

The Finnish GI/SDI strategy

http://www.mmm.fi/patine/Paikkatietostrategia_Eng.pdf

- prepared by the Finnish Council for GI (accepted 19.8.2004)
- the INSPIRE process was followed during the preparation
- part of the Government Information Society Programme
- includes guidelines and working programmes (22 sections) for:
 - co-operation structures and mechanisms
 - standards and specifications
 - harmonisation of the core data sets
 - metadata and metadata services
 - GI services
 - use and access policy
 - user applications
 - research and education
 - communication



General status of the strategy implementation

- new coordination body (National Council for Geographic Information)
- supporting working groups (4 WG's)
- first implementation actions (preparatory steps)
- INSPIRE follow up
- political awareness raising

The Finnish Council for Geographic Information

- official national advisory board in GI affairs
- term until end of 2007
- 18 members, key stakeholders (government organisations, research, industry, ...)
- main task: implementation of the SDI strategy
- part-time secretariat
- 4 working groups:
 - metadata
 - harmonisation
 - data services
 - research and education

Working groups are planning and monitoring the implementation.

They are also in contact with the INSPIRE drafting teams as interest communities

Implementation actions of the strategy

- **standards and specifications**
 - several national recommendations in process
- **harmonisation of the core data sets**
 - identification of the harmonisation needs ongoing (WG)
- **metadata and metadata services**
 - recommendation is ready (HUT)
 - new metadata service in development (NLS)
- **GI services**
 - drafting of the interface recommendations ongoing (FGI)
- **use and access policy**
 - analysis of models ongoing (WG)
- **user applications**
 - general map viewing service exists (Mapsite/NLS)
 - GI lending facility (TU)
- **research and education**
 - analysis of development needs ongoing (WG)
- **communication**
 - national independent magazine exists
 - annual GI related fair exists
 - preliminary analysis of national GI/SDI portals

The progress of the INSPIRE proposal and development of the implementation rules are followed closely.

Challenges in the implementation of the national strategy

- political support & long term funding
- feasibility with the INSPIRE; final form & timetable ?
- development of national budget policy; funding & pricing ?
- structure and role of the local level administration in future
- co-operation between organisations; new national legislation ?
- resources for co-ordination; on voluntary basis ?

Ongoing GI activities

- General guidelines for harmonisation of GI (English version available soon)
- National metadata directory ("EuroMapFinder for Finland")
- General principles and rules for distribution of GI (pricing, copyrights/IPR etc.)
- Preparations for implementing INSPIRE directive (+conciliation process?)

Metadata WG

- National recommendation for metadata is ready (implementation helpdesk)
- National metadata service to be opened in June (?)
- Preliminary study on National Geoportal ongoing

Planning & controlling group of the Council

- Guiding of the national geoportal development (done in metadata WG)
- Information plan (PR) of the Council
- Economic influences of different pricing models of GI

Research & education WG

- Increasing of research financing
- Research 'school' for GI scientists
- Network services for GI education ('virtual university')
- Classification of knowledge levels in GI tasks
- Training courses for GI teachers

Harmonisation WG

- Harmonisation of the reference GI (listed in INSPIRE annexes)
- Unique identifiers for spatial objects
- Quality management of GI (national recommendation almost ready)
- Quality criteria for spatial objects
- Product specifications of GI
- GIS prize (for advanced use) ?

Data services WG

- Lending of GI dataset examples
- Piloting of WMS-, WFS- and FE-services
- National recommendation on those services (and implementing in the national geoportal) and on modeling (+GML profile)
- National recommendations prepared by Kommunförbundet (municipal large scale data and city plans)