

Learnings and questions about data interoperability in the biodiversity community

Workshop « extensions of INSPIRE data specifications »

20-21 June 2017

Context

- Workshop about “**Interoperability of Information Systems on Water and Biodiversity**”
 - organised on 28-29 March 2017
 - French community
 - Organisers:
 - French Agency for Biodiversity
 - BRGM (geologic survey)
 - MNHM (National Natural History Museum)
 - IFREMER (Sea research)



Context

- Workshop about “Interoperability of Information Systems on Water and Biodiversity”
 - 4 separate discussion sessions
 - Efficient and adapted network for data capture
 - Ideal knowledge organisation
 - Exploitation and delivery of data processes
 - Better use and re-use of data

Context

- The biodiversity workshop was not (mainly) about INSPIRE
- But about interoperability in general
- However, some learnings and questions are of interest for today workshop about INSPIRE “extensions”
- Legend for following slides
 - Mention from biodiversity conference
 - Potential questions for today workshop
 - To be answered by presenters during their presentation
 - Or possibly for discussion session

Who?

- Standardisation communities are generally too small, not representative enough
- Who contributed to the INSPIRE extension exercise? Were relevant stakeholders involved?

Which users?

- End users is not public at large, end users are deciders!
- Which are the targeted users of the INSPIRE “extension”?

Which interoperability ambition?

- Nothing is perfect. It is impossible to be both
 - universal
 - perfectly adapted to a « business » , to a specific use case
- Which was your main ambition? Have you succeeded to find the right balance?

Reference data

- Interoperability is ensured not only by standards but also by reference data (used by all stakeholders)
- Don't put "business data" within reference data. Put in reference data only what you can maintain and guarantee ... even if limited content
- Is your INSPIRE extension about reference data? Is there any guarantee about content and quality?

Interoperability issues

- What to do if data does not fit with and into the standard?
 - Extend the standard
 - Change the standard
 - Use the standard only as exchange format
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- During the “extension” exercise, have you met cases where standard (INSPIRE data model) should be changed?

Interoperability issues

- The Information System on Water example
 - Good internal interoperability within the Information System
 - But not interoperable with other domains or communities (silo effect)
- How to ensure interoperability with other domains?
 - Just by spatial overlay – by georeferencement?
 - By unique identifiers shared by all stakeholders?
 - Or should we accept to have different views on same real-world phenomena?
- During the “extension” exercise, have you cared about interoperability with other domains or themes?

Interoperability issues

- The Information System on Water example
 - Big system
 - Very difficult to **manage changes** in our standards
 - It takes long time before adopted by all stakeholders
 - We should accept to live with several versions of standard at same time
- Have you cared about possible evolution of your INSPIRE “extension”? Do you expect changes in near future?

Validation

- A standard should be validated only once implemented in (at least) a use case
- Which validation process for your INSPIRE « extension »?

Conclusion

- Have you reached an ideal organization of knowledge?