

# What do we need laws for?

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## Introduction

- Paper - version on CD first draft – newer version on the website
- Try for a “global” or general view, with national and European model as example
- Extracting important points
  - Defining an SDI
  - Things that can go wrong with legislation
  - Experiences with voluntary solutions
  - Role of the public sector
  - Success factors

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## Defining the infrastructure

- Responsibilities agreed upon or regulated
- Construction and tasks
  - Metadata, specifications, and means to discover, visualise and evaluate
- Financing
  - Government organising responsibilities and funding
- Use of structure and available content
  - Access, payment, restrictions



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Factors	Law	Regulation	No legislation
Infrastructure	General in nature and important policy	If law already in place	Requires that stakeholders agree
Construction	Responsibilities and general principles	Detailed specifications	Agree on standards and technology
Financing	If it concerns legally independent stakeholders	Detailed requirements if necessary	Stakeholders must be willing to provide resources
Use	Adapt to existing regulations Requirements on legally independent stakeholders	Detailed requirements if necessary	Requires that stakeholders are willing to make data available

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## From where to SDI?

- **Defining SDI does not tell us how to make it**
  - Traditions and history
- **The existence of**
  - Voluntary solutions to build on
  - Standards and standardised data
- **Level of technology**
  - In the whole society
- **More than fulfilling set of given terms**
  - Avoid “do as little as possible” solutions
  - Building trust and find common goals
  - This also applies to a reform using law as a tool



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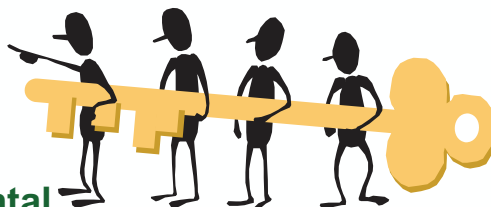
## The use of regulations as a tool

- **Laws are slow to make and change**
  - Technology heavy areas are particularly vulnerable
  - Regulate the result, not the means
- **The process can give a positive focus and much needed political attention**
  - Possibly a result stakeholders disagree with
  - **The dangers of minimum solutions**
    - Not enough thought for the whole picture leaves you solving new issues for ever

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## Experiences

- In Norway a voluntary solution has worked well
  - Has taken many years of gradual building
  - Government regulates its own activities
  - Others have joined in seeing advantages
  - Vertical rather than horizontal
  - Political support is still important
- For Europe a legal framework, INSPIRE directive
  - For many countries this means existing voluntary solutions is replaced by law
  - A directive is always a political compromise



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## Role of public sector

- PSI is the most important content for SDI
  - SDI for public sector will benefit all
- Public sector needs it for an increasing amount of everyday tasks
  - An SDI allow them to focus on core activities
  - Efficient use of public funds
- User payment and funding
  - Moving money around or focusing on the right tasks?
  - The fickleness of politicians...

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## So do we need laws?

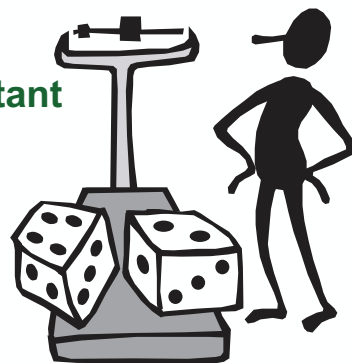
• **Yes and no....**



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## What for?

- **As starting points vary, so must the methods**
  - Law is a tool, not an end in itself
  - To achieve the goal is more important than using the “right” principles
  - Make your own priorities yourself!
- **Certain success factors are the same**
  - Creating common goals
  - Getting political as well as popular support
  - A big reform with technical content is useless without follow-up – whether its done by laws or voluntarily



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