



The INSPIRE Hackathons: A framework for solving real-life problems innovating with today's knowledge, data and technology

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Engineering and geosciences are both developing new knowledge faster and faster. The academic institutions have problems following up with the education and training demanded by society. The need of holistic approaches in problem-solving is manifested in areas such as the Water-Energy-Food nexus, to mention one of many. Technological development in fields like ICT, the accelerating production of data, the demand for open data, open source etc are areas where both the younger generation students as well as experts of all ages need to stay abreast and updated to be able to contribute to society.

The INSPIRE hackathon(s) focuses on methods where citizens, students and scientists alike are able to contribute to solving real-life problems, problems that requires a multi-disciplinary knowledge and typically a holistic view. Hackathons are a social innovation that provide a framework for use of and training in the latest technology. It is highly participatory through the open process of defining problems to be solved and the subsequent solving using state-of-the-art tools.

We will present the INSPIRE hackathon concept, show how it is an efficient timely tool for education in the latest knowledge and technology, and how it also provides a continuity so that both results and networks are maintained beyond the single hackathon.

The INSPIRE hackathons are created under the European INSPIRE conferences and support the European vision of sharing data across national borders, making information interoperable, and demonstrate the value for the environment. These hackathons supports creativity, innovation, technical capabilities and knowledge sharing by combining open data, Volunteered Geographical Information, GNSS, Linked open data, and data from citizens observatories or other citizen science activities. The INSPIRE hackathons provide a sustainable platform for future education and training.