

How to assess and showcase the impact of open spatial information?

A case study

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ABSTRACT:

Some of the most frequent concerns related to Spatial Data Infrastructures and open spatial data are: “What is the impact of my spatial web services?” and “What is the impact of the open spatial data we provide?” EU countries, regions and municipalities have invested significant amount of money in creating their Spatial Data Infrastructures and spatial services. Public organisations that have opened their spatial data sets expect that open data are used extensively for the benefit of their local societies and businesses. Until now the impact of geospatial services has been usually reported as showing statistics about the number of services, number of requests sent to the services and number of downloads of spatial data from an SDI. These indicators are relatively easy to gather, but they do not describe the entire impact of data, so that more advanced analyses are needed.

In this presentation we describe a new methodology for impact assessment of open spatial data. The case-study here analyses the impact of Finnish Environment Institute’s (SYKE) open spatial information. The indicators were defined based on the strategic goals of SYKE and data for the indicators were collected automatically from SYKE’s services providing environmental information such as web maps, spatial web services and download services. Data sources used were Google Analytics, log files and Spatineo Platform. All indicators and their values were visualized on a dashboard so that decision makers, product owners and developers of services could easily get a shared situational awareness of the impact of environmental information.

We showed how indicators such as “How actively citizens are contributing to monitoring, observing and producing of data on nature?” and “Who are the specific users of data on built environment?” were derived, how the collected data for indicators was analysed and what interesting results the dashboard could show. Also, recommendations for improvements on how to increase the awareness of users about the available services and how to develop the technical infrastructure, so that all essential data for the indicators can be collected were listed. Using the dashboard produced, SYKE can track their progress with regards to their own strategic goals and provide clear and up-to-date metrics to help identify development areas and show their success.

KEYWORDS: Impact Assessment, Open data, KPIs, meters, automation, dashboard