

SDI's as Basic Components of e-Government and e-Business – The German Approach

Heinz BRUEGGEMANN, Germany

Key words: National Geographical Data Infrastructure, e-Government, cross-border cooperation

SUMMARY

In 1999 Germany started to implement its Geographical Data Infrastructure (GDI). Especially in the State of North-Rhine Westphalia the involvement of the private sector led to in-depth discussions how to generate sustainable and successful business models in close co-operation of public and private sectors. A main success factor was a bottom-up approach integrating the interests of all involved market partners from the beginning. The result of this strategy is a very active GDI scenery with a lot of participants and projects from all parts of Germany. In between, a national organisational structure has been built by the German States and the Federation, integrating the GDI as a basic component of the national e-Government plan including the interests of the GI economy. On the other hand, regional and local initiatives join partners from private, public and scientific sectors to set up living GDI services for the citizen. In addition, cross-border activities with neighbouring countries have been started.