Joint development of open source geoportal software with integration to statistical interfaces

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Open Source projects are at best platforms for creative communities. Doing things together reduces costs, prevents overlapping work and can create new partnerships and innovations. In this paper we use Oskari - open source geoportal software - as an example of national and international cooperation between different stakeholders.

Oskari is a versatile open source package for creating web map services and embedded maps. It was initially developed to answer the need for showcasing INSPIRE and OGC compatible geospatial interfaces and thus respond to the need for creation of national view services. One of the most recently added tools has become a key element of Oskari - the ability to connect to different statistical API’s and create thematic maps.

The key element for fostering open source projects is open communication. The ability to see how the development process is advancing helps the organisations and developers see if the project is stable and active. This also needs lots of work in bringing the development ideas and discussions visible. In 2014 a network of Oskari project owners was established in order to get organisations more involved in the joint development. Spreading the understanding of how to develop is the second most crucial factor in open source development.

At the moment Oskari is in use in several organisations in Finland and abroad (Island, Moldavia, multinational ArcticSDI project). In this presentation the joint development efforts for creating a service presenting statistical geospatial data are discussed.