Dear All,

our meeting on the ASDI Strategy will take place in the beginning of September and most of us will have holidays during July and August. The Finnish team will also be out of office on business most of August. Therefore Arvo, Antti and myself have now studied closely the documents which concern the ASDI strategy.

We have got the ASDI Strategic Plan (draft, by Carl) and the ASDI Framework document (version June 13, 2014).

There are some observations or comments we would like to give before the meeting in Iceland, and hopefully they will help the Chair of the Strategy WG.

First some general comments and then comments on the themes in the ASDI Strategic Plan (draft):

* It seems that the approach to the ”ASDI Strategy for 2015-2020” is different in the two documents: ASDI Strategic Plan outlines strategic and also specific operational points, but the Framework document outlines the stategy in a different way (in chapter 3.3 and Appendix 5).
* There is need to make a decision on what kind of strategy, in the first place, is needed for ASDI for 2015-2020. We see that:
* *ASDI Strategy document should be short and clear (2-3 pages)*
* *in the Workshop in Iceland we must discuss how the actions needed to achieve the goals will be set and recorded: should the actions be a separate ”plan of action” (for example for the next two years)?*
* The reference model is a good tool, but the strategy must point out what the priorities and major aims of ASDI are. Framework -doc, chapter 3.3 (below) - This chapter is very important!

*Building an Arctic Spatial Data Infrastructure requires an ongoing development of the common understanding of the concept and a thorough understanding of the users, their needs and their position in the overall picture of stakeholders.* ***Thus it will be possible to set the strategic direction for what dataset to develop and share and how to define the role of the thematic data providers.*** *It also requires an ongoing development of the targeted infrastructure, technical opportunities and data sharing principles. The Arctic SDI cooperation also needs to look into its role in the Arctic Council cooperation and other existing pan Arctic cooperation’s as well as develop models for funding future activities.*

* How do we find out who are the real users of ASDI data?
  + That could be done during 2014-15, when we have the first data available for users, before making definite long term plans?
  + Also, a survey on all existing or planned initiatives on the same field as ASDI should be done (research etc).

*As Finland (with neighbouring countries) has taken part previously in several database projects, we see it extremely important to create data only if there is a defined user need - not just that we as Mapping Agencies think there is a need for data and decide to create common data ”because we can”.*

*Also, even in a small country like Finland, we have now heard of several SDI-connected national or international projects or initiatives we had no prior knowledge of. And they no knowledge of ASDI.*

* **We also need a common understanding on how and by whom the Arctic data is managed and funded (by Mapping Agencies, Arctic Council via national governments, something else?) .**

In the Framework document it is stated that the Strategy for 2015-20 should include specific items, and we would see that the most important is the last one in the list.

* User needs
* *we all agree that the Arctic Council is the main user (in the first place). So far we are only making assumptions on the other users and their needs. How shall we find out the real user needs and keep track of them in the coming years?*
* Thematic datasets for Arctic SDI and role of other data providers
* *the Arctic Council WGs produce much data and may be the main user of thematic data (in the first place). So far we are only making assumptions on the other thematic data users and their needs, and of their willingness to participate in ASDI as data providers?*
* Data sharing Principles *(very important!)*
* Arctic Council and other stakeholders
* *One strategic goal is the relationship to the Arctic Council, also in the steering of ASDI. And through that also potentially to financing of the running of the system.*
* Resources and financing *(in operational policies?) (very important!)*
* Arctic SDI and the role on the international Geodata scene
* Prioritized proposal for activities with reference to the Arctic SDI Reference Model
* Common understanding of Arctic SDI and revision of Arctic SDI Vision
  + *is there need to change the vision?*
  + *is there need to record the ASDI values?*

**Some comments on the ASDI Strategic Plan** (draft, by Carl):

Theme 1: Geospatial Data and Assiciated Products

* Priority in ASDI should be in providing baseline reference data, which is in the hands of the Mapping Agencies. Plus Arctic Council thematic data, as already agreed with CAFF.

Theme 2: Communication

* should communication strategy be separate document, provided by the Comm WG?
* one important point is informing the also *national* stakeholders in each country on ASDI plans

Theme 3: Visualization

Goal 2 states that there is also commercial activities in the portal. This is major strategic issue. Is all reference data in ASDI open or at least free of charge at the point of use or do we need to develop charging mechanisms to the portal? In the Board minutes or discussions this has not been dealt with (or we have no records).

Theme 4: Data and metadata standards

* it is clear that ASDI should use the existing standards, not create own. maybe one strategic choise is the open source standards?

Theme 6: Best practices

* part is a bit unclear: what is the connection between the title and the content…?
* Objective 1.2 “Identify potentially duplicative investments and opportunities for collaborative activities” is important.

Theme 7: Legal processes

* Legal issues involving usage rights are extremely - most important issue - to be solved. There is little sense to develop reference data and data delivery if there is no common understanding how data can be used. *In that sense there should be set a clear goal that participants should agree on user terms that gives as open usage terms as possible for accessing and using the reference data.*
  + - * **It will be important to have a clear meeting / workshop agenda in September, so that we all are well prepared for the meeting in September.**

Hope these comments are useful and wish you all a very nice and relaxing summer!

Best regards,

Arvo, Antti and Heli