

SEMESTRE DI PRESIDENZA ITALIANA DELL'UNIONE EUROPEA  
SEMESTER OF ITALIAN PRESIDENCY OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

*Territorial information systems for the conservation, preservation and management of  
Cultural Heritage*

Workshop 2:

*Spatial Information and cultural heritage: towards a European data infrastructure.*

**Conclusions**

Prof. Mauro Salvemini

Preamble

The moveable and immovable cultural heritage is an indispensable ingredient for the well-being and development of local, regional, national and European communities, this in conformity with the principles expressed in the Granada Convention (1985), the Valletta Convention (1992) and the Florence Convention (2000);

Geographic Information is already considered to be an important instrument of management, as well as for the dissemination and the use of information for the benefit of citizens and good practices in public administration;

the INSPIRE Initiative and the forthcoming EU directive on the use of public service information demonstrate the relevance and importance of Geographic Information;

We recognize that GI has now become an important part of the general information of cultural heritage

Regarding GI, the workshop recognized that:

- There is a need for adopting common standards on data and systems based on interoperability and the integration of practices
- Geographic Information Systems should be user-friendly to satisfy public and private needs for information, thus facilitating access to knowledge and use of data
- Geographic Information solutions must ensure interdisciplinary approaches and contributions at technical, conceptual, project and user levels

- GI should serve as a common platform of heterogeneous information related to Cultural Heritage
- GI is indispensable for complex data analysis of the territorial context of the Cultural Heritage
- The EU dimension of GI will contribute to the promotion of multi-lingual aspect and cross border aspects
- The GI may play an important role in optimizing the use of already existing Data bases at member state level as well as at local authority level;
- GI should conform to the highest quality standards and should be driven by best practices;
- GI is an indispensable tool for administrative work related to the regulation, operation and promotion of cultural heritage at local and central government level;
- Prohibitive costs of GI software, the acquisition of digitized cartographic data and the management of GIS can be harmful to cultural heritage management, unless adequate policies are implemented at EU and member state level enabling the use of open software sources and base-data;
- GI as systematic view of cultural heritage
- Critical aspects that need to be addressed are:
  - Metadata
  - Diversity of CH
  - Long term thinking and acting
  - GI is needed for protection
  - Interoperability of SW

- The extended use of GI through Internet and www

The workshop recommends:

- Analysis of user requirements for setting up the DATA INFRASTRUCTURE based on geographic address for cultural heritage;
- Define common rules for a better use of geographic data of cultural heritage.
- That a committee be established to
  - (a) Examine existing EU actions and initiatives regarding the use of GI for Cultural Heritage
  - (b) To create an adequate forum for sustaining and promoting the activities of EC and Member States regarding the geographic address of cultural heritage.
  - (c) To promote the dissemination of best practices, common standards and quality of GIS and geographic information