

Announcement

Identification and Analysis of Spatial Data Infrastructures Best Practices

Towards the

SDI Best Practice Award 2009

GET INVOLVED!

Through the currently on going process for the *Identification and Analysis of SDI Best Practices* at sub national level, the ESDI-Net+ project offers limited opportunity for SDI's throughout European countries and regions to present themselves in personal interviews and local workshops both to Spatial Data Experts and local SDI stakeholders.

Following to the *Identification and Analysis of Best Practices*, outstanding European SDI initiatives and solutions will be awarded in 2009. Aiming to give all relevant initiatives the chance for participating, as well as provide inputs for the definition of the key references and criteria, the SDI's throughout Europe are welcome to pre-register for this process.

SDIs that wish to pre-register are kindly invited

to submit their application until

September 22, 2008

The objectives of the EC funded project eSDI-NET+ is to target users and bring together key European SDI stakeholders through a Thematic Network - a platform for communication and knowledge exchange at all levels, from local to global.

Through the promotion of high-level decisions and technical discussion, the network will help to raise awareness of the important role SDIs play in the enrichment and reuse of GI. In addition, eSDI-NET+ will tackle the multicultural and multilingual barriers to accessing, exploiting, using and reusing GI. As a result, greater steps will be made towards interoperability through the expression of common standards between national digital collections and services, especially in cross-border contexts.

For further info please refer to www.esdinetplus.eu

IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS OF SDI BEST PRACTICES

Objectives

The overall purpose of the current identification and analysis process, established in the context of the EC project eSDI-NET+, is to foster pan-European information exchange on SDI Best Practices, particularly at sub national level, with an emphasis for the user benefits related to their socio-economic and operational impact, both in the public and private sector.

It aims to promote existing, working, accessible and intelligible solutions, to communicate the purpose and aims of the INSPIRE directive, to improve the overall knowledge about SDI's and to encourage local collaboration in setting up innovative solutions in terms of efficiency and effectiveness.

The process will lead to the SDI Best Practice Award in 2009.

Interviews and workshops

SDI's are bound to complex structures that vary in their definition of substance and in function. To achieve a coherent identification and evaluation of existing SDI's, the eSDI-NET+ project is now starting a broad assessment campaign particularly at sub national level.

For the purpose, the project is now offering limited opportunity for SDI's throughout European countries and regions to present themselves in personal interviews and local workshops, both to Spatial Data Experts and local SDI stakeholders. This will give existing SDIs the chance to participate in the process of defining the key references and criteria for assessing SDI Best Practices.

Who should participate?

The eSDI-NET+ network invites all types and sizes of stakeholders in charge of SDI developments from any region of Europe and at any level, from local through regional to national. The application should be submitted by organisations facilitating access to geographical content or providing geo-information services to end-users.

SDI's to be considered must meet the following criteria:

1. They must have been operating for at least the last one year
2. They should meet the overall profile outlined in the current invitation
3. The SDI application must also be web-based
4. The application must include an accessible web address

How to get involved?

SDI's that are interested both in the discourse of their SDI assessment and in presenting their solutions to a wider audience will be requested to send their initial material (see below) to either our local representative or submit it via the eSDI-NET+ website.

After this input has been evaluated, a number of promising SDI's will be selected for one detailed interview to provide the eSDI-NET+ associates with further information about their developments and objectives.

Each interviewed SDI will then be evaluated by the national representative of the eSDI-NET+ project, taking diverse criteria into account. Key aspects of successful SDI selection will comprise:

- 1 Technological, innovative level and originality of the project
2. Implementation and/or readiness for INSPIRE principles
3. Level of fostering cooperation between different users (proof of visibility and/or user feedback)
4. Possibility of extension to other countries and regions

Local /regional workshop

After the interview, selected Best Practices will be invited to present their developments at local/regional workshops to other SDI developers, regional representatives of GI related industry, government and academia.

Dates and locations for those workshops will soon be announced at www.esdinetplus.eu.

SDI BEST PRACTICE AWARD 2009

The Competition

Following to the described identification and analysis process, the eSDI-NET+ project will award the European's SDI Best Practices at sub national level in 2009.

Successful entries will be evaluated within categories such as "Innovative Approach", "Technical Development", "INSPIRE Compliance" and "Networking People". The overall competition will be based on the SDI evaluation criteria which are going to be defined during the process for the identification and analysis of SDI Best Practices.

The SDI's registered for the identification and analysis phase will automatically be considered for the 2009 Award, providing they have been positively evaluated during the described process.

The Call

After having defined all the criteria for assessing SDI best practices, an official call for entries will be launched in early 2009. In response and in addition to the already evaluated candidates from the identification and analysis phase, further SDI's will be asked to submit their application.

The International Conference

An international conference is planned for end of 2009, where a final selection of SDIs is given the opportunity to present themselves, as well as relevant organisations and companies, who would like to showcase at the event.

It is estimated that the event will attract an international audience engaged in GI matters and usage at European, national, regional and local levels.

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.

REGISTER

The entry forms (ID cards) shall be submitted:

- (a) either on-line on the www.esdinetplus.eu website,
- (b) or off-line, by downloading the entry form in "pdf" format from the website www.esdinetplus.eu and then submitted to bestpractice@esdinetplus.eu or to the local contact point (check www.esdinetplus.eu/award/contact.html)

The entry form must contain:

- A) The completed SDI - ID Card
with an initial statement about the SDI, addressing the questions named there.
- B) The applicant may also submit a poster proving facts described in the entry form. Photo's and posters can be sent either electronically together with the application to the above e-mail address or by regular mail to the following postal address:

eSDI-NET+
c/o INI-GraphicsNet Stiftung
Rundeturmstrasse 10
64283 Darmstadt

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 2008-09-22

To obtain further details, please visit www.esdinetplus.eu/


Annex

SDI - ID Card

Please, fill in the SDI – ID Card for registration
and give a statement about your SDI
taking the introductory questions into account, as appropriate.

Registration can be done online on the www.esdinetplus.eu website
or off-line, as stated in the announcement

Sub-national SDI name:	
Sub-national name:	
Country name:	
Mission statement:	
Year of creation:	
Development status (inception, in development, in operation):	
Your institution's URL:	
Your application's URL:	

The logo for eSDI-NET plus is centered in the background of the form. It features the text 'eSDI-NET' in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'plus' in a smaller, italicized font to its right. Above the text are three blue stars of varying sizes, arranged in a slight arc.

SDI Statement

Introductory questions:

1. What are objectives of your SDI (describe clearly the objective of your SDI)?
2. Who are your user types /groups /communities?
3. What is the technological level of the project?
4. What is the level of innovation and originality of your project?
5. To which level is your development compliant to or ready for INSPIRE principles and standards?
6. What are economical, social and environmental benefits of the solution?
7. What is the possibility of extending towards other countries and regions?
8. Give us user feedback and credit references

Thank you for registering to the eSDI-NET+ evaluation process of SDI Best Practices