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DEVELOPMENT OF A DANISH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SPATIAL INFORMATION (DAISI) - GOALS AND MEANS

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Digital management (e-governance) is on its way in most EU countries, strongly urged by the EU commission. The visions for a digital management are that digital technologies are systematically used to think forward and change organisations and work processes to raise the service quality and efficiency.

Digital management also has a high priority on the political agenda in Denmark, and many public resources are set aside to realize the visions. Concurrently with a new structural reform the scene is laid for large changes in the public sector in the coming years. The reform is carried out because many, especially local authorities simply are too small to lift the t asks a modern society has to solve. Important is also expectations from among business and the citizens about efficiency, better service and increased democratisation in the public administration.

The life nerve in digital management is electronic case and document handling systems where all data and documents can easily be found and processed in electronic form. This also applies to spatial information including maps.
The presence of and access to current and reliable information – including spatial data and spatial information (geo-data and geo-information) – is therefore of vital importance to both the economic and social development of a country, globally as well as locally. The ongoing reforms in the Danish society – including the mentioned structural reform and an ongoing reform of the land registration system - also make new demands on structuring and organizing of spatial information.

At present, Denmark has no official policy for the passing of a Danish Infrastructure for Spatial Information (DAISI); however, during late years initiatives have been taken both within the public and the private sectors which are good steps on the way.

"The Service Community for Geodata", an initiative under the state financed project "e-Government"[1] is one of the central actors in this connection. The Service Community has been working goal-oriented for the latest couple of years with the problems connected with the infrastructure field – a topic which is also

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i The Danish project "e-Government" (www.e.gov.dk) was started as a two-year project by the state sector, the counties and the local authorities in 2001. The purpose of the project is to support an improved and more efficient solution of management tasks through the use of information technology. The project is controlled by "The e- Government Board", but the implementation takes place via "The digital Taskforce", which was appointed in 2001 with the purpose of promoting the readjustment to a digital management across the public sector. Under The digital Taskforce more service communities have been created, including "the Service Community for Geodata" (www.xyzgeodata. dk). One of the visions of the Service Community is that maps, geo-data and geo-information, which as mentioned previously make out an important element in the digital management must be a natural tool for citizens, enterprises and public authorities. This may among other things happen through the use of information technology, including use of the Internet as distribution channel. In June 2003 the government and the municipal bodies agreed to extend the project to the end of 2006 which has provided an opportunity to revise the strategy for e-Government. In a report from January 2005 the Service Community for Geodata has put forward a proposal for a common Danish basis data set. The geo-data set must be part of a future Danish Infrastructure for Spatial Information /Brande-Lavridsen, Hanne, 2003

[1]

expected to get great attention in relation to the implementation of digital management in the public sector in the years to come.

In relation to a continued further development of the present work regarding a Danish Infrastructure for Spatial Information it is important to be aware partly of the desired goals, partly of the means to be applied to achieve the goals.

With a presented paper we wish to discuss the following central topics in relation to both the ongoing and the future activities in connection with the establishment of a functional Danish Infrastructure for Spatial Information:

- Assessment of the concept for infrastructure for spatial data (a master data set) which is drawn up by the Service Community for Geodata as well as an assessment of the central elements in this connection.

The challenges in the years to come among others refer to the following topics:

- Specification of reference data to secure standardizing in the use of geographic references and to secure that common basic concepts and data structures are developed.
- Linking of multi-sector data and geo-data within the single sectors.
- Specification and identification of the multi-sector data to be included in relation to the ongoing local reform and which are to contribute to secure a broadly founded co-operation in the geo-data field so that the perspectives and the demands in relation to the future digital management are met.

In relation to the above topics specific problems and experiences will be presented and discussed. It includes ongoing co-ordination activities in the geo-data field – FOT (common topographic object types), standardizing of road and traffic data, property development, planning data together with environmental and natural data. On this background specific recommendations/ideas are attempted drawn up in relation to the future development work with development, implementation and maintenance of a DAnish Infrastructure for Spatial Information. Both technical aspects and also useful effects and utility values will be referred to.

Finally, the Danish initiative with the development of an Infrastructure for Spatial Information is compared with the activities taking place in our Nordic neighbour countries and in the EU e.g. within INSPIRE.

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