

Paving the Way for the Implementation of the NSDI in NGO-Government Partnership

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SUMMARY

The networked GI community in a country can significantly contribute to the better definition, implementation and control of the national spatial data infrastructure. This is valid also for Hungary, where the preparation of the adoption of INSPIRE directive is underway in NGO-governmental partnership with the active role of the Hungarian Association for Geo-information.

In Hungary, the national GI association HUNAGI was established by ten scientific societies, academic institutions and the HUNGIS Foundation under the auspices of the National Committee on Technological Development in 1994. The co-operation between HUNAGI and the governmental agencies in the field of spatial data infrastructure has started in 1996 as the NSDI concept was realised at the first GSDI Conference held in Bonn-Königswinter, Germany. Since that time HUNAGI attended all of the GSDI conferences and its slogan was chosen as “A Forum of PPP to support building the Spatial Data Infrastructure on National, European and Global Level”. According to the mission goal, HUNAGI became really interdisciplinary having today 106 member institutions who represent the academia, governmental sector, NGOs and private companies in a balanced way.

HUNAGI joined EUROGI in 1996. Influenced by the trend on global and European level, the GI association successfully contributed to the elaboration of the GIS strategy orchestrated by the HUNGIS Foundation and KPMG, as well as to the definition of the core data of the NSDI approved by the Interministerial Committee on Informatics and Communication in 1997.

HUNAGI and its steadily growing number of members were deeply involved in European projects orchestrated or supported by the European institutions (Phare, IST, TEMPUS etc). These projects such as OLLO, ABDS, Panel-GIS, LIME, SDILA, ESMI, ETEMII, Nature-GIS, were extremely useful to achieve cohesion and strengthen the team spirit in fields, which are inevitable for the implementation of the national SDI. These projects served as complimentary actions to the ongoing governmental projects such as National Cadastral Project, National Topomap Program, the institutional building and IT upgrade of the Land Office Network (TAKAROS, TAKARNET, META), agricultural and environmental monitoring programmes CROPMON and CORINE, the elements of the NPAA (national programme of the adoption of Acquis Communautaire) including LUCAS, MADOP, VINGIS, the land policy related TAMA and TALC as well as the international cooperation

and actions in geodesy, cartography, remote sensing and in a wide area of applications from regional planning to satellite navigation.

After the successful GSDI6 Conference organised jointly with EUROGI in Budapest, HUNAGI was invited by the European Commission to join the INSPIRE Expert Group in 2002. Experts of HUNAGI members had the opportunity to contribute to the working teams actions related to different subtopics even before Hungary became full member of the European Union in May 2004. HUNAGI took part at the World Forum on Information Society and initiated the successful establishment of the Task Force on SDI Strategy under the Subcommittee on Strategic Analysis of the Intergovernmental Committee on Information Society in 2004.