Dear Reader,

The eSDI-Net+ project is funded by the European Commission within its eContent*plus* Programme and aims at promoting the cross-border dialogue and exchange of best practices on SDIs throughout Europe. With this 2nd project newsletter in 2009 we provide you with a report on the current status of the project, as well as on ongoing activities and upcoming events.

Enjoy reading and please do not hesitate to give us your feedback.

Dr. Joachim Rix,
Coordinator of the eSDI-Net+ Project

Learn more about eSDI-Net+ by visiting our website www.esdinetplus.eu.

Project News

Results of Best Practice Workshops

In the last months 12 national and regional Best Practice Workshops were conducted involving more than 20 different European countries. The overall goal of these workshop activities was to select promising European SDI solutions. The national workshops had between 24 and 200 participants, most of them including several political decision makers. Among the presented SDIs 4 to 15 best practices were identified at each workshop. The average evaluation of the workshop was positive (4/5) or very positive (5/5).

In general, the methodology for the evaluation of SDI solutions developed at the beginning of the project & the process applied has been considered as suitable to be introduced in the governmental work during the implementation of INSPIRE. The methodology considers the cultural, technical and legal differences in different European countries and provides a common evaluation framework applicable for SDIs in Europe.

Best Practice Award 2009

The Best Practice Award 2009 will be assigned at the **SDI Best Practice Award Conference and Award Ceremony** in November 26–27, 2009 in Turin, Italy. With this award the eSDI-Net+ project offers SDIs through-out European countries and regions the opportunity to present themselves both to Spatial Data Experts and local SDI stakeholders. Based on the concluding presentations and exhibitions of the finalists a final ranking will be applied. All finalists' solutions will be actively promoted to relevant stakeholders and media.

In order to use the experiences & lessons learned for the next steps towards the SDI best practice selection at the European level the assessment criteria which had been defined during the process of SDI analysis were adapted in order to create a strong evaluation basis for the SDI Best Practice Award 2009. The classification of the information used for the SDI assessment consists of the following five main criteria: *Quantitative aspects*, *Data and services quality*, *Co-operation and subsidiarity*, *Sustainability*, and *Users and usability*. These main criteria and the corresponding 32 indicators provide the basis and structure for the database of good practices.

The overall aim of the project activities as well as the SDI Best Practice Award 2009 is to promote existing, working, accessible and intelligible solutions, to communicate the purpose and aims of the INSPIRE directive, to improve the overall knowledge about SDIs and to encourage local but also cross boarder collaborations in setting up innovative solutions in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

Call for Entries – Best Practice Award 2009

The SDIs registered for the identification & analysis phase will automatically be considered for the Award, providing they have been positively evaluated during the described process. In addition to these already evaluated candidates, **further SDI's throughout Europe are welcome to submit their application until July 17th, 2009**.

For the official call and further details please see the **Announcement of the SDI Best Practice Award** available at **www.esdinetplus.eu/get_involved/sdi_workshops.html**.

eSDI-Net+ at the GSDI11 Conference in Rotterdam

At the GSDI11 Conference in Rotterdam, the Netherlands on June 15–19, 2009, two workshops representing some eContent*plus* projects were organised by eSDI-Net+ in collaboration with EUROGI.

The workshops

- **3.4 Lessons Learned and Best Practices from GI-SDI Projects: Examples of eContent*plus* Projects; Part 1: The eContent*plus* Program and the eSDI-Net+ Network**

  For more information see http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi11/workshops.html#wrkshp3.4

and

- **4.4 Lessons Learned and Best Practices from GI-SDI Projects: Examples of eContent*plus* Projects; Part 2: GIS4EU, EURADIN, NATURE-SDIplus, OneGeology Europe**

  For more information see http://www.gsdi.org/gsdi11/workshops.html#wrkshp4.4

will take place on June 15, 2009. The common framework for these two workshops is based on SDI INSPIRE related best practices addressed by five co-funded EC projects. Besides eSDI-Net+ four other projects concerning eContent*plus* thematic implementations (GIS4EU, EURADIN, NATURE-SDIplus, and OneGeology-Europe) will present themselves in the second workshop.

The Workshops create the opportunity for all five projects to present their lessons learnt and some best practices identified, to show their overlapping interest and synergies. Both workshops are intended to transfer knowledge about the methodologies applied for such projects, best practices, technical aspects and organisational constraints, as well as to provide the attendees with tools for enhancing SDI implementation approaches on other domains. The target audience will be people related with INSPIRE implementation at national or regional level with the responsibility to assess their feasibility. In particular the workshop is addressed to data providers in the public and private sector, as well as to the service and technology providers.

Future Activities

The future activities for the coming months will primarily focus on the planning and preparation of the eSDI-Net+ Best Practice Award 2009 in Turin, Italy. Furthermore, eSDI-Net+ will proceed with the collection and documentation of relevant existing local, regional and national SDI initiatives and the determination of common problems and good practice solutions.

The next consortium meetings are planned on September 17–18 in Krakow, Poland in combination with an Executive Board and an Award Jury Meeting and on November 25, 2009 in Turin, Italy. Besides these the Executive Board will meet in Rotterdam on June 15, 2009.

For more information about eSDI-Net+, ongoing activities, upcoming events and public project documentation, please, visit our website www.esdinetplus.eu.

Imprint

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