

Reimagining the Implementation of Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI)

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SUMMARY

The term Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) was first used in the early 1990's. Since then, SDIs have been implemented at national, sub-national and supranational levels to support environmental, economic and social objectives. Approaches to implementation and governance of SDI have varied across the world from those built “bottom up” with a more informal and collaborative approach, to those that are more “top down” and, in some cases, enshrined in legislation and supporting regulations and specifications.

Whilst much has been achieved in terms of standards, data availability, data policies, governance structures and capacity building, Web GIS allows us to take the next step in the evolution of SDI. The presentation will reflect on past developments and current SDI initiatives, and show how adoption of Web GIS can enable the next generation of SDI – a “system of systems” with an emphasis on improving use and return on investment, through a collaborative, open and distributed implementation pattern.

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