

# **Spatial Information Management in the Context of Organizational Development – the Approach in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany**

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**Key words:** SIM policies, e-governance and SDI, public-private partnerships

## **SUMMARY**

Under the pressure of cost reduction the German State of North-Rhine Westphalia decided in 2007 to reorganize its surveying and mapping administration. The main focus was:

- Concentration on kernel tasks, reduction of the employment body
- Private business replaces administrative activity
- Restructuring of the organization under consideration of work processes and quality measurement

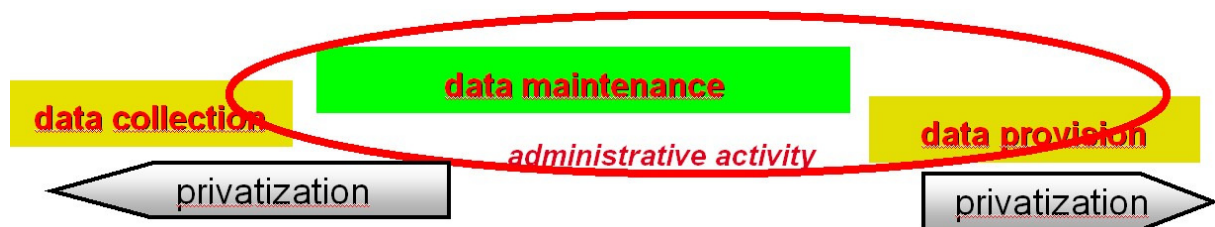
In this context the information management was reorganized in North-Rhine Westphalia, Germany. The author wants to present the results of this process with respect to the topics of efficiency, process alignment, cost reduction and kernel tasks. A first evaluation of the acceptance will be given.

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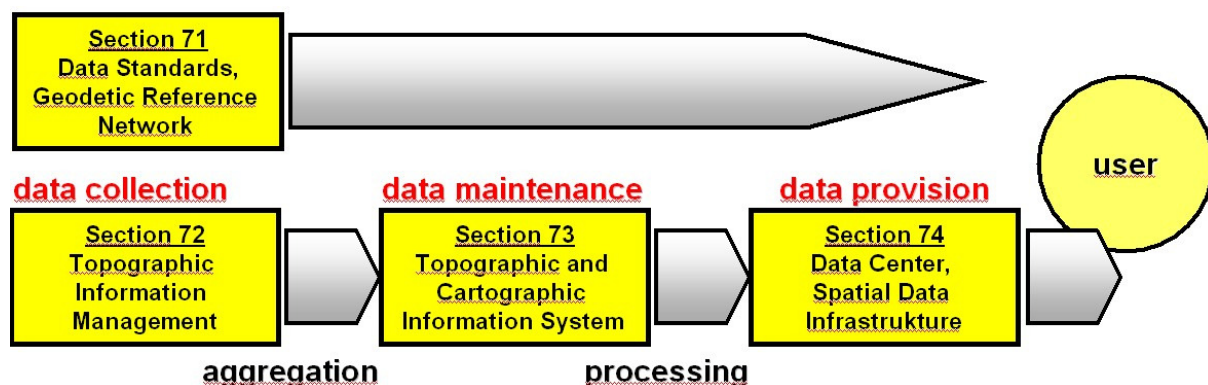
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## 1. SIM policies: process view and organizational developments

In the surveying and mapping law of North-Rhine Westphalia the kernel activities of data collection, data maintenance and data provision are defined. Under the pressure of cost reduction the central policy decision came up to replace administrative activities by private business. With respect to the kernel activities the data collection was (mostly) privatized, the data maintenance became the central administrative activity and the data provision was opened to public-private partnership:



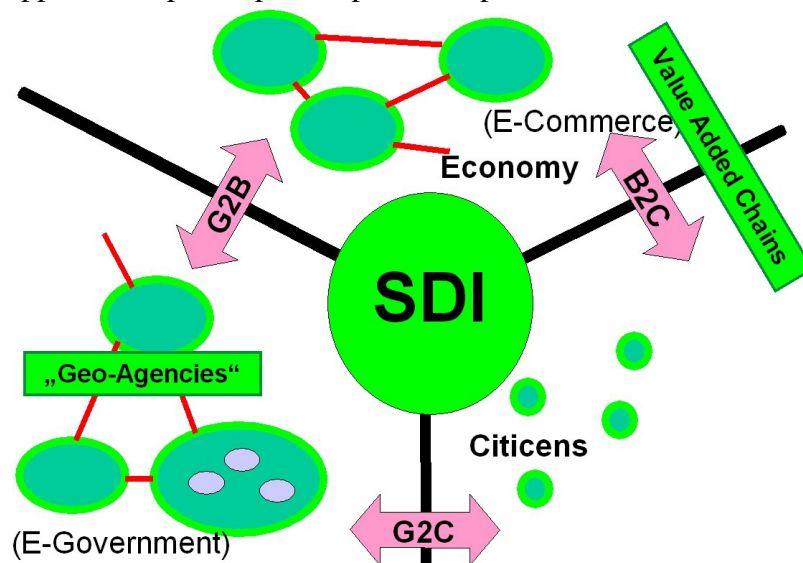
In addition in 2008 this process view became the basis for the new organizational structure. Under the name of GEObasis.nrw the organization was divided into the three sections of “Topographic Information Management”, “Topographic and Cartographic Information System” and “Data Centre and Spatial Data Infrastructure”. A fourth section was built to be responsible for “Data Standards and Geodetic Reference Network”.



For each section (71-74) the kernel tasks were described to define the spatial information infrastructure the state wants to provide. As part of this definition phase the personal resources had been fitted. During this process 200 (from about 600) positions were omitted.

## 2. E-governance and SDI in the context of Public Private Partnership

Even if there are now less personal resources available, the SDI-activities had been strengthened. Already in 1999, the German State North-Rhine Westphalia has established its spatial data infrastructure (“GDI NRW”) as a joint initiative of state agencies, municipalities, private companies and scientific institutes. This approach already took under consideration the cooperation approach of public private partnership.



During the reorganization process the SDI activities were enhanced in the organizational framework and became a central interface in the context of G2C and G2B. In the geo administration of North-Rhine Westphalia SDI will be the contribution to (geo) E-government.

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## **BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES**

From 2002 to 2007 Dr. Jens Riecken was responsible for “Cadastral Information Systems” in the Surveying and Mapping Agency of North-Rhine Westphalia. During this period he was involved in the standardization of spatial information. Jens Riecken was one of the main actors in the SDI developments and was member of several state and federal working groups and member of the EU expert group INSPIRE.

Since 2008, when the Surveying and Mapping Agency of North-Rhine Westphalia became the department “GEObasis.nrw” in the North-Rhine Westphalia Cologne District Government, Jens Riecken is chair of “Data Standards, Geodetic Reference”. He is still in charge for the standardization of spatial information and in addition for the realization of the geodetic reference, nowadays by satellite positioning services.

Jens Riecken is the Vice-president of the DVW e.V., the German Association of Geodesy, Geoinformation and Land Management.

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