Client technology which is lightweight and fits with the user experience (Google, Bing etc.)

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Conclusion & Next Steps

- **Good progress has been made to setup the NSDI and to prepare the implementation of INSPIRE**
  - > Full INSPIRE transposition is needed
  - > Legal framework should act as a cornerstone and enabler for the NSDI
  - > Legal framework does not define the NSDI in its entirety
  - > But it needs trust to establish a culture of sharing beyond the legal boundaries
- **However, the operational NSDI basis is not fully in place**
  - > New strategy needs to focus on the operation of the NSDI
  - > Infrastructure services and contents
  - > Create capacity to get things done – it needs excellent people

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Thank you very much for your attention….

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Challenge: Understand the NSDI Nature

- **NSDI covers of a large and heterogeneous user and stakeholder base**
  - > Public authorities improve and streamline their workflows and service offers, which address other public bodies, the private sector or the citizen
  - > Private sector uses public data to innovate new services and generate business out of it
  - > Citizens may use E-Government services or value added services as offered by the private sector
- **NSDI should be as open as possible**
- **New strategy should stress the evolutionary multi-purpose character of the NSDI**
  - Legal arrangements should focus on public sector as an enabler and encourage third parties to participate and leverage

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