Increasing GI awareness in local authorities in Poland – experiences from the INSPIRE Academy training programme

http://www.akademiainspire.pl

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Project Partners

- **UNEP/GRID-Warsaw Centre** – Project Leader

- **Commune Tønsberg from Norway – Geodesy and Cartography Unit** – a model example of sound spatial management through a geoinformation system and collaboration with partners.

- **Statens Kartverk** – support by sharing know-how and best practices in using SDI in Norway

- **INTERGRAPH Poland Ltd.** (Polish branch of the renowned developer of GIS software)
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TARGET GROUP

• staff members of commune (local) self-government authorities forming nature conservation and spatial planning units.

• Communes covered by Natura 2000 sites

• Officials from the Regional Offices for Environmental Protection
Goals of the INSPIRE Academy

• preparing users community to apply spatial information and effectively participate in the INSPIRE process

• enhance skills and abilities of officials in using spatial information and geoinformation technologies in order to support:
  – environmental management,
  – spatial planning,
  – co-operation between public authorities and institutions at the local and regional level.

• strengthen collaboration among commune and district authorities and institutions responsible for management of protected areas (Regional Directorate for Env Prot)– towards protecting the environment and sustainable development of local communities

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the Training Programme

• Structure: both stationary and web-based
  – Two rounds of 2-day stationary trainings;
  – 3 months of an e-Learning course (in between the stationary trainings).

• 2-person teams will work on local case studies concerning environment protection, spatial planning, incl. e.g. protection plans for Natura 2000 areas (public consultations, collaboration with national and regional authorities responsible for Natura 2000 management).

• Competition for Communes on the most interesting case study
Participation in the Training Programme

No of participants in stationary trainings – 397 persons

No of communes in S1 – 101 communes

No of Regional Directoriates for Environmental Protection - 11 RDEPs
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Thematic scope of the INSPIRE Academy training programme

four modules
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**Basic stationary training S1**

*Module I: Introductory session*

- Introduction to GI
- Introduction to the INSPIRE Directive
- Sources and formats of spatial datasets
- Means of making spatial data accessible (web services)
- Metadata
- Satellite navigation - GPS (acquisition and processing of GI data)
- Public participation in spatial planning

- New GI-related terms
- Key- GIS-related qualifications
- What is INSPIRE about?
- INSPIRE rules
- Spatial Data themes – review of the Directive Annexes
Basic stationary training S1
Module II: Geo-spatial data

Introduction to GI

Introduction to the INSPIRE Directive

Sources and formats of spatial datasets

Means of making spatial data accessible (web services)

Metadata

Satellite navigation - GPS (acquisition and processing of GI data)

Public participation in spatial planning

Cartographic and geodetic reference data resources

How to use WMS / WFS

Polish national profile

Metadata standard

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Basic stationary training S1
Module III: satellite navigation (GPS) – data acquisition

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**Basic stationary training S1**

**Module IV: Public participation**

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e-Learning course with educational tools: Using OLAT e-Learning Platform and the INSPIRE Academy Geoportal

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e-Learning courses
Working with INSPIRE Academy Geoportal
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Stationary advanced training S2
Module I: Spatial analyses

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Stationary advanced training S2
Module I: Spatial analyses

Major types of spatial analyses

Introduction to cartographic edition of thematic maps

Recfitication of raster images

Analyses of the attribute table:
- Object classification
- Assigning weights,
- adding/removing columns,
- re-calculation of attribute values.

Map algebra:
- intersection and clipping,
- spatial difference,
- union,
- buffering…
... of layers

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Case study as part of the training programme

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• Each commune participated in the INSPIRE Academy competition by conducting a case study;

• Case study is a small project oriented towards solving a real, current spatial problem existing in commune;

• Case studies are being prepared with the use of the INSPIRE Academy geoportal as well as available SDI components (data from the national geoportal, GIS tools incl. FOSS4G or proprietary GIS software, etc.)
Core thematic groups of the case studies

1. Enhancing access to spatial information - development of commune geoportals (5 case studies)
2. Use of GIS tools for effective spatial planning in the communes (7 case studies)
3. Use of GIS for analyses of investment locations and their possible variants (9 case studies);
4. Use of GIS tools and digital mapping to enhance co-operation with nature conservation authorities (9 case studies);
5. Spatial analysis as a method to support planning and decision-making (4 case studies);
6. Supporting public consultations with the use of geovisualisation methods (12 case studies).

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Using geoinformation in daily work - Challenges for the communes
What are key constrains for the communes?

- Difficulties in fully effective cooperation with regional (poviat) geodetic agencies;
- Insufficient level of GI awareness among self-government authorities;
- Lack of GI standards – especially for datasets related to spatial planning and environmental management;
- Lack of continuity of GI-related projects in communes, but also at the regional level;
- Lack of trainings oriented towards solving spatial problems;
- Poor access to broad-band Internet.
What are the pros of GIS application in daily tasks of the communes?

- GIS enables better and faster data analyses and providing answers to stakeholders;
- Different (better) approach to public servicing - by working with a digital map at the computer screen;
- Broader access by the public to spatial plans and spatial information;
Are the communes SDI users?
YES! We try our best to use SDI!

• Communes need metadata to be able to search and use available spatial datasets – they are aware of their needs;

• Some authorities are already familiar with, accustomed to, and frequently use digital maps in their work – quickly realizing digital convenience and abandoning analog, paper maps.

• GI data that are available through the national geoportal is one of the core tools facilitating discussions with citizens, clients or partners (incl. regional authorities).
Forthcoming activities of the INSPIRE Academy

• And the winner is…- results of the competition among the communes (summer 2010)

• Sharing experiences - a workshop in Norway (in the Tonsberg commune) for the winner (autumn 2010);

• Guidebook for Polish self-governments about applying Geoinformation in Practice, including some tips on how to benefit from INSPIRE implementation (end of 2010)

• Final conference – summary of the Project (Jan. 2011)
Thank you for your attention!

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