



# The OGC and its participatory processes: OGCnetwork, public working groups, regional for a and the collaborationa with OSGeo

FOSS4G 2010, Barcelona 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> 2010

Athina Trakas  
Open Geospatial Consortium  
Director European Services  
[atrakas@opengeospatial.org](mailto:atrakas@opengeospatial.org)  
<http://www.opengeospatial.org>

# Agenda

---

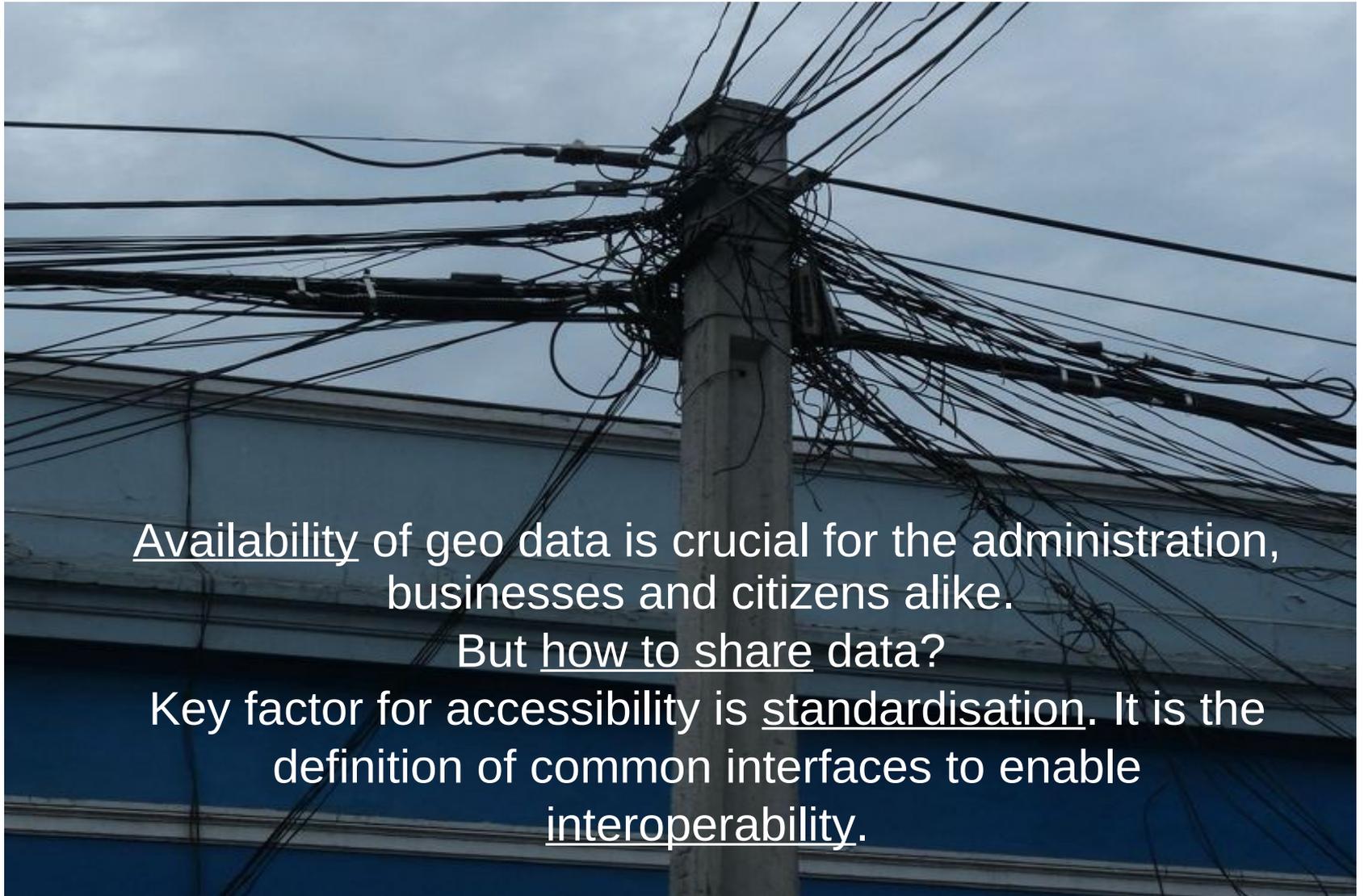


- **A few words about OGC**
- **Collaboration in the OGC process**
- **OGC / OSGeo MoU**
- **Regional aspects**



# A few words about OGC

# Standards and Interoperability



Availability of geo data is crucial for the administration, businesses and citizens alike.

But how to share data?

