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GIS Preparedness Survey 2014

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The GIS Preparedness Survey 2014 is a follow-up to the corresponding survey that was carried out among public institutions in Denmark in 2009. The present survey thus provides an updated image of status and challenges in relation to the use of spatial information, the construction of the common infrastructure for spatial information, and the work related to the further development of the foundation for the digital administration. One of the thought-provoking trends is that INSPIRE seems to be discussed less in the organisations. On the other hand, there is no doubt that standards continue to be considered of great significance, not least in relation to metadata, data quality and data specifications, just as spatial data are clearly being communicated more and more.

Keywords: Spatial information, GIS, INSPIRE, digital administration

GIS preparedness and INSPIRE

We now have the results of the GIS Preparedness Survey 2014, to which 87 institutions at municipal, regional and national level have contributed – including 48 municipalities. The Survey, which was conducted by Geoforum in collaboration with Aalborg University, is a follow-up to the corresponding survey from 2009, which was presented during the map days the same year. The GIS Preparedness Survey provides an updated image of status and challenges in relation to the use of spatial information and the construction of the common infrastructure for spatial information – including INSPIRE. Below follows a brief introduction to the data material, which will be discussed in further detail in connection with the INSPIRE Conference in June 2014.



Preview and trends

Among the 87 respondents, 93 % indicate that their organisation uses GIS. Out of these, 54 have quantified the number of people who work with spatial information in their organisation, and how they are distributed across usage areas (figure 1). This shows that among the 5,500 people who are included in the calculation, 64 % work with simple applications, e.g. looking at information and carrying out simple standard analyses. By comparison, the category 'data production, measuring and mapping' makes up 16 %, and advanced usage, such as processing, calculating and analysing only makes up 14 %. Compared to the figures from 2009, a minor shift can be seen, which would indicate that a slightly larger proportion of GIS users are distributed within these three areas.

In 2009, the implementation of INSPIRE received a lot of attention, while almost half of the 48 who respond to the question in the present Survey from 2014, indicate that INSPIRE is not discussed in the organisation (figure 2).

On the other hand, the significance of standards is stressed – particularly in relation to metadata, data quality and data specifications, as shown in figure 3. Similarly, 56 % answer *yes* to the subsequent question about whether their organisation uses metadata – 35 % say *no*, while half indicate that they do not know.

As figure 3 also shows, none of the 48 who have considered this question have indicated that there are no areas where standards are important, which is in line with the other responses concerning e.g. collaboration with other organisations or offer of external services. Thus,

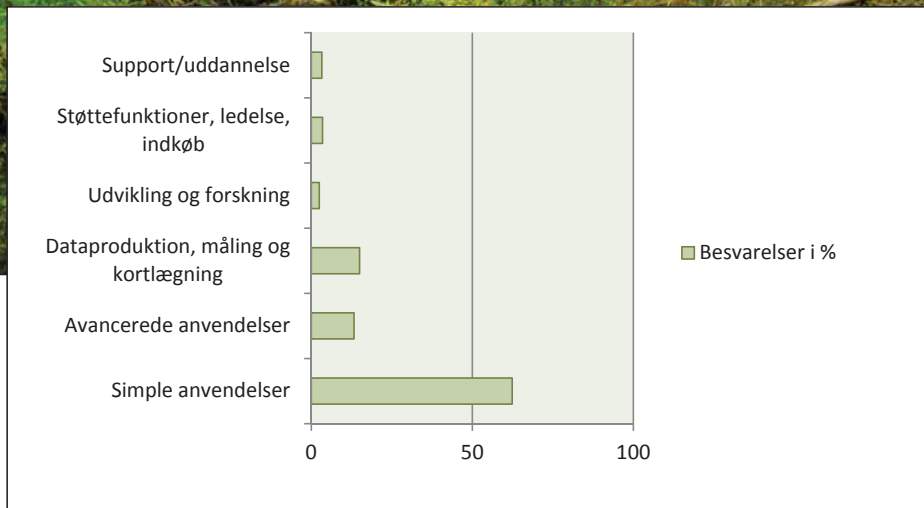


Figure 1. Users of spatial information in organisations – distributed across areas

