BESTSDI Project SDI Curriculum Implementation at Academic Institutions in the Region

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Abstract

Spatial information and data are relevant to several professions. Recognizing this, academic institutions have introduced study courses to address needs. New content may be heterogeneous, from definitions and titles to contents. Acknowledging the need to introduce harmonized spatial information content from basics covered by the Spatial Data Infrastructure (SDI), a project financed through the Erasmus+ "Western Balkans Academic Education Evolution and Professional's Sustainable Training for Spatial Data Infrastructures" program, BESTSDI was launched in 2017, with the aim of developing SDI curriculum to provide an aligned approach to teaching SDI in a broad range of studies and professions. The basic structure comprises three building blocks (basic, advanced, and application).

Initial SDI Learning Building Blocks are based on the specific structure, developed content and outcomes of courses, while partner universities participating in the project are launching test implementation of SDI curricula in their study courses for 2018/2019. Implementation implies the introduction of new obligatory or elective study courses, depending on the curriculum and its SDI relevance for specific professions. The contents of the BESTSDI SDI curriculum project and its implementation at partner universities, along with the expected outcomes, are presented in this paper.

Keywords: spatial data infrastructure, SDI learning, SDI curriculum, new study courses, BESTSDI