

The application of the PSI Directive in the Cadastral Sector

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In the next month I will explain to you our experience of the application of the PSI directive in the cadastral sector. I hope it will interest you. Here is my first comment in this blog:

Spain's General Directorate of Cadastre (GDC) manages quality digital cadastral information that is highly useful to citizens and public administrations. In 2003 the GDC decided to make this information available on Internet in the form of the virtual office of Cadastre, or e-Cadastre (CVO, now: Electronical site for cadastre <http://www.sedecatastro.gob.es/>). In its initial phase, the service allowed consultation and certification of alpha-numeric and graphic data, and where previously citizens had to apply to their provincial Cadastral office for a cadastral certificate to present it to another public administration, the public entity can now access this data directly through the <http://www.sedecatastro.gob.es/>.

In response to user demand, additional services have since been made available. Data exchange services were implemented, both with Collaborating Entities (local authorities, notaries, and property registrars, all of which cooperate in database maintenance) and with other administrations with territorial functions, for which the CVO has represented significant improvement in efficiency and effectivity.

Evolution of the <http://www.sedecatastro.gob.es/> has included implementation of webservice to integrate systems applications used by Collaborating Entities, permitting on-line maintenance of the database, improving the exchange of information and incorporating an external geographical system to overlay Cadastral information onto their own cartographies. This is a fine example of interoperability.

The project has been a phenomenal success, however, the model excluded citizens who did not have access to Internet. To solve this issue, 3,000 Cadastral Information Points (PICs) were created, managed by Collaborating Entities and forming a network that allows all citizens to make consultations and issue certificates of updated graphic and alpha-numeric cadastral data, free of charge, 24 hours a day.

Following its "Getting closer to the Citizen" policy, the GDC has consolidated this network of collaborating agents to give citizens not owning computers access to the sedecatastro and updated cadastral information. This network is based principally on agreements with local authorities, since these are closest to the citizen, and represents a model of institutional cooperation. Cadastral Information Points (PICs) are located in local authority premises and are managed by their own employees, allowing citizens to obtain cadastral services without having to travel to the provincial cadastral office.

sedecatastro objectives are fully aligned with the Information and Communication Technologies Policy included in the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP) 2007-2013 for "the development of an information society for all in support of the i2010 goals, working to get a wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses" and of course it is a good example of application of the principles of the PSI directive.