

## **Towards User-driven Spatial Data Infrastructures. An Approach Oriented to Sustainable Development**

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### **Abstract**

The genesis of spatial data infrastructures (SDI) and the first stages of its evolution have been rather “pushed” by the information and communication technology advances, particularly, the World Wide Web, instead of “pulled” by the user demand. Although recently user-driven approaches are being remarked in some SDI initiatives, a long way is necessary to be undertaken in order to meet the actual needs of users and decision makers and translate their contexts into SDI language and components. It is increasingly accepted the necessity to shift from data-centric to user-centric SDIs. This paper focuses on methodological issues to build user-driven SDIs into the context of sustainable development, supported on ontology concepts. It is part of the work ongoing in the project 606PI0294 of CYTED, entitled “Evaluation and strengthening of spatial data infrastructures in sustainable development in Latin-America and the Caribbean”, that is being undertaken by eight countries of the region: Cuba, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Uruguay and Spain. In the first project activities, most sustainable development indicators were found suitable to be mapped at sub-national levels, but it was also recognized that country based customization will be always needed. Building a tailor made SDI considering spatial ontology perspective, could be an appropriate alternative to strength and support this user-driven approach in assessing sustainable development.