The Greek NSDI trajectory.
Tracing patterns and achievements

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Key points

- SDI creation is a long term, evolving process without certain and a-priori defined results.
- It is important to openly and thoroughly consider both the long term trajectories and the short term trends.
- Observe, learn and change.
- Tracing the Greek NSDI trajectory is an effort trying to discover what, how and why.
- Possible helpful results both for Greece and for INSPIRE.
Three time periods for the Greek SDI evolution
Pre-SDI (up to 2000)
Pre-SDI (up to 2000)

Widespread use of the GIS

However

Main Issues:
Pre-SDI (up to 2000)
Main Issues

• Isolation and reluctance for cooperation.

Graph showing the institutional groups of the fifty-one teams forming the Greek GIS community

Graph showing the teams belonging in central and local government organisations and the utilities

Graph of the academic teams

Pre-SDI (up to 2000)

Main Issues

- Participants with limited disciplinary background.
- Data quality issues and absence of periodical data updating mechanisms.
- Ad hoc system introductions with no previous planning.
- Limitation in strategy, unified approach, coordinating and consultative frameworks.
- Inadequacy of the spatial debate.
First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)
First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)

- Funded by the 3rd Community Structural Funds (CSF) under the Operational Programme "Information Society" (OPIS).
- Concerned the creation of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure and the development of Geographical Information Systems.
First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)
Organizational structure

First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)

Results

• According to the SIS the Measure 2.4 was rather successful as multiple projects were funded in a cost effective and time efficient way.

-On the other hand-

• Greece is one of the few member-states of the European Union that does not have NSDI.[1,2]

References

First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)

Analysis

1. Not ready to embrace SDI.

   The “legacy” from the Pre-SDI period still prevails

If there wasn’t for the 3rd CSF there would not be any real interest for SDI in Greece
2. Problems regarding the public sector.

• General problems:
  – Repulsion for "changes",
  – Bureaucracy, corruption,
  – Discrepancy between formal and informal practices etc.

• Related to NSDI problems:
  – Distorted perspective - “myopic perceptions”, internalism and arrogance
  – Problems regarding ownership of the spatial data, and unwillingness to share.
  – Inability to cooperate.
  – Lack of trained personnel.
  – Prone to political pressure and influence.

Resembles the “cynical” organizations in the "stand alone" stage of SDI development. 
First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)

3. Coordination and organization

- **SIS (leader):**
  - Mainly efficiency-centric management. IT approach.
  - Had neither the intention nor the expertise for NSDI coordinator.
  - Short term role.

- **Geoinfo-Soc (scientific advisors):**
  - Non-institutional role
  - Advisory, supportive role
  - Short term role.
First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)

4. Design and concept

- Focus on technology and data with tones of over optimistic assumptions and remarks.
- Lack of conception of the complex, multi-level, multifaceted and constantly evolving nature of the NSDI.
- Leaving out or underusing advances of the SDI.
- Lack of a more inclusive approach.
- Inconsistencies in the proposed roadmap

- first generation National SDI initiative
- in the technical and partially the journalistic phase of development
- pro innovation bias

First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008) Analysis

5. Implementation problems

• Regarding Geoinfo-Soc:

  "Integrated National Spatial Data Infrastructure"
  Final report
  "Integrated National Spatial Data Infrastructure"
  Arvanitis, A.

  "Design and implementation of NSDI system and data"
  Final report
  "System and data organization of NSDI"
  Kavouras, M.

  "Proposal on the institutional policy framework of NSDI’s spatial data"
  Final report

  "Responsibilities and expected deliverables from the Technical Scientific Council of the participants"
  Final report

• Regarding SIS: No NSDI reports or rules implemented
First Greek NSDI effort (2000-2008)

Key points

• Greece neither ready, nor interested in NSDI.

• Lack of understanding and knowledge regarding SDI.

• Simplistic, deterministic, techno/data-centric approach.

• Very limited public discussion and research regarding this first effort and SDI in general.
Second Greek NSDI effort (2008-2013?)
Second Greek NSDI effort (2008-2013?)

Started (2008): By Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization (HEMCO)

- **Formulated a new Greek law** that transposed the INSPIRE Directive into the national legislation.
- **Establish appropriate structures** and mechanisms for coordinating a new NSDI effort.

Ended (2013)?: Abolition of HEMCO
Second Greek NSDI effort (2008-2013?)

Analysis

- New approach.
- Vigorous effort.

However:

- The **spatial environment** in Greece was still not ready (mature) to embrace NSDI.
- Problems regarding the **public sector** still existed.
There is not an integrated report regarding NSDI.

Centralized Limited
Separated Gatekeeper
Black boxes
Hard task
Law enforcement

Organizational and conceptual issues

Pediaditi, K., Athanasiou, S., Nedas K., Grigoriou, E., Stefanakis, K, 2010, INSPIRE Transposition, Member State Report: Greece
"Passing laws achieves little if there is no capacity for undertaking the detailed work and developing programs that, move step by step towards the strategic objectives."

Second Greek NSDI effort (2008-2013?)

Analysis

Organizational and conceptual issues in brief:

- **No integrated** report regarding NSDI.
- **HEMCO** too much responsibilities and **centralized** structure.
- **Limited** conceptual approach towards NSDI.
- **Separation** of NSDI from participants.
- **HEMCO** as **gatekeeper**.
- **One size fits all approach** (participants as black boxes).
- Focal points with **hard task** and without institutional power.
- **Excessive reliance on legislation**
Second Greek NSDI effort (2008-2013?)

Analysis

Implementation

- HEMCO ignored the **Installed Base**.
- Aggressiveness, confrontation, opposition.
- Copied the INSPIRE agenda and schedule.
# Second Greek NSDI effort (2008-2013?)

## Comparison - Key points

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<td>Greece neither ready, nor interested for SDI.</td>
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Greek NSDI and INSPIRE
Great impact and major effect on NSDI in Greece.

INSPIRE must pay attention to:

– Contradictive signals

“The INSPIRE Directive, which contains several ‘hard’ deadlines may thus work counter-effective in standardizing cooperation practices. Cooperation cannot be directed and transposed by legal deadlines.”

– Focusing on local context

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Conclusions and discussion
Conclusions and discussion

• Common core problems regarding Greek NSDI seem to repeat.

• Similar mindsets and approaches led to dead ends.

Proposals:

– Clearly and honestly observe, disclose and face our weaknesses.

– Enhance and support learning and transforming capabilities.
Thank you for your attention.