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Report from the workshop “Hackathon: INSPIRE + Open Data + Copernicus ... Let’s Connect the Dots!”

We got together for a hackathon at the INSPIRE conference on September 5, 2017 to see what can be done with data from INSPIRE, Open Data and Copernicus.

This hackathon was meant as a chance for people to come together for creative problem solving, generating innovative ideas, and learning from each other.

Beforehand we were not sure whether participants would be willing to invest their time in a 6 hour session with so much “competition” from other workshops with interesting subjects. But there was no need to be concerned: The room was packed with enthusiastic participants willing to share their ideas. Nine great ideas were pitched and groups formed to work on five ideas:

- Working on a cross-border dataset (Belgium and Germany) for INSPIRE Hydrography
- Plastic not bombastic! Can Copernicus data help detect waste in the marine protection areas?
- Copernicus for Land Use/Land Coverage - Machine learning
- Disaster Management using Copernicus and crowd sourced data
- Using Copernicus, INSPIRE, and Open Data for noise mapping along railways

Three main findings:

- A hackathon is a good (and fun!) means to get experts from different domains together, learn from each other, and create promising ideas
- INSPIRE, Open Data, and Copernicus are useful sources to help answering diverse questions
- No shortage of use cases – the attendees were bursting with ideas!

