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Country Report of Germany *

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This short report provides an overview of the status of the SDI structure and activity in Germany¹. The rationale for it was the report “Spatial Data Infrastructures in Germany: INSPIRE State of Play 2010”.

Overview

The structure of government in Germany has three distinct levels of public authority: local, regional and national, all of which are generators and holders of public information.

This structure has an influence on the development of the German SDI. The **national SDI in Germany (GDI-DE)** is a public infrastructure being coordinated by a common steering committee (Lenkungsremium GDI-DE - LG GDI-DE, <http://www.gdi-de.org/>) comprising members from the federal government, the federal states and the communal head associations. Each federal state member represents and coordinates the public services, agencies etc. of its respective federal state, e.g. the mapping and cadastre administration, the geological agency, the environmental agency etc. The federal government coordinates its interests and activities through the federal Inter-ministerial Committee for Geo-Information (IMAGI, <http://www.imagi.de>) and contributes to the LG GDI-DE. The IMAGI is chaired by the Federal Ministry of Interior. The organizational structure of GDI-DE is completed by the GIW-Kommission (Commission for Geo-Information Business), which can be seen as a consulting body with respect to economic interests inside the development of SDI in Germany. The GIW-Kommission is a body chaired by the Federal Ministry of Economies and Technology. It contains mainly members from national lobby organizations. The coordination offices within the GDI-DE are cooperating in various projects with the aim of removing obstacles against an easy use of geo-data sets provided by public authorities. These obstacles are: heterogeneous licensing, rather high pricing or insufficient quality and legal restrictions of access and use by data protection laws. A wide approval by SDI stakeholders inside the public administration is guaranteed.

Surveying and mapping administration is a task of the 16 federal states. Each of the federal states is responsible for its own topographic and cadastral service, environmental and statistical data collection, and in general for data policies. Traditionally data collection is largely decentralized and carried out mostly on the regional and local level, which means that the processing and maintenance of data is mostly tailored to local and regional requirements, which leads to a built-in incompatibility. The different federal states have issued laws that regulate the work, which the regional and local authorities are carrying out. The "Surveying and Cadastral Acts" may serve as example. The surveying and mapping administrations of the federal states are responsible for creating and maintaining the reference data describing real estate and the landscape. Whereas the mapping agencies of the federal states are responsible for providing large and medium scale reference data, the cadastre offices have to perform the tasks of the real estate cadastre and to support the work of the mapping

¹ **Source:** Comprehensive version of the country report of Germany (Date issued 2010-09-01):
<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/stateofplay2009/rcr09DEv121.pdf>



agencies. The responsible ministries and directors are collaborating in the Working Committee of the Surveying Authorities of the federal states of the Federal Republic of Germany (AdV – Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Vermessungsverwaltungen der Länder der Bundesrepublik Deutschland – <http://www.adv-online.de>). The Federal Ministries of the Interior, and of Transport, Building and Housing as well as the Head of the Geo-Information Service of the Defence "AGeoBW" (Amt für Geoinformationswesen der Bundeswehr) are further members of the AdV. Permanent guests of AdV are the German Geodetic Commission (DGK), representing the universities, education and research in geodesy and geo-information, and the "Bund/Länder Working Committee for Rural Development (ArgeLandentwicklung)", responsible for land consolidation and rural development in Germany. The AdV provides common documentation of the reference data available as well as a pricing and data collection policy. A metadata information system informs users about the availability and quality of topographic reference data. ATKIS® (Authoritative Topographic-Cartographic Information System) as a central service of the German national survey is a major common project of the 16 federal state surveying authorities and the BKG (Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie, the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy). The product line comprises digital landscape models (DLM), including digital terrain models (DGM), and the digital topographic map series 1:25,000 to 1:1,000,000.

There is an authorization by agreements between the Federal Administration and the federal states on the production of topographic reference data (including maps). All maps with scales larger than 1:200,000 are done by the federal states, while the maps with equal and smaller scales are compiled by BKG. The BKG supports the administrations of the Federation and the federal states as a competence centre for geodesy and geo-information. It advises the Federal Government in all questions related to geodesy and geo-information and it safeguards the relevant German interests at the European and international level. BKG contributes significantly to the establishment and the deployment of the German SDI (GDI-DE).

The Deutscher Dachverband für Geoinformation (DDGI – German Umbrella Organisation for geo-information) is a lobbying body. The DDGI (<http://www.ddgi.de>) is a forum for institutional players and data providers from across the country, with members from the private sector and academia. DDGI promotes interdisciplinary German interests in the private GI sector, stimulates the construction and the application of geo-information on national and international level. It aims at optimizing the economical use by quality and contents' standardization and at improving the availability and usability of geo-data. It is an interdisciplinary, non-profit and neutral organization. Through its initiatives it tries to promote synergy across the main stakeholders at federal and federal state level, and linkages to the European dimension via EUROGI (European umbrella organization for Geographic Information, <http://www.eurogi.org/>).