The MedWet Web Information System: An SDI application

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ABSTRACT

Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) are coordinated frameworks for accessing and using geographic information (GI). Their main objective is to diffuse GI with a view to support decision making. The importance of GI to support decision making and management of several national, regional and global issues was cited as critical at the 1992 UN Rio Summit. In the mid-90s, many countries realised the benefit of common standards and data interoperability and began to share their resource information in an effort to reduce costs and avoid duplication of efforts in collecting, archiving and managing spatial data.

The maturation of the INSPIRE initiative for establishing a European SDI raises new challenges for research and practice. INSPIRE defines requirements and implements rules that national or regional SDIs will have to comply with by 2010.

The present presentation introduces the main concepts of SDIs and of the INSPIRE Initiative and describes the methodological approach that will be followed to establish the MedWet-CODDE Web Information System as a regional SDI for sharing and managing wetland data in compliance with the INSPIRE Initiative.