



Conference

Methods and Tools for the implementation of the European Directive INSPIRE

The conference “**Methods and Tools for the implementation of the European Directive INSPIRE**” will take place in Park Hotel Moskva, Sofia on Wednesday, 16 March 2011. It will inform about possibilities of realizing spatial data infrastructures and will present tools, practical experiences and results necessary for harmonizing existing geospatial data with the requirements of the European Directive INSPIRE. It is organized by the two European projects Nature-SDI*plus* and Humboldt with URSIT Ltd. as the main local organizer, supported by Vitosha Nature Park Directorate and Strandja Nature Park Directorate - Bulgarian partners in the Nature-SDI*plus* project, and the Association for Geospatial Information in South-East Europe (AGISEE).

INSPIRE, the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe (<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>), is a legal framework, which intends to trigger the creation of a European spatial data infrastructure to deliver integrated spatial information services. These services should make relevant and harmonised spatial data available for Community Environmental Policy and for the citizen.

The conference is organized as part of the “**Initiative Spatial Data for Nature Protection**” that aims at discussing issues related to the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive for the creation and use of spatial data in the field of nature protection and management. The initiative was launched in 2009 by URSIT Ltd., together with Vitosha Nature Park Directorate, Strandja Nature Park Directorate and the Bulgarian Association of Parks in Bulgaria. A first conference had taken place in Sofia on 1 and 2 December 2009, which provided information about INSPIRE and about the use of geospatial data for nature protection in Bulgaria and Europe and about Open Source GIS Software in this area.

The European project: "Best Practice Network for Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) in Nature Conservation - **Nature-SDI*plus***" (<http://www.nature-sdi.eu/>) brings all stakeholders together who are interested in geographical information for nature conservation in order to improve harmonisation of geospatial data with INSPIRE to better exploit and access them. The project started in October 2008 and will continue until June 2011. 30 partners from all over Europe work together in the project. As part of this project, the Nature-SDI*plus* network is created, with an open invitation to everybody interested. The network allows sharing data and best practices, improving and stimulating exploitation and the re-use of information on nature conservation.

The project **Humboldt** (<http://www.esdi-humboldt.eu/home.html>) addresses the implementation process of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure in providing software tools, processes and training to demonstrate the feasibility and benefits of this infrastructure. The Humboldt software tools cover the entire data harmonisation process as defined by INSPIRE.

The **conference “Methods and Tools for the implementation of the European Directive INSPIRE”** will be a unique opportunity to get an understanding of the results of the two European projects Nature-SDI*plus* and Humboldt. Participants will be able to join the Nature-SDI*plus* network and learn about:

- The two projects Humboldt and Nature-SDI*plus*, funded by the European Commission, and their results.
- The Directive INSPIRE, its current status and development.
- European programmes and initiatives related to INSPIRE.
- Methodologies, methods, tools and software useful for the practical implementation of INSPIRE.



- Practical experiences and results in implementing INSPIRE, in particular in protected areas which are however applicable in all areas.
- A training framework and e-learning tools provided by the two projects.
- Sharing of experiences between project partners and conference participants.

The conference will further feature an information stand of the Association of Parks in Bulgaria and an exhibition of the GIS products of the Turkish company NETCAD. NETCAD is a trademark and a complete software for GIS and GIS solutions, offering functionality for many applications in the public and other sectors. NETCAD is developed by "ULUSAL CAD ve GIS Cozumleri A.S." one of the most successful software companies in Turkey.

The conference is supported by the European Union's Research and Framework Programme. There is no entrance fee for the Conference. Participants are invited to a lunch during the conference.

After the conference, AGISEE, the Association for Geospatial Information in South-East Europe, will hold its annual general assembly, accessible only for members of AGISEE. The Nature-SDI*plus* network will meet on the two following days, 17 and 18 March 2011, for a closed project meeting.

On Saturday, 19 March 2011, a guided **excursion or field trip to Vitosha Mountain** will take place for the members of the Nature-SDI*plus* network and for members of AGISEE. Non members can participate as well but will have to contribute to the expenses with 60 BGN or 30 €.

Key Dates – Summary Information

16 March 2011	Conference "Methods and Tools for the implementation of the European Directive INSPIRE" AGISEE General Assembly
Venue	The conference will take place in Park Hotel Moskva Nezabravka Street 25, Sofia, Bulgaria, Tel. +359 2 9711024 Subway: Julio Kjuri (Жолио Кюри) http://www.parkhotelmoskva.net/
17/18 March 2011	Closed meeting of the Nature-SDI <i>plus</i> network
19 March 2011	Guided excursion to Vitosha Nature Park
More information and registration	http://www.ursit.com/conference

Contact information

URSIT Ltd., Sofia, Bulgaria	Ulrich Boes, Tel. +359 2 8702878, naturesdi@ursit.com
GISIG (Geographic Information Systems International Group), Genoa, Italy	Giorgio Saio, gisig@gisit.it