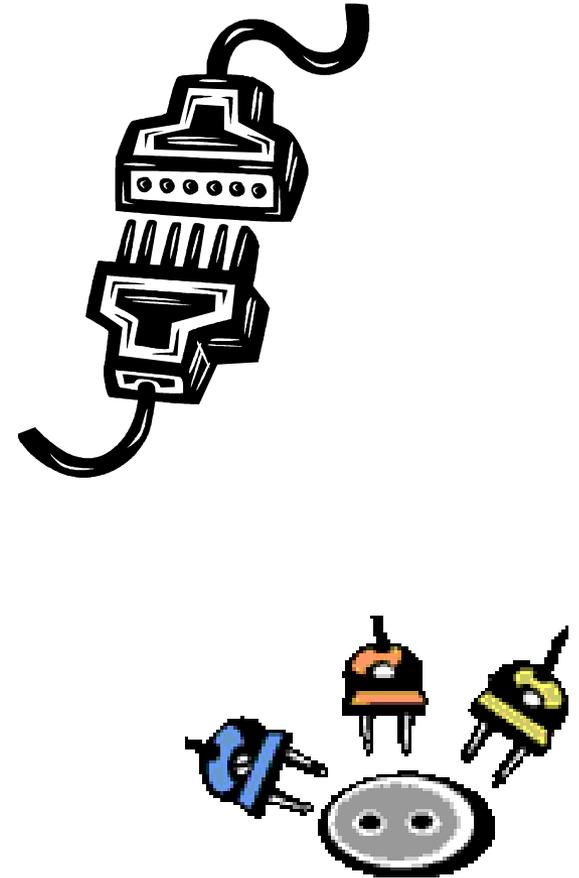
Key factor for accessibility is standardisation. It is the definition of common interfaces to enable interoperability.

# What is Interoperability?



**"The capability to communicate, execute programs, or transfer data among various functional units in a manner that requires the user to have little or no knowledge of the unique characteristics of those units"**

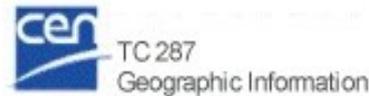
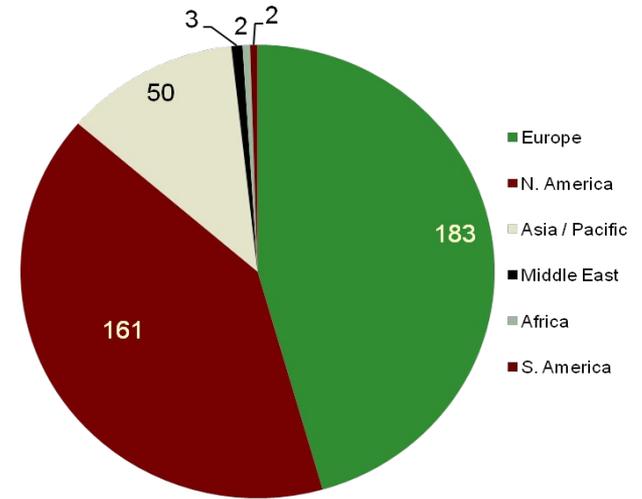
*Source: OGC Abstract Specification Topic 12: Services. Derived from ISO 2382-1.*



# OGC at a Glance



- Founded in 1994, not for profit, consensus based and voluntary
- 400+ member organisations (industry, government, academia) (Sept 2010)  
<http://www.opengeospatial.org/ogc/members>
- 30+ adopted OGC Standards (some are ISO Standards)  
<http://www.opengeospatial.org/standards>
- Several hundred software products, implementing OpenGIS Standards <http://www.opengeospatial.org/resource/products>
- Cooperation with other standards organisations, foundations and projects.



**OGC**





# Collaboration in the OGC process

# OGC collaboration and participation

---



- **Change Request and New Requirements**  
[http://portal.opengeospatial.org/public\\_ogc/change\\_request.php](http://portal.opengeospatial.org/public_ogc/change_request.php)
- **Public Working Groups**  
<http://www.opengeospatial.org/projects/groups/wg>
- **OGC network**  
<http://www.ogcnetwork.net>



# OGC / OSGeo Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

# Open Source Software Development



- Open Source is a development methodology that aims at making all processes transparent.
- One central paradigm is to "Publish Early and Release Often". This will help to "build"<sup>[1]</sup> a community of high interaction.
- Development is coordinated through roles. Roles must be managed by a clear governance model.
- Good Open Source projects are highly organized and trunk commit access is restricted to well known developers.
- Public code repositories, bug and issue trackers, mailing lists ,etc. are essential to "grow"<sup>[1]</sup> professional communities.

**[1] communities cannot be "built", "managed" or "grown". They need to grow by themselves. Open Source project management can only facilitate and enable communities.**

# Open Standards Development

---

- 
- Open Standards follow a development methodology that aims at making processes transparent.
  - One central paradigm is to "Publish Early and Release Often". This will help to "build"<sup>[1]</sup> a community of high interaction.
  - Development is coordinated through roles. Roles must be managed by a clear governance model.
  - Good Open Standards are highly organized and publishing is managed through a trusted organization.
  - Public schema repositories, mailing lists ,etc. are essential to "grow"<sup>[1]</sup> professional communities.

[1] .

