

Spatial Data Infrastructures in a Social Interactionism Perspective: A challenge for sustainable development

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ABSTRACT

The researches about technological determinism and social determinism have shown that there are one circular action between technology and society. Technologies transform the societies that transform the technologies. On the last years, Geospatial Information (GI) has seen as an increasing number of countries are conducting projects in order to add Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) initiatives.

Diverse social, economic, political, cultural and technological contexts, within and between the territorial organizations levels, can influence positively or negatively the SDI's development. The interaction SDI – Context – Organization has been, until the moment, little studied.

It is necessary to understand, and eventually to redefine, the nature of the SDI initiatives. If the planet needs valuable SDI for the sustainable development of all the people, the social interaction SDI vision is required.

According with AGENDA21 each one can be a user and/or a supplier of information, data, knowledge, and experiences. The mutual action between providers and users of the information will help to eliminate the deep differences on the available information and to improve, at the same time, the access to this information. This conception of reciprocity is a social interaction opportunity.

The aim of this paper is to introduce in the theories of the social interactionism and their potential applications in the SDI conceptualization. It will demonstrate that as a key factor for sustainable development the SDI should transform (to make better), the social organizations (geospatial institutions), who will transform the SDI in a powerful Geospatial Decision Instrument (GDI).

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