

Title: From the Dutch national SDI to the European SDI (PDOK to ELF).

Intro

In the Netherlands the establishment of a national SDI developed by more than one Ministry providing geo data for free to the public, accessed through one portal and implementing the National standards has been a huge success. The results are an increase of hits from 580 million to 1.1 billion in one year, a market conform infrastructure developed only once and creating large costs reductions for each PDOK partner. PDOK is seen by the Dutch Government as one of the big ICT projects that actually did manage to deliver according expectations. Now that Open GEO data in the Netherlands has proved itself with this SDI, attention is going international by creating the same benefits European wide with the European SDI called ELF (European Location Framework). ELF is also providing one portal for accessing cross border GEO data, one infrastructure and one International standard. With ELF especially small and medium enterprises can benefit from European data to develop applications.

PDOK: PDOK (Public Geo Datasets at your Service) is a central distribution platform used for deploying geographical datasets (geo datasets) and making them available as web services and geographical information files. These geo datasets are supplied by government and public administrations. They are therefore guaranteed to be up-to-date, reliable and for free. More than 230 web services are available at the moment. These web services are particularly meant to be used by municipalities and other public agencies, businesses, schools and also private citizens. In this way, the Dutch government is stimulating innovation and the use of geo-information.

PDOK History: In 2007, a European Directive known as INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) entered into force. This had an impact on the Netherlands as national legislation had to be revised in order to meet new international standards surrounding environmental policies. The Dutch Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster) took the initiative and brought all relevant stakeholders together via informal gatherings. After much discussion and debate, the “Public Geo Datasets at your Service” (PDOK) was born. PDOK meets both national and international standards, including the European INSPIRE standards and the Dutch e-government standards.

Partnership: PDOK is a collaboration of the Kadaster, Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment, Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs, Rijkswaterstaat (Dutch Road and Water Ways Networks) and Geonovum. Geonovum is a governmental body that makes geo-information accessible to the public sector, helps to develop standards and helps to exploit governmental geographic information better. By supplying PDOK with their geo datasets, public administrations comply with Dutch and European policy for providing geospatial data from the government (including the open data policy and INSPIRE).

PDOK Products and Services: PDOK unlocks digital spatial data from the government. This unlocking is done through a central facility: the PDOK Portal. Here the data is available as a web service or as a downloadable file. In the PDOK Portal you can also find an alternative to Google Maps: PDOK Kaart (Dutch for “PDOK Map”). You can use this map for your own website with the advantage that it is free of charge and free of advertisements and has of course authoritative and the most accurate data. Where necessary PDOK ensures that the services and files comply with the INSPIRE directive on improving the exchange of spatial data in Europe. PDOK also manages the National PDOK Georegister. This online catalogue contains more than 8300 links to Dutch spatial datasets including about 500 web services from different providers.

PDOK's qualified products

Web services: PDOK provides mapping data services. A particular advantage of data services is that the data remains at the source. The data is not physically delivered but maintained in one location. This makes it possible to guarantee timeliness, reliability and availability.

Downloads: By using PDOK various data sources can be accessed and downloaded. With downloading we refer to geographic data sets that can be loaded from a PDOK file server.

The files contain geographic data of (parts of) The Netherlands. PDOK public Viewer: a standard and fully open viewer, to make someone discover a datasets' content before downloading the geodata into the users GIS Application. The Viewer is very helpful to easily find the right geo-information for the purposes you need. The information can be built up in layers. PDOK Kaart (Dutch for "PDOK Map"): the PDOK Kaart capability (including API) has been developed for easy use of PDOK and OGC services. In contrast with the Google Maps API, organisations can use this product on a Fair-Use basis and integrate PDOK Kaart into their own applications and websites. PDOK Kaart can be used by everyone, both for public websites and commercial and private websites and blogs. The use of PDOK Kaart is free and guaranteed without advertisements.

ELF: The European Location Framework (ELF) will stimulate the wider use of public sector geo-information and enable the creation of innovative value-added services. The purpose is to provide up-to-date, authoritative, interoperable, cross-border, reference geo-information for use by both the public and private sectors.

Key objectives of ELF are to:

- Add value to INSPIRE data by contributing to cross border harmonisation;
- Provide a high performance ELF platform and cloud services that support multiple national feeds and a wide spectrum of value-added services;
- Support integration of 3rd party thematic datasets and National Spatial Data Infrastructures (particularly extending beyond the INSPIRE themes provided by NMCAs) for service implementations based on specific user needs; and
- Provide a user friendly interface to find, view and compare the geo-information (Geo Product Finder)
- The ELF websites are multilingual offering key facts now in 7 languages. The goal is to support all European languages.

ELF will:

- Address Obstacles Hindering More Extensive Use of ICT. Based on prototypes created during the ESDIN project the ELF project will operationalise existing quality, accessibility, security, generalisation, edge-matching and change detection tools. This will make national INSPIRE compliant services available for European use.
- Stimulate EU Wide Markets For Innovation. By giving access to national public sector geo-information sources, the ELF platform will open new markets for commercial entities, especially SMEs, to develop applications of use to users.
- Address Unique Solutions to Societal Problems. The ELF platform, by giving access to a wide range of authoritative geo-information, will deliver a unique capability that allows improvements and development of solutions to many common interoperability problems in Europe.
- Address Market Fragmentation due to Interoperability Issues between Countries. The ELF platform will create the foundation for a new holistic market based service for exploiting sustainable, interoperable data and services. For example, currently a user needs to negotiate separate agreements with each data provider of NMCA and other INSPIRE data. Using the ELF platform, these data will be provided through one capability. The ELF platform will achieve this by providing 'Access Management Federation' across all NMCA providers, which will enable single sign-on access for users of combined multi-national data.