## **Memorandum of Understanding**

### **Open Source Geospatial Foundation**

- Free and Open Source Software
- The Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo)

<http://www.osgeo.org/>

### **Open Geospatial Consortium**

- Standards Development
- The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)

<http://www.opengeospatial.org/>

- The OGC is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1994, and comprised of industry, government and academic members dedicated to advancing interoperability among IT systems that process geo-referenced information.
- The OSGeo is a not-for-profit organization founded in 2006 whose mission is to support and promote the collaborative development of open source geospatial technologies and data.
- The Parties wish to make sure that open standards are made freely available to the global public; unencumbered by patents or other Intellectual Property claims that may diminish their usefulness.
- The Parties wish to memorialize their understanding regarding certain joint activities in which they plan to engage.

(Excerpt from the Memorandum of Understanding)



# Regional Aspects

# The OGC Community

## OGC Regional Approaches – National Fora

---



Allow the dialogue within a single culture, language and/or political context. But there's *no blueprint* for all fora. They vary (at least) in the following points:

- language
- organisation of stakeholder communities and key players in each country (academia, industry, public administration and government)
- specific regional culture

Emphasis on Fora activities probably will help to bridge these gaps and in the long run influence again stakeholders, European programs and lead to better cooperation with eg. the European Commission.

**But:** There must be support from members or stakeholders in each country or region.

# The OGC Community

## OGC Forum Activities

---



- Europe Forum as „umbrella“ Forum for other European national fora
- National / Regional for a
  - UK & Ireland Forum and France Forum, Iberian-Latinamerican )
    - Regular meetings being held
    - Connecting with national professional associations and SDOs
    - Addressing linguistic, cultural and political differences
  - OGC Korea Forum, Indian Forum and China Forum
    - Charters approved at April / July 2009 and 2007
    - Focus on growing OGC membership
    - Planning of Interoperability Days
    - Heavy emphasis on 3D urban modeling / Ubiquitous Cities (U-cities) and topics relevant in the related countries.

# The OGC Community

## OGC Forum Activities

---



- UK & Ireland Forum
  - After a strong uptake in the beginning the forum had not been too active
  - Currently adjusting the charter and planned actions to current situation
- France Forum
  - Active since April 2008
  - Registered as SDIC for the INSPIRE process
  - Regular meetings and Interoperability days
  - <http://www.forumogcfrance.org/>

# The OGC Community

## OGC Forum Activities

---



- Ibero Forum (targets)
  - Augment visibility and benefits of OGC standards and promote implementation and adoption of the standards
  - Identify problems and requirements related to the region wrt INSPIRE
  - Be a platform to involve more organisations from the iberio peninsula
  - *We are going to go for a Spain+Portugal+Andorra forum with the name Iberian forum.*
  - *We are going to include a sentence in the charter that says: "we are currently open to include latinamerican members in the forum and we are open to change the charter and expand the domain (and the name) if Latinamerican organizations want to join" .*

# ILAF – Foro Iberico y Latinoamericano de OGC



- 14 members (compared to 42 in Germany, 19 in France, 28 in UK)
  - 3 National/EU Agencies (INTA,IGN, EUSC)
  - 4 Local/Regional government (IDEC, GV, Junta de Andalucía, Diba)
  - 4 Universities/Research (UPM, CREA, Jaume I, UniZar)
  - 6 Private companies (ABSIS, Geovirtual, Indra, Atos, Iver, Prodevelop)
- No hay *interoperability days* nacionales
- Alta demanda / obligación de interoperabilidad con las implementaciones de INSPIRE (European Directive)
- Un factor importante para la administración pública a diferentes niveles (regions, departments, municipalities)
- No hay coordinación entre OGC y otras iniciativas españolas como los GTIDEE o las JIDEE
- Barreras de idioma y especificaciones culturales

# ¿Que necesitamos?

---



- Un documento fundacional (a charter)
- Una lista de miembros fundadores (charter members)
- Aprobación por parte del OGC Plenary
- Una web pública
  - El portal del observatorio IDE puede proporcionarla
- Una lista de e-mail pública
  - El portal del observatorio IDE puede proporcionarla.
- Una sección en la web interna para intercambio de datos
  - [portal.opengeospatial.org](http://portal.opengeospatial.org)
- Una lista de email privada
  - [@Lists.opengospatila.org](mailto:@Lists.opengospatila.org)

Subscribe at

[ILA.Forum@lists.opengeospatial.org](mailto:ILA.Forum@lists.opengeospatial.org)

<https://lists.opengeospatial.org/mailman/listinfo/ila.forum>

... and stay tuned

# Some closing thoughts

---



- Contribute and collaborate
- Express yourselves
- Make use of existing networks

# Questions? Get engaged!



**Athina Trakas**

**Director European Service  
OpenGeospatial Consortium, Inc.**

**Heerstr. 162  
53111 Bonn**

**Tel.: +49 – 228 – 54 88 99 42**

**Mobil: +49 – 173 – 211 2623**

**eMail: [atrakas@opengeospatial.org](mailto:atrakas@opengeospatial.org)**

**web: <http://www.opengeospatial.org>**

**OGC**