

INTEROPERABILITY AND STANDARDS FOR EARLY WARNING AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT

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To efficiently deal with societal, environmental and economic challenges in our increasingly complex world, current and accurate information is the most important aspect. The key that enables such information access in the first place is standardisation. It is the definition of common interfaces and terminology between heterogeneous systems that enables interoperability.

Especially in emergency and disaster management the ability to rapidly share, integrate and apply geospatial information is critical. The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) plays a key role addressing the requirements for interoperability among a broad range of organisations operating across different domains in this area. Only a well-run global consensus standards process can provide the platform that can make such information ubiquitous in mainstream information processing. Open standards are essential for developing flexible information conduits that meet organisational needs.

The presentation will give an overview over OpenGIS standards that are used in various initiatives and projects and will show various examples from within OGC's Interoperability Initiatives. They very often feature disaster scenarios. Interoperability initiatives and testbeds like the GEOSS interoperability pilot and EU funded projects like SANY (Sensors Anywhere), are focussing on the use of OpenGIS standards to address disaster scenarios and challenges for early warning systems. OGC's Interoperability Program (IP) leverages rapid prototyping test bed activities to fast track the introduction of specific industry requirements into the formal standards development process. OGC has operated the IP program since 1999. Test beds are based on member defined real-world use-cases. They involve the collaborative efforts of the most active development organizations in the consortium and routinely produce draft specifications. Standards resulting from the IP are often implemented in software products and thus can be used for disaster management and early warning systems.

Additional to the above described aspects, an overview over current OGC activities in South-Eastern Europe can be given.

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