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)**
  - ☐ Parallels the UK National Biodiversity Network
  - ☐ Combines spatial and biodiversity records.
  - ☐ Serving of data to GBIF web services standards (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.