

Implementing INSPIRE in real life: the French case

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Map of the speech

- Who are we?
- The French situation
- A viral communication
- Expected improvement in production
- The future of coordination in France
- An impact on business models?

Spatial Information National Council

- A French coordination structure since 1987
- Near the minister in charged of transport infrastructure and land developpement
- A neutral place to talk and think for State and local authorities
- To increase the use of spatial information.

The French state (yesterday 1)

- A major multiplicity of self-governing public authorities (40 000) superimposed on several levels,
- An heritage of geographical data at large scale of very variable quality : from Napoleon to XXIth century
- A wide territory encouraging average scale : 1 : 25 000 then 1 : 10 000
- A major disparity between the public authorities, rich or networked vs. poor or isolated.

The French state (yesterday 2)

- Different needs according to the size of the concerned districts and to the different agilities, which lead to difficulties in data sharing and asymmetries;
- No national rules, so public authorities have to build original agreements, consuming time and energy to find their way.
- French SDIC and LMO are very few, although French experts take a good part in Working groups.

Waking up : signs of dynamism

- The Forum OGC France, a meeting place for some private societies and public organisations, dedicated to standardisation and web services.
- National and regional, thematic or territorial portals, strongly connected to INSPIRE show creativity and move toward data sharing.
- An opportunity to set up specific operating modes intended to mobilise the actors.

A process to progress and to develop contagion

- On the beginning of 2008, INSPIRE directive was not a shared subject in France.
- We decided “to built an French INSPIRE agora” and we organized (slow!) viral communication along three axes : working groups, meetings, web communication.
 - The WGs create a small but leading group of informed people
 - who spread the discussion about INSPIRE in meetings and towards politicians
 - Web (discussions lists, blog) brings food
<http://georezo.net/blog/inspire/>
- Today, in meetings, everybody « have heard » of INSPIRE

What for?

- Clarification and organisation of geographical data production,
- To create that national large scale plan everybody needs,
- The first stone of a national spatial data infrastructure, on which data sharing and valued services could be build.
- We strongly support the wide spread of Creative Commons licences between public authorities.

The field of coordination : help, information dissemination and training.

- The expected evolutions are :
- Networking with lower level public authorities, involving technical support, to get high level of quality and save money;
- Spreading the interest of spatial information in politics outside of its usual fields;
- The production and maintenance of spatial data sets survey;
- And a good regional management!

Impact on the business models?

- The adopted directive keep business models unchanged.
- But,
- We see States or operators moving toward free data to better promote services.
- How a spatial information infrastructure can stay away from that?
- We see no solution except a financing framework for the national spatial data production of French NMAs.

Our point of view as coordination structure

- The French landscape of SDI is not as glorious as our wines, countrysides or towns.
- But something arises.
- Territorial coordination is more frequent, stronger and INSPIRE convinced. Data sharing is spreading.
- Business models are under interrogation.
- INSPIRE is at work.
- INSPIRE is not a chance. It is our Will.