

## **Abstract**

Municipalities are under pressure to improve the services they provide to companies and citizens. An efficient information exchange is a requirement for supporting local processes such as e.g. the spatial planning process.

At the European level, INSPIRE is being developed but the question is whether the municipalities are willing and able to implement a Spatial Information Infrastructure?

Theory shows that organisational rather than technological aspects will determine whether the municipalities will be able to implement a Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII). Based on the key factors for SII implementation, this research has developed a model to determine SII maturity of the studied municipalities from an organisational perspective. Besides, different models were applied to measure whether the municipalities are willing to implement SIIs as well as to measure the current implementation status in the municipalities.

Based on these three studies, we have determined whether the municipalities are willing and able to implement a SII.

The conclusion is that municipalities in the Dutch province Limburg (as a whole) are not willing and/or able to implement a Spatial Information Infrastructure. Research in the adjacent German Kreis Heinsberg yields similar results.

Indeed, the principal obstacles when implementing a SII have turned out to be of an organisational rather than of a technological nature. Finance and culture were important aspects.

At the same time, municipalities had insufficient knowledge of what a SII is and what it can mean for the municipalities.

Particularly the smaller municipalities have difficulties to implement a SII. Collaboration, possibly in a shared service centre, could be a solution to share the necessary knowledge and experience and gain efficiency. For ensuring the success of INSPIRE also at the local level, actions should be taken now in view of the detected bottlenecks!