

Why and How EUROGI Supports Pan European GI Cooperation

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Key words:

SUMMARY

Europe knows many Pan European GI associations all with their own legitimate goals and members. They operate in the technical, professional, research and thematic areas or like EUROGI represent the broad national GI-associations in Europe. They follow and analyse developments independently of each other. They often have an interest in the same developments and develop and put forward their own specific views that are seldom aligned with that of others. EUROGI is one of these organisations. In 2004 a number of the organisations joined hands and created an informal European GI Network: EGIN. An informal group, EGIN's main goals are to bring each other up to date on activities, planned actions as well as to discuss common bottlenecks and challenges on GI related issues across Europe. Where possible, a common view is formed.

GI is critical for economic development, good governance and delivery of better services to the citizen. The GI community should convince decision-makers at all levels (from within local municipalities to the European Union) that geographical information is important to them for many reasons. It is clear that better co-operation amongst the European GI organisations helps enormously.

Better co-operation helps the GI community to send a clear message on what they can do for the EC and the EU, which in turn makes more favourable decisions for the GI community.

In recent years Europe as in other parts of the world has seen many encouraging developments take place in the field of geographic information (GI) these include for instance: INSPIRE, GMES (Global Monitoring for Environment and Security, GALILEO (the European Satellite Navigation System) and more. Also the reviewed Lisbon agenda of more and better jobs, sustainable economic growth and greater competitiveness is of major importance.

Why is EUROGI in the frontline of the development of co-operating with other Pan European organisations, why does it warmly support and start this EGIN-initiative? And what does the EGIN do? Who are participating? Who can join? What was the process we went through? That is what the presentation will clarify including sharing the most recent developments within EUROGI itself.

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