Abstract

1. Introduction
Several activities are supporting public sector organisations to implement the INSPIRE Directive but how can they easily collaborate with software providers to have interoperable and reusable solutions? Similarly, how can we best involve FOSS actors to make INSPIRE fully operational so that, in turn, we can protect the European environment, reuse INSPIRE in other sectors and make best use of its data in mobile apps and other applications? This paper outlines some answers to these questions but also poses others to understand the FOSS community’s role at the conference.

2. Creating open source tools in ARE3NA
Action 1.17 of the EU’s Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA) Programme: A Reusable INSPIRE Reference Platform (ARE3NA) was presented at the FOSS4G CEE conference in 2013, shortly after its launch. Led by the technical coordinators of INSPIRE, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC), the project has been supporting INSPIRE implementation and reuse through open source interoperability solutions, including
- a testbed for access control to spatial data and services (JRC, 2015a)
- the Re3gistry, software to manage data codes and labels, deployed in the INSPIRE Registry (JRC, 2015b)
- A candidate Download Service using OGC Sensor Observation Services (52North, 2014)
- Reusing INSPIRE metadata in open data portals (Goedertier, 2014)
This experience, and the support to the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG), has shown benefits and identified opportunities. As more organisations implement INSPIRE, a sustainable approach is needed beyond ARE3NA to support the supply and demand of solutions. Already, FOSS developers are playing an important role in providing INSPIRE-related solutions, as seen through a list of tools drafted by OSGEO members (OSGEO, 2014).

3. Developing platforms for implementation
Our notion of a ‘reference platform’ includes an arena where implementers find information about software, while developers can showcase their tools or apps/applications using the infrastructure. It should also be a virtual setting for stakeholders to discuss how tools supporting INSPIRE implementation and reuse can be improved or new tools made to fill gaps, and to explore how such developments could be funded. ARE3NA is building this platform incrementally and needs feedback from the FOSS community. Some key questions include:
- Do FOSS actors share INSPIRE core values and consider themselves to be partners?
- Do they know their solutions fit INSPIRE’s needs?
- Do they see enough/potential business in INSPIRE?
- What do they see as barriers to collaboration with implementers, and who else could be involved?
- What basic information do (re)users of INSPIRE data need to readily build applications/ apps?

To help this discussion, an initial survey in ARE3NA gathered a list of around 40 topics that stakeholders felt would help INSPIRE tools to function better and ‘bridge the gap’ between INSPIRE and other sectors. Work is planned for the 2015 INSPIRE conference to explore this topic with implementers (and some software developers). This paper and discussion will allow FOSS actors to provide their views before ARE3NA aims to move collaboration online.

References


