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Users perspectives for geospatial collections development in an open access era: The case of Greek libraries

Presentation Outline

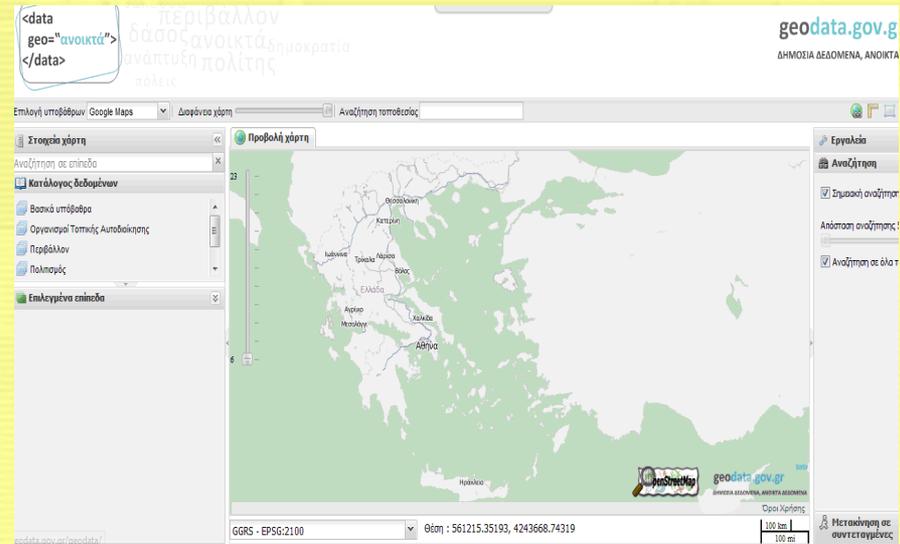
- Background
- Motivation for research
- Aim and Scope of Research
- Research Question
- Methodology
- Results
- Conclusions

Background :

Geographic Information in Greece

2010 a revolutionary year for GI in Greece:

- INSPIRE Directive (National Organization of Cartography and Cadastre represents Greece at the INSPIRE Committee)
- National Geographic Information Infrastructure
- geodata.gov
 - ▶ supports the enforcement of Law 3979/2011 for eGovernment
 - ▶ provides technical support to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure



<http://http://geodata.gov.gr>

Greece was one of the eight countries offering open geospatial data

Motivation for research

- The need for geospatial information
- The lack of academic libraries so far to deliver geospatial collections and GIS services to their patrons

and because

- Patrons considered as the core element in an organization that provides services
- GIS users have not been approached in library environment

Aim and Scope of Research

- A part of Phd regarding policies for geospatial collections development in libraries
- The last stage of a three partial research regarding geospatial collections and GIS services in Greek libraries
- Raise awareness among professionals in libraries and other information agencies motivating them to engage to new initiatives for the exploitation of geospatial data

Research Question

“Do Greek libraries respond in covering the informational needs of GIS users?”

- Is library use a choice for GIS users in their seeking for the appropriate information?
- Is the implementation of geospatial collection a necessity for Greek libraries?
- Is open access an opportunity and a perspective for growth for Greek libraries?

Methodology

- a questionnaire was chosen as an instrument
- **20** questions in **4** sections

Data Collection

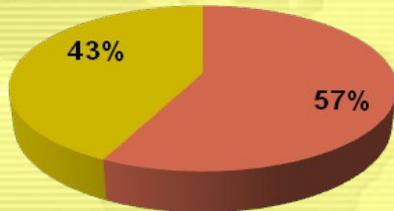
The questionnaire was promoted:

- in print during the 7th Panhellenic Conference of HellasGIS (May 2012)
- posted on the website of HellasGIS, and on the geoportal “Geothea”
- via e-mail to GIS users to academic institutions, research centers public sector and private sector (companies that are engaged in GIS market) all over Greece (9/12-2/13)
- 325 responses which were limited to **304** most completed questionnaires

Results

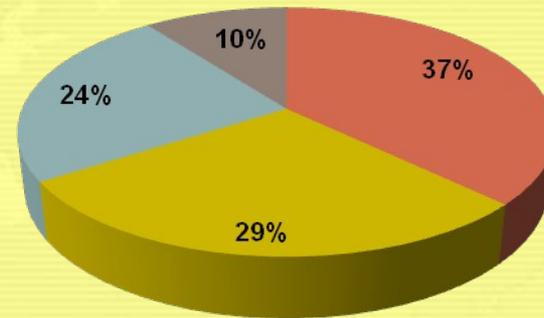
Gender

■ Male ■ Female



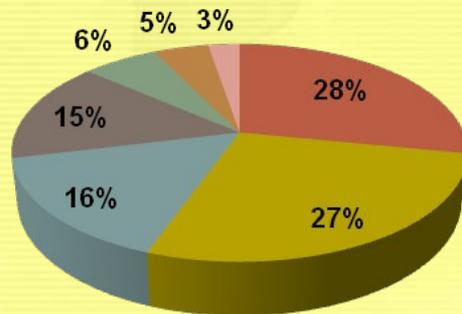
Academic Qualification

■ PhD ■ Postgraduate ■ Masters ■ Other



Professional Rank

■ Faculty ■ Students
■ Employees in public sector ■ Employees in private sector
■ Researchers in Academ. Inst. ■ Research. in Res. Inst/Org
■ Other(unspecified occupation)



B. Library Use

QUESTIONS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGES
Libraries responsiveness to collect & organize geospatial data	No	33.3% (99)
Medium used for covering geospatial needs	Internet	82.2% (244)
Use of Greek Library	Yes	50.2% (148)
Geospatial needs coverage by Greek Libraries	No	53.8% (77)
Geospatial Collection Development in Greece	Very Bad	46.7% (136)
Possible improvements	Policies	63.9% (191)

C. Collection Necessity

QUESTIONