NSDI CAPACITY BUILDING IN CROATIA

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Abstract

Promoting importance of spatial data in society is of key importance, on which success of the improvement of NSDI greatly depends. One of key factors is the degree of education of NSDI subjects as well as whole GI market and community. Experts and those who often use spatial data are aware of the benefits of improving the existing NSDI, but it is not the case in the society as a whole. Not acknowledging the importance and effect of spatial data on everyday decision making is a factor which casts the NSDI improvement as unnecessary.

Until now five NSDI working groups have been established (Rašić and Bačić 2010). One that deals with awareness raising is WG for Capacity Building. Working group capacity building is dealing with problems resulted from lack of GI/NSDI professionals needed to expedite the NSDI establishment process as well as readiness of user communities to utilize NSDI concepts and to adopt those concepts into their workflows.

Although some previous research regarding NSDI awareness has been already conducted (Bačić and Šainović 2006; Cetl et al. 2009) WG for Capacity Building conducted the new research in 2010 with the main goal to analyze the existing situation in the exchange of spatial data in Croatia, with the intention to get an insight into the availability and the mechanisms of approach to spatial data, as well as the legal framework and internal books of rules that define the exchange of data.

Results of the research showed that (Poslončec-Petrić 2010):
• the national services of spatial data are not functioning,
• there are additional multiple registers along with official registers, which causes confusion and lack of confidence among users regarding the accuracy of data, and results in unnecessary expenses in the process of testing the data accuracy,
• the knowledge about the existence, usage and possibility of data exchange is very limited; the procedure of obtaining the data is not clear, and the problem of not being informed about the existence of individual data can be specially emphasized.

In general subjects of NSDI are not well informed about existence of NSDI and possibilities. The promotion of the importance of spatial data should be directed especially to the users, as well as to the institutions running individual registers. The NSDI awareness raising should be directed to the entire user community, and it is extremely necessary to work on the creation of NSDI capacities for the purpose of training the user community to accept the NSDI concept.

References


