

INSPIRE CONFERENCE 2017  
Workshop/Seminar proposal

geoICT SMEs as key-players in the INSPIRE driven innovation: the role of the smeSpire network

Summary

Keywords like “digital transformation”, “Digital Single Market”, “public sector modernisation”, “e-government”, “digital economy”, “data economy” are pervading many EU strategies, priorities, plans and agendas which should ultimately improve citizens’ and businesses’ life.

In the current economic crisis, businesses, particularly the small-seized ones, are looking for inspirations to turn the new technological challenges into growth opportunities for them.

An unprecedented pool of 15 experts coming from EU and National institutions, Academia, Large and Small-Medium Enterprises shared their complementary competences and experiences answering key burning questions, reflected on the different opinions gathered during the debate and suggested directions to be taken for the future of our INSPIRE community.



Key questions answered were:

1. Are the policy makers, responsible for the implementation of the strategies, priorities, plans and agendas above mentioned, aware of the key role that location based information and geospatial technologies can play in the whole policy lifecycle?
2. Are national governments aware of the benefits that EU initiatives such as INSPIRE and PSI Directives, REFIT Programme, better regulation agenda can bring to their communities? Are they ready, from an organizational point of view, to cope with the legal

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requirements or to constructively influence the debates around the above mentioned initiatives?

3. Can INSPIRE and its legislative framework be the way forward to streamline data interoperability workflows within and across different policy areas?
4. Is the ecosystem of the geolCT SMEs aware of the big potential represented by geospatial technologies, as enabling factor for many of the keywords above listed?
5. Are the geolCT SMEs ready to offer mature solutions to support the stakeholders involved in the implementation of the above mentioned initiatives?

All the answers were “Yes, but!”

The importance of having accessible (hopefully open), re-usable, interoperable data as pre-condition to further development in the GeolCT sector, highlighted in all the plenaries and in many thematic sessions/workshops was underlined also here.

But the main shared opinion was: “Let’s make INSPIRE working first!!!”.

The workshop has been promoted by the smeSpire network, which is an informal network created during the FP7 project smeSpire “A European community of SMEs built on environmental digital content and languages”, with more than 700 members (80% of which are SMEs) sharing common interests around problems and solutions related to INSPIRE implementations.