

The French National Geoportal in INSPIRE's path

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Albert DA SILVA PIRES
GeoConcept SA

Introduction: Following the last EC directive of March 2007 regarding INSPIRE, the French Geoportal is an answer to the sixth EC environmental Action Programme which requires a full consideration of environmental policy-making by integrating spatial data taking into account regional and local differences.

In order to accomplish this, we must tackle 5 main difficulties regarding the spatial information structure. The availability, quality, organisation, accessibility and the sharing of spatial information are the points to be solved in order to achieve the objectives set out by INSPIRE.

These points sum up the challenges of the French Geoportal which starts with the first step:

Free internet access to the public following the recommendation of January 2003. Also, the purpose of this presentation is to show how we create a solution under the INSPIRE directives in France.

In the first part: GeoConcept will introduce the European stakes, and their importance, with regards to the geographical information. The emphasis will be put on the INSPIRE directives, and the technological challenges associated with this project.

Also, Geoconcept will present the French initiative and objectives to create one of the First European Geoportal. Requirements, technological choices, costs and plan developments are among the topics to be discussed.

Then, we will introduce the Geoportal architecture: its main functionality and innovations in the 2D, and more recently, 3D interfaces.

In the second part: we will speak about the national dynamism and the future expectations triggered by this project. The creation of a unified geographical space, thanks to INSPIRE, is a major stake.

The evolution of the European frame of INSPIRE and the strong will shown by the French government allowed to set up the Geoportal project. This latter will enable anyone to view, search, download geographical data and create future services. All this wouldn't have been possible without the power of the GIS applications and the Internet network.

The GIS GeoConcept is the core of the system since it both runs the management of more than 100 tera octet data composed of several layers and spreads data in the

geoportal application with an unequalled velocity in terms of browsing. GIS data layers are used to provide 2D and 3D applications.

The importance of geographical Datawarehouse: The management of the data warehouse is essential for the success of Geoportal and nonetheless, the Geographical Data warehouse is invisible to the end user. As a matter of fact, The Geoportal is now taking advantage of it, in terms of back office management, and insofar as there is only one and unique referential, thanks to GIS technology.

Conclusion: Making the rest of the world know about our country, in terms of geographical knowledge is a fascinating adventure. The Geoportal stands as a geographical information ambassador “par excellence” thanks to a user-friendly interface.

A new step for the EU GIS Market

For this new impetus sprung from Geoportail to take shape and last, new important milestones have to be defined in order to develop new applications, to increase and multiply partnerships between the public institutions and private companies.

The creation of a Geoportal represents a strong political act and an important appointment with citizens to stimulate the image of a country beyond its boundaries.