

Access to government information unnecessary remains a case of professional elite

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Thursday October 12, 2006; 9:00-10:30; TS62 SIM policy and strategy; Rm02

OTB Research Institute for Housing, Urban and Mobility Studies, section Geo-information and Land Development



Overview

- Starting point
- Two access policies poles for PSI
- Use fragmentation
- Ways forward

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Starting point

- European public geographic information is often of "high" quality
- These are available against a price and restrictions
- Use is primarily in government, and professionals
- Value added activity is limited
- Mass market is not (yet) reached
- The potentials of the geographic information infrastructure are not fully utilized

FIG TS 62: SIM: Policy and Strategy



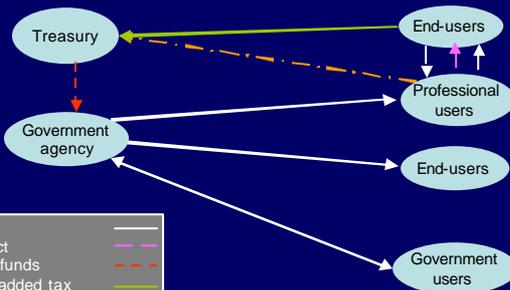
Two access policy poles for PSI

- Open access policies
- Cost recovery policies

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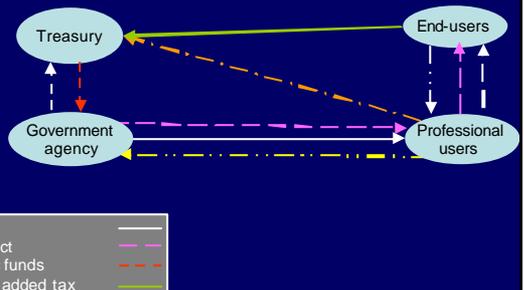
Open Access Model



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Data | — |
| Product | — |
| Public funds | — |
| Value added tax | — |
| Income/Company tax | — |
| Price | — |



Cost Recovery Model



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Data | — |
| Product | — |
| Public funds | — |
| Value added tax | — |
| Income/Company tax | — |
| Price | — |



Dilemma of the public enterprise

- Although a policy change would benefit the public enterprise (society) macro-economically, micro-economically, it is assumed that a public information provider (such as a public enterprise) loses part of its income.
- Therefore, public information providers are reluctant in changing their policies.

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Cost and value paradox

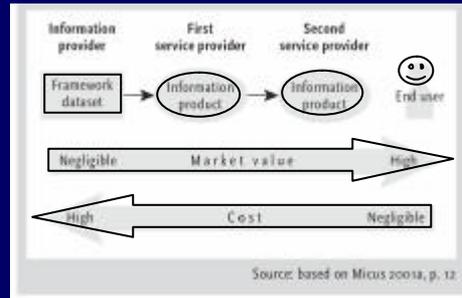


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Users of geographic information

- Primary users (users who use the data set frequently for purposes similar to those of data collection);
- Secondary users (irregular users for similar purposes as the primary users);
- Tertiary users (value-added users), and
- Quaternary users (end-users).

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A hybrid access policy

- Primary and secondary users value data set at current pricing levels: maintain cost recovery policies
- For tertiary users:
 - Free access for tertiary use
 - Only permitted use is tertiary use
 - Royalties based on tertiary user's turnover compensates data set provider (or returns improved information)

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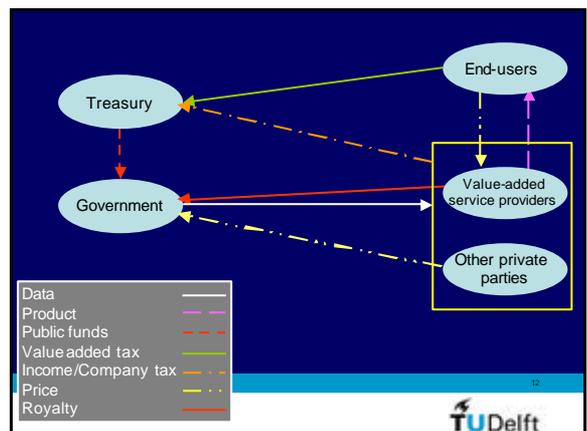


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Roadblocks

- Distinguishing secondary and tertiary use
 - are these non-comparable categories of re-use (PSI directive)?
 - how to enforce the distinction of user groups
- To what extent does PSI directive allow royalties?

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Conclusion

- The hybrid access model may be a first step to overcome status quo between the two access policy ends
- It may result in the widespread availability of value-added geographic information, and
- Satisfying all those with a (potential) geographic information need

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Acknowledgment

- The authors acknowledge the financial assistance of the Dutch government through the Space for Geo - information programme (RGI-117 Geo-data: from delivery to access) and Delft University of Technology through the Delft Centre for Sustainable Urban Areas.

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