

Examining European SDI Initiatives in Anticipation of a SDI Framework for Turkey

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SUMMARY

Spatial information has an important role for development process of a country. It provides an economic value and also contributes to several policy areas. To use spatial information effectively, many governmental organizations started to perceive the importance of more integrated assessments because of environmental and social needs. Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI) coordinates actions of nations and organizations that promote awareness and implementation of complimentary policies, common standards and effective mechanisms for the development and availability of interoperable spatial data and technologies to support decision making for multiple purposes. SDI with the contribution of Information Age promotes more effective delivery of services to public, government, business, and other related sectors. European countries are in the process of developing SDIs at national and/or regional/local levels. The institutional and cultural heterogeneity of Europe results in variations of SDI activities. Europe becomes economically and socially more integrated. EU countries and also accession and candidate countries promote Europe-wide frameworks of spatial data with some common initiatives and activities. Most initiatives are developing the legal framework needed to underpin the creation of a European SDI, starting from priorities in the environmental field, it is clearly important to evaluate the extent of progress of SDIs in Europe, and to identify key issues that need to be addressed to ensure complementary between European and national/regional developments. Turkey is aiming to become a member of EU. Current situation about the use of spatial information is examined for Turkey in view of organizations, legal framework, data, technology, standard, and metadata. Depending on these European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI) initiatives, differences and the common issues between the countries will be determined, prospects for further developments provided and necessary future activities and policy recommendations were done. As a result of this, general criterion is determined for building a Regional/National SDI on EU candidate countries.