Free Access to Environmental Information – Assessment of the European Situation

Thomas Pick

WS ICT-ENSURE
Sharing Environmental Information

SEIS - SISE Workshops

- EnvirolInfo 2007 - Warsaw
  - Seamless Access To Environmental Information in the EU - Building an Integrated Information Space for the Environment
- EnvirolInfo 2008 - Lüneburg
  - Sharing Environmental Information – Towards an Integrated Information Space for the Environment in Europe
- EnvirolInfo 2009 - Berlin
  - SISE – Organising the Community

Agenda - 2008

- Jiri Hrebicek, Rudi Legat, Michael Nagy – Challenges of SEIS and SISEE
- Rudolf Legat et al – E-Government Working Group for Environmental Information in Austria – Moving Towards SEIS
- Onno Kooi et al – Sharing Environmental Information at Various Hierarchical Levels of Abstraction – Some Experiences in the Netherlands
- Gerald Schimak, Thomas Usländer – Fostering the Vision of Information Sharing in Europe
- Michel Schouppe – Towards Single Information Space in Europe for the Environment (SISE)
- Nicole Ostländer, Michael Lutz – INSPIRE-ing GEMET – Enhancing Metadata Creation and Discovery
- Stephanie Uhrich et al – The Information Technology of the German Environmental Information Portal PortalU as a Tool for the European Level?
- Peter Mooney – Making Environmental Research Data Publicly Available – Experiences from Ireland
- Thomas Bandholz, Maria Rüther – Semantic Network Service (SNS) Update and Future Vision

Agenda 2007

- Michel Schouppe – Building an Integrated Information Space for the Environment
- Stefan Jensen – Shared Environmental Information System, The EEA Strategy
- Hartmut Streuff – Shared Environmental Information System vs. Inspire
- Fred Kruse – PortalU - a Tool to Support the Implementation of the European Environmental Information Directive
- Judith Cullen – Access to Environmental Information in the UK

28.10.2008
SEIS - SI SE Dimensions

Information

Data

Legislation

Technology

Policy

Organisation

SEIS Communication, 2008

INSPIRE Directive, 2007


Directive on Reuse of Public Sector Information, 2003


Declaration of the UN Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, 16 June 1972

Aarhus-Convention, 1998

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, June 1992

Legal Space

QF20 For each of the following statements, please tell me whether you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree or totally disagree...?

- EU 27

- Totally agree
- Tend to agree
- Tend to disagree
- Totally disagree
- DK

European environmental legislation is necessary for protecting the environment in (e.g. CO2/NOX)

40% No Info

The EU should assist non-EU countries to improve their environmental standards

78% No Info

The EU should allocate more money to the protection of environment, even if this means that less money is spent on other areas

33% No Info

Eurobarometer 2008

Implementation 2003/4/EC in MS

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Technical Space

- ICT (Monitoring Network, Interconnected Information Systems, Dynamic Data Flows, GIS, Decision Support, Chaining Of Services)
- ICT to help monitor and predict environment
- ICT for better management of natural resources
- Key concept is Interoperability
  - Enable Seamless Cooperation
  - Sound Environmental Policy
  - Interdisciplinary Approach for environmental monitoring

Environmental Information as an Element of Democracy

Timely and innovative EI is the basis for raising environmental awareness, for active involvement of citizens in environmental measures and thus an element of democracy.

The right of access to relevant data increases transparency and enhances public participation in decisions taken by the public authorities. Access to EI is thus a step towards participation and democratisation of environmental law. (participation effect).
**Barriers against an interoperable digital Europe for env. services**

- Environmental information gap between information sources & their users
- Very complex standards
- Data quality & uncertainty
- Lack of integration of legacy systems
- Security
- Multilingualism
- Geospatial rights management
- Ex-post data harmonisation
- Confusion on Open Standards & Open Source Software

**SEIS Challenges ...**

- No Implementation Guidance available for legislation on EU level
- No Harmonisation / Standardisation Activities (e.g. no procedures, schemes, etc.)
- Different Strategies in Member States
- No Mission
- No Tools (Taxonomy, Ontology, Services)
- No Information (exchange)
- No Interoperability!
- No Funding?

**SEIS-SISE Phases in the context of ICT-Ensure**

- Assess
- Monitor
- Network

**Towards an Integrated Approach for Implementation of EID - Shopping List**

- Actors and Actions
- Legislation Monitor for MS
- Standards and Services
- Clearing House for Information, Contacts and Tools
- Integration of Information, Space and the Environment
- Free Drinks... Tonite
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Legal Space

Access To Information
Public Participation
Access To Justice

INSPIRE 2003/4/EC Aarhus

ICT-ENSURE