INSPIRE for innovation and growth in the private sector: views and opinions from key stakeholders

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INSPIRE Conference 2014
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The smeSpire project

- FP7 Support Action (May 2012 – April 2014) “to turn the challenges of the INSPIRE implementation into business opportunities for the Geo-ICT European SMEs”

- Rationale: SMEs can enable countries to fulfill the INSPIRE Directive, creating new market opportunities with increased potential for innovation and new jobs.

- Partners: SME’s, public administrations and research institutions from 12 different member states

- SmeSpire study (WP1) to explore the market potential for geo-ICT companies in relation to INSPIRE
Previously on ‘smeSpire’

**INSPIRE Conference 2013**

- Analysis of the results of the large scale online survey among 299 geo-ICT companies in Europe (organized between November 2012 and August 2013)

- **Towards an INSPIRE-based classification of geo-ICT companies in Europe**
  - 1/3 of the geo-ICT companies in Europe is not aware of INSPIRE
  - 1/3 knows INSPIRE, but is not actively involved in the implementation
  - 1/3 has more advance knowledge of INSPIRE, and actively contributes to the implementation (and also get the benefits of INSPIRE)
In this episode of ‘smeSpire’...

INSPIRE Conference 2014

• Analysis of a series of in-depth interviews with key stakeholders in INSPIRE implementation (in 12 different MS)

• Around 110 interviews carried out with representatives from public authorities and private companies

• Key topics: involvement of private companies in INSPIRE, current and future impact of INSPIRE, and strategies for stimulating the involvement of private companies in INSPIRE

• What lessons can we learn from these interviews? Not so easy...
The good news...

*Not one single NSDI/INSPIRE project without a private partner!*

Do we need the private sector for implementing INSPIRE?

- Most interviewees from the public sector agree that the involvement of private companies in the INSPIRE implementation is crucial.

- In many public administrations INSPIRE implementation has just begun, so more work will come.

*Most of the work still needs to be done!*
Different countries...

... in different stages of INSPIRE implementation

- Impact of the status of INSPIRE implementation clearly visible
- INSPIRE implementation as key requisite for involvement of private companies, and companies strongly rely on governments in their own country
- Governments that still need to start with INSPIRE implementation are looking for foreign experts (supported by local consultants)
- European projects as instrument to increase INSPIRE awareness and knowledge in private companies

There is no market for INSPIRE in our country...
Impact of INSPIRE?

As soon as the infrastructure is operational, most of the work will be done

- Key impact of INSPIRE will be through the availability of interoperable data and services, allowing companies to develop new services and products

- Access and use conditions not clear, complete and/or publicly available

- In some countries, significant progress has been made in the past years/months

- Companies can play an important role in ‘popularizing’ the SDI, building applications and services on top of the SDI.
Impact of INSPIRE?

INSPIRE did not yet find his way to the domain in which we are active

- Companies dealing with the production, management, use and sharing of spatial information that are doing valuable and innovative things without INSPIRE

- Companies active in other thematic domains: air traffic, public health, marine, etc.

- For them (and for the public administrations they are working for) the relevance of INSPIRE is not clear

- Clear need for widening the scope of INSPIRE
SDI/INSPIRE policy?

To what extent is the private sector involved in the SDI/INSPIRE policy process?

- Huge differences in the extent to and way in which companies are involved in this process

- Good practices: informal consultation, strategy development, coordination structure, testbeds, pilot projects, ...

- Who represents the private geo-ICT sector?

- Steps towards INSPIRE/NSDI as a society-wide initiative
To conclude...

How smeSpire itself aims to facilitate and stimulate the participation of SME’s in INSPIRE:

- Creation of a database containing information about the geo-ICT SMEs in Europe, and a Best Practice Catalogue in the implementation of INSPIRE (and related activities)

- Establishment of a network of SMEs and other institutional stakeholders aiming at bridging the gap between the INSPIRE driven demand of environmental digital data and the industry-driven offer of geo-ICT solutions

- Development of a training package and training platform for achieving the knowledge and skills required for INSPIRE implementation
To conclude...

About the training package:

• A series of 20 training modules developed by different partners (taking into account the results and outcomes of the smeSpire study)

• Target public: non-technical and technical (data & network service) experts

• Different levels: basic – advanced – innovative

• Available for self learning, material consists of presentations, web lectures, exercises, etc.

• [http://www.smespire.eu/training_offer/](http://www.smespire.eu/training_offer/)
Thank you!

- Questions – Comments?

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