

Challenges in Developing Core Global Reference Datasets

- How to create an efficient network of information resources accessible via the Internet

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The development of core global reference datasets is closely connected to ongoing SDI-related activities. In Europe the INSPIRE Directive is a driving force for creation of interoperability (semantic, technical and organisational) at national levels. This work is also supported by organisations such as EuroGeographics and EuroGeosurveys, which are creating harmonised European datasets and services. INSPIRE also influences SDI developments in many countries outside the EU. At the global level important standardisation work is carried out by ISO and OGC. The setting up of Global Map has also given access to general data – and important lessons on how to create harmonised data. Globally, important work is also carried out within different thematic communities, including defence.

The Multinational Geospatial Co-Program (MGCP), initiated by NATO, has 29 countries participating with the aim to create global coverage of topographic maps at the scale of 1:50 000 or 1:100 000 and an elevation database with an accuracy of 10 metres. The military bodies have achieved substantial results, and a closer co-operation between civil and military bodies concerning data specifications and databases with fundamental topographic data should be established.

Web services will most likely be the technology used for giving access to spatial information being captured, maintained and supplied by a wide range of organisations.