



GI-INDEED

Geo-Information in the Implementation of
Net-based Distance Education for
Environmental Decision-making



Funded by the EU Commission
Leonardo Pilot Project
2005-S/05/B/F/PP-161012

Why GI-INDEED

The link between implementation of EU environmental directives (Water Framework Directive, Habitat Directive, INSPIRE, PSI Directive on the reuse of public sector information) and Geographical Information is nowadays considered extremely important and of topical interest.

The main goal of GI-INDEED is to develop a training initiative that helps to bridge the lack of knowledge about the support that a tuned use of geo-information can offer to the various government levels in implementing the existing and the forthcoming EU environmental directives.

The perspective is to favour a better environmental decision-making by the organisations in charge at the different levels of the process of governance.

The GI-INDEED project is one of the first European actions addressed at the training on the topics of the INSPIRE initiative.

Aims

As overall, GI-INDEED aims at improving the possibilities for lifelong learning and continuous vocational training within the field of handling geo and environmental information, thus in the long perspective contributing to support authorities in implementing EU directives. The objective is also to set-up preliminary conditions for pan European recognition of GIS-related vocational training.

More analytically the project aims to:

- increase knowledge about environmental data handling
- give the various stakeholders a guide for easier access to environmental information
- develop a training content at the European level, also suitable to a local context
- contribute to standards for competence certification, thus improving transferability of competence

Target audience

GI-INDEED training is addressed to both organisations and individuals and in particular:

- local authorities using geo-information services
- environmental agencies responsible for implementing legislation
- private companies needing environmental information for decision making
- training & education providers
- special interest groups and citizens

An aim of the project is to develop training components that can be adapted to individual as well as to organisational needs. Given the subject of the training modules, the trainees will be mainly already employed people and the adoption of e-learning techniques is fundamental to ensure professional up-dating of the knowledge of these people in the context of life-long learning.

Main outcomes

The main outcomes of GI-INDEED are:

- pilot tests of products at training institutes
- web based course selector
- survey of training requirements
- four training modules:

1. *Environmental web services*, for an operational introduction on specifications and solutions required to provide and utilise harmonised geographic data
2. *Data harmonisation and SDI*, to increase the knowledge on Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDI) and give an overview on relevant standards and specifications about geographical data

Two sectoral modules:

3. *Use of SDI for protected areas*, to fill up the gap between GIS experts and end users, better identifying specific needs of authorities in charge and pursuing the access to high quality GI
4. *Use of SDI for coastal areas*, as above, but addressed in particular to favour a sound use of GI in the local implementation of the principles of coastal management and spread the lessons by existing best practice

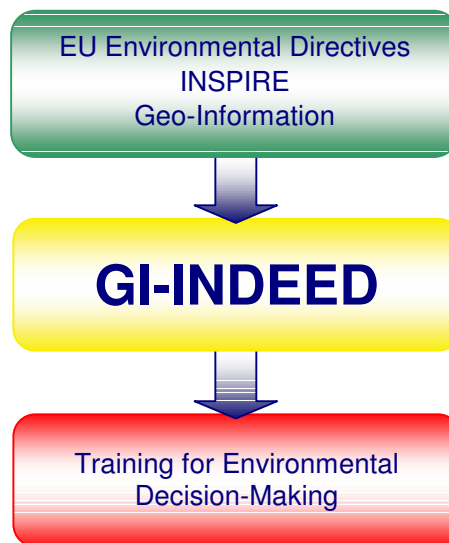
Training technology and media

e-learning training technologies, already operational but not widely diffused in the field, are used within the project, for real diffusion of innovation, in practice and at a scattered local level.

GI-INDEED will use state-of-art e-learning technologies in a standardised environment, in order to optimise the exploitation of the training materials and, to increase dissemination, to allow the migration to different platforms.

To use these resources, the trainee and the trainer only need a web browser and Internet access, strongly reducing licensing problems for spatial data and GIS software.

Within this environment, the trainer can monitor the work of the trainee and provide guidance. In addition, videoconference systems are used for messaging, discussing etc.



Project sheet

Name Geo-Information in the Implementation of Net-based Distance Education for Environmental Decision-making
Acronym GI-INDEED
Programme EU Leonardo da Vinci Programme Pilot Project N° 2005 - S/05/B/F/PP-161012
Duration October 2005 – September 2007
URL <http://www.gisig.it/gi-indeed>

Project development

The project foresees a preliminary phase of assessment and analysis of the target group needs, a consequent procedure of development and testing of training material, and also the creation of an autonomous course selector, a web based tool where trainees can test their skills and receive guidance for courses to select.

Workshops are also arranged in order to exchange ideas between the target groups and the project team and getting feedback and validation.

The local workshops of the training needs definition phase are important to:

- favour local involvement
- get in touch with meaningful local experiences
- sum up the lessons of the assessment phase and validate them
- discuss the structure of the training modules

Partnership

The partners of GI-INDEED ensure comprehensive coverage of the problems and issues related to Geo-Information and environmental decision making.

Key partnership categories are:

- universities – to provide effective and up-to-date knowledge and services for training and e-learning
- training providers – to ensure the relevance of the training content and to hold in due consideration the target group needs
- international associations – to guarantee a wide dissemination at international level based on their networking capacity

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