



MILDMAP MEDIA* : A geoenvironmental data exchange information system.

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The MILDMAP MEDIA project concerns mainly the integration of different methodologies and techniques for monitoring, analysis and assessment of physical processes in order to improve the decision-making chain for the control of natural resources. All necessary information is collected from partners, specifications are defined and a system is designed and implemented to enable scientific sites located around the Mediterranean to exchange their environmental data. This procedure involves the implementation of a database and an application for its maintenance, as well as a web interface for the exchange of data among partners. Data are obtained from the analysis, assessment and mapping of losses directly caused by natural phenomena related to land degradation. This will be extended to the analysis of functionality and vulnerability of territorial elements and their interactions. The data collections reside in various resources and network infrastructures (servers, databases, etc) of the member organizations. The used network technique that connects all partners is VPN (Virtual Private Network). Partners will be enabled to classify all information and either limit the access within the project intranet or make it accessible from the internet through various network applications (i.e. standalone or web based). This enforces both the private and the public character of the project. The main target is to enable partners to exchange environmental data and perform fundamental data manipulations such as file format changes that will be conducted online without affecting the source data or increasing the workload of their individual systems. A common method for describing and organizing the available content through the use of metadata is introduced, facilitating the search, sharing and information exchange. Metadata provide information

regarding data stored, such as format, size, method created, owner, area of interest and other essential information. This way, users may dynamically invoke on-line search, based on certain criteria or upload environmental material describing it with the necessary metadata. More advanced web services, which depend on the scientific content of the system, can be built upon this infrastructure using various techniques, maintaining and ensuring the scalability, interoperability, trans-national character and the low long-term cost of the system.

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