



Objectives of the workshop “Land use/land cover products: challenges and opportunities “

This workshop aims at sharing participants knowledge and experience around the usage, design, production and maintenance of land use/land cover products in order to fulfill user requirements and legal obligations (such as INSPIRE), as well as presenting ongoing research that may benefit to these processes.

Describing land, through its physical properties and functional characteristics, to support decision from local to global level, in particular to observe land evolution through time, at a sustainable cost for society is a domain with many challenges and opportunities. Different approaches have been developed in this domain at the operational level or in innovation projects prototypes. For example, many existing products merge Land Cover and existing Land Use information whereas in the INSPIRE directive, Land Cover and Land Use are in two separate themes.

On the one hand, the legal context and the new technical opportunities may require data producers to design new land cover and land use products. On the other hand, land cover and land use data are often used to compute evolution indicators, which requires persistent or at least comparable specifications; therefore users may be reluctant to changes in data specification or at least, they will require help to migrate from their usual product to a new one.

The workshop aims at helping data producers to make decisions regarding evolution of their land cover and land use data products and at identifying possible actions between involved stakeholders in order to solve issues and to foster innovation in LU/LC products.

Questions to consider / discuss:

How much is the legal context impacting the availability and interoperability of land cover and land use products?

What about the articulation between national or even local products and the pan-European ones? Are these products providing complementary information or are they causing duplication of efforts?

How to model these pieces of information and where are the tradeoffs? Do we need different products for different usages?

How to manage temporal aspects, e.g. how to ensure computation of meaningful environmental indicators in case of new data specifications as well as back in time?

How much are new sensing capacities –e.g. : high resolution satellite imagery, sensor networks, unmanned aerial vehicles, VGI- an opportunity to derive new information or to lower costs?

Does this domain require new GIS software capacities: handling multiple levels of details, several classifications, patchwork products?