

THE HUMBOLDT TRAINING FRAMEWORK

Giorgio, SAIO¹, Roderic, MOLINA¹, Anders, ÖSTMAN²

¹Geographical Information Systems International Group, Via Piacenza 54, 16138, Genova, Italy, g.saio@gisig.it, r.molina@gisig.it

²University of Gävle, Kungsbäcksvägen 47, SE-801 76, Gävle, Sweden
Anders.Ostman@hig.se

Abstract

In the new EU legislative and policy context of spatial data and data management (e.g. INSPIRE, SEIS, WFD, etc.), the demand for training initiative has grown and its orientation has also gravitated towards the understanding of the policies and their implementing rules.

In such a situation, training is needed, as well, about the new technologies and standards related to access and management of Geographical Information that are more and more exploited in a European dimension.

In particular, stakeholders and subjects involved in the INSPIRE “revolution” requested specific training on the INSPIRE Directive and specifically on its objectives, its data fields and services, and its implementation rules.

In the context of the training GISIG activity line and seeking to integrate different previous experiences, the approach concentrates on structured training courses into eLearning platforms, including both training content and the technical tools for its efficient use.

That is done throughout a Catalogue of training courses in GI and applications domains, developed within the VESTA-GIS project (www.vesta-gis.eu), a Leonardo da Vinci Thematic Network promoted in the framework of the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP), where VESTA-GIS represents a network operating as a comprehensive “clearing house” devoted to combine access, also throughout customized “Training Paths”, to training courses opportunities.

In particular, “Project Training Frameworks” are defined in the context of European projects with the aims to match with the knowledge needed for the project development and its exploitation towards the targeted audience of final users.

These Training Frameworks have a modular architecture composed of three main blocks:

- The training package, consisting in the index of contents of the training, their metadata and the accessibility to them;
- E-learning tools (mainly consisting in e-learning platforms hosting the training material and the instruments to attend the courses);
- The training material (lectures, documents, exercises available for the trainees)

The above scheme for the “Training Framework” has been already applied in the HUMBOLDT project.

The HUMBOLDT project (www.esdi-humboldt.eu) aims at facilitating harmonisation of multi-source spatial data and at supporting the implementation of INSPIRE. The objective of the training in HUMBOLDT is to increase the impact and efficacy of the project outcomes by providing training material in an e-learning context. The HUMBOLDT training is addressed to the user communities of the HUMBOLDT Framework, as well as for the communities of GMES and INSPIRE.

The training material, prepared during the project, is mainly referred to:

- Data Harmonisation, Data Modelling and IT standards
- INSPIRE and GMES
- The use of the HUMBOLDT Framework
- Application of the HUMBOLDT tools in the HUMBOLDT Scenarios

The HUMBOLDT Training Courses are structured in a modular and flexible way, mainly in form of lectures and interactive tutorials. The material is being developed considering three content levels:

- Level 1 - The HUMBOLDT Knowledge:
Includes training material related to background knowledge useful to operate with the HUMBOLDT Framework. Here you will find courses on GMES, the INSPIRE Directive, Web Services, Metadata and the concept of Data Harmonisation.
- Level 2 - The HUMBOLDT Framework: Provides training on Data Harmonisation and the HUMBOLDT tools. Here you will find courses on Data Modelling, Schema Transformation and training material related to the use of the HUMBOLDT Framework software tools.
- Level 3 - The HUMBOLDT Scenarios:
Contains training material dealing with Data Harmonisation aspects in different domains and in real world conditions. Find here demonstrative examples using the tools in the HUMBOLDT Scenarios, addressed to end-users, in particular the organisations representing a potential audience for the HUMBOLDT Framework.

The HUMBOLDT Training Platform, established by widely diffused open source e-Learning tools, constitutes the infrastructure hosting the courses and training material. The material is accessible after a subscription process for the courses on the Training Package site. Once subscribed to the course (or courses), the user is redirected to an e-learning platform with personalized access.

The training material has been developed in a variety of formats appropriate to the nature of the lessons, i.e. Presentations with voice, screen casts, plain text lectures, exercises, etc. The e-learning platform also allows monitoring the user progress at all times. Training services are also provided as seminars or workshops, as the one proposed at Symposium GIS Ostrava 2011, in deploying the same training content in a way tailored to the specific occasions and to the skill of the targeted audience.

Keywords: e-learning, INSPIRE, data harmonisation, training framework

Autor nedodal plný text příspěvku.

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