The evolution of geospatial data handling in environmental information systems

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Geospatial technologies have in the past years evolved to more wide-spread and easy to use means for preparing and sharing environmental data and information. They appeal not only to experts but with the approaches and tools for crowd sourcing and citizen science, they enhance the social value and impact of the information system through those forms of citizen participation. Cost for the developments have been shifting areas and are going down on the technology side.

The European Environment Agency is at the forefront of exploring the usage of geospatial technologies. Best practise examples will be provided.

Yet today, governance and data related issues set boundaries for an even faster uptake of those technologies. Data interoperability in the environmental domain is only slowly improving with the help of the Inspire directive in particular; more open access policies and conditions are emerging step-wise. New challenges arise from the widening of the environmental scope for which data has to become available in both, higher frequency and better quality.