

# eSDI-Net SDI Case Studies Common threads & observations

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# Drivers

- Many of the implementations are driven by actual challenges and problems
- Not necessarily driven by regulatory requirements but business cases
- While INSPIRE and other regulations can be used as the stick and assist in getting management buy-in, the business case is paramount.
- Many are not driven by data provision per se but rather service provision and cooperation.

# Organisational Change Aspect

- Many SDIs have a strong organisational change aspect.
- Typically this aspect provides the challenge, not the technical.
- Many operate across organisations, or if internal within an organisation, work across sections.
- The SDI drives collaboration across organisational and spatial boundaries.
- For example the local authority SDIs in Ireland are particularly important given weak regional government structures.

# Its not just about GI

- All put spatial data as a key 'pivot' around which the organisation operates.
- However must recognise the importance of non-spatial data – geographers like to be protectionist about GI and think spatial is all that is important!
- '80%' of data is spatial but perhaps 80% of the importance of a spatial dataset is the non-spatial element.
- SDIs must see across to other data types and standards and regulations – eGoc, PSI, FOI, WFD, SEA, GBIF.

# Standards Compliance

- The technical implementations of the SDIs are not always INSPIRE, OGC or standards compliant.
- However current implementations make next steps towards compliance easier.
- Less focus on particular vendor platforms but more on the standards and interoperability.

# Moving to hybrid architectures

- Many SDIs have taken centralised 'data hub' type approaches.
- Of interest to note that these are planning moving to inclusion of distributed nodes via web services.
- The hybrid model of a central hub to support certain organisations with distributed nodes for those self sufficient organisations are natural progression.

# Money, money, money...

- Quite a number of the SDIs are central funded.
- Others have or are moving towards contributory data models.
- Signs apparent that use of the contributory model will increase as budgets tighten and any single organisation does not wish or cannot carry the can.

# Some other Irish SDI examples

- Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources (including the Geological Survey)
  - Provides OGC web services of its key data.
  - Changed data pricing policy to free data.
  - Participates actively in national ISDI discussions, including leading role in ISDE.
- National Biodiversity Data Centre ([www.biodiversityireland.ie](http://www.biodiversityireland.ie))
  - Parallels the UK National Biodiversity Network
  - Combines spatial and biodiversity records.
  - Serving of data to GBIF web services standards ([gbif.org](http://gbif.org)), and later OGC.
- Water Framework Directive implementation
  - Devolved delivery of WFD – Central Environmental Protection Agency etc., River Basin District projects, local authorities, with transnational aspect (close IE-NI-UK cooperation, EU aspect)
  - Extensive enhancement of datasets to national base mapping.
  - Web based data delivery and interpretation services.
  - Pending OGC services.



# Initiative required, and hard choices pending

- SDIs often driven by individual initiative.
- Even development of strategic view is firstly driven by single individuals.
- Opportunity to forge progress by individuals.
  
- In Irish case there is weak or absent national coordination, and likewise across local authorities, leading to lost opportunities, suboptimal use of resources.
- This situation makes the successes of those SDIs in place all the more notable.
  
- The significant budget cutbacks will mean loss of some important SDI-related initiatives but may also lead to more focussed and strategic action.
- Also provides the opportunity to cut loose the excess or the non-functioning parts relating to GI and build better approaches and organisations.