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Reports on achievements in geographic information in addressing national, regional and global issues, including: Strategy, policy, economic and institutional issues

The development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE) in Germany

(Submitted by Germany)\*\*

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## **The development of a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE) in Germany**

The current big challenges coming about for Germany in the domain of spatial information and mapping are the joint efforts of the Federal Government, states (Länder) and municipalities to establish a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (GDI-DE).

Through the joint set-up of the GDI-DE the potential of spatial information is strengthened, primarily with regard to political, administrative, and economic decision-making processes. Modernization of administration is pushed ahead, decisions in all sectors and fields of society are supported and value-adding services of industry initiated.

The Federal Government of Germany recognized its relevance to the national economy and established a governmental commission in 1998, called the IMAGI (Interministerial Committee for Geo Information). The IMAGI is composed of 10 ministries of the Federal Government, chaired by the State Secretary of the Ministry for Interior. The administrative office of the IMAGI is established at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) in Frankfurt am Main. The IMAGI office is coordinating the core projects of the Federal Government. All projects are following the major strategy for the development of the GDI-DE:

- Stage 1: The establishing of a nationwide catalogue system based on international standards
- Stage 2: The harmonization of spatial data sets including technical and semantical issues as well as the establishing of internet services
- Stage 3: The implementation of harmonized data sets in an interoperable network including users and providers

In 2001 and 2003 the Federal Parliament issued two resolutions on the strengthening of the Federal Government's coordination activities in the field of spatial information demanding also for a better cooperation between federal, state, municipal and private sector levels.

On 27 November 2003 the Chiefs of the Federal and States Chancelleries adopted a resolution on the establishment of the GDI-DE as well as on its future organisation. A Steering Committee GDI-DE, composed of representatives of the Federal Government, the Länder and the Central Associations of Local Authorities, shall elaborate a harmonized concept allowing an open set-up of the GDI-DE in the spirit of partnership, and also in the light of a European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI) still laying ahead and waiting for realization in the foreseeable future.

#### Present Development of the GDI-DE

The Steering Committee and the Coordination Office, the latter one being established at BKG in Frankfurt am Main, are operating with the beginning of 2005. With the second meeting of the Steering Committee in April 2005 some key projects could already be defined.

These projects include

- Coordination of the German contribution to the review and implementation process of the Inspire Directive of the European Commission.
- A nationwide adjustment of various application profiles in the context of OGC and ISO standards (e.g. CSW, WMS, WPOS).
- A nationwide inventory of SDI-relevant pilot projects to identify key projects for implementing the GDI-DE.
- An adjusted development of a nationwide SDI architecture including international standards, internet services and spatial data models.

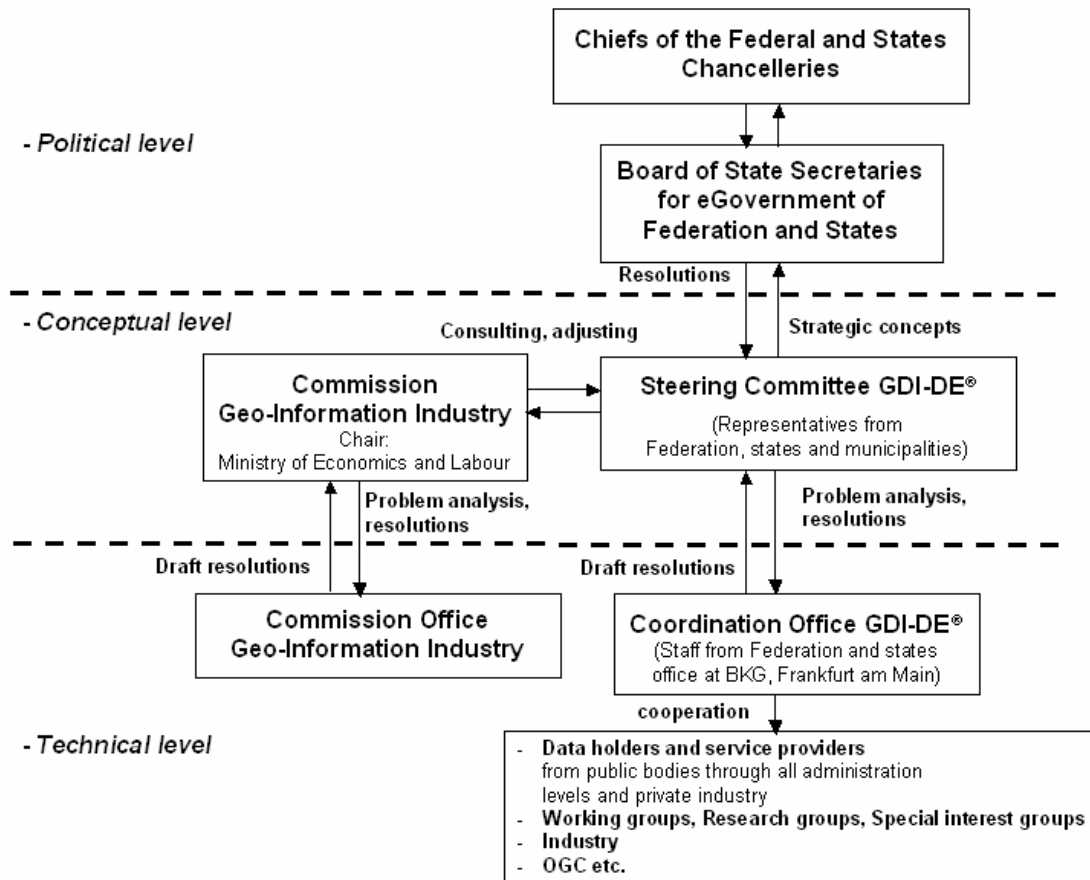


Figure 1: Organisational structure of the GDI-DE to integrate different administration levels of Federation, states, municipalities and the private sector

(Attachment: Brochure "Geo Information in the modern state", Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Frankfurt am Main, 2003; most recent german version see: [http://www.imagi.de/de/info\\_material/f\\_info\\_material.html](http://www.imagi.de/de/info_material/f_info_material.html))