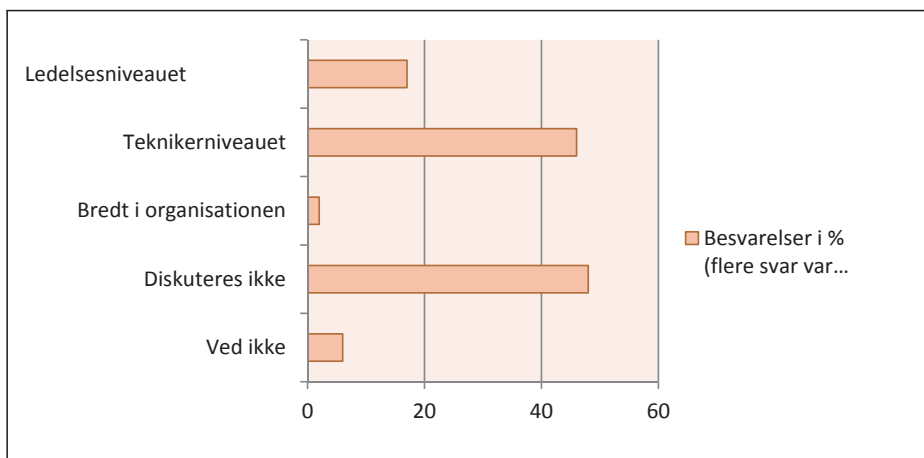


Figure 2. Questions about levels in organisations where INSPIRE is discussed

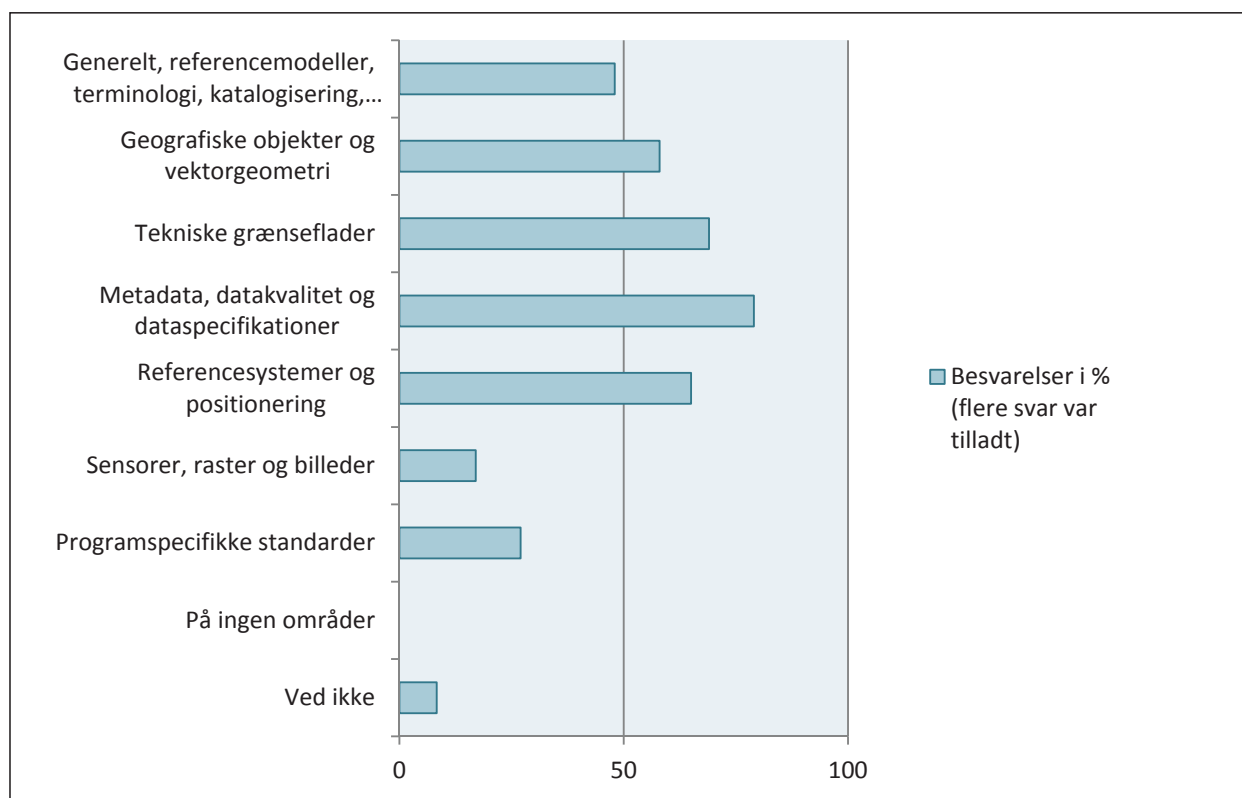


Figure 3. The importance of standards – distributed across areas

96 % give positive answers to the first, as subsequently, it is clear that quite a lot (90 %) collaborate on the use of geodata, and even more collaborate on technical solutions (92 %). As regards services aimed at external target groups, Internet-based communication continues to rank highest with 79 %, but it is clear that both WMS/WFS services and mobile applications are catching up, as 54 % and 47 %, respectively, of the respondents indicate that their organisation uses these types of services when passing on data.

To be continued at the INSPIRE Conference

The above initial preview of the responses to the GIS Preparedness Survey 2014 will be elaborated on at the INSPIRE Conference. Here, the Danish results will also be presented in connection with the results from some of the other Nordic and Baltic countries, of which Sweden completed their survey in 2013, while others are under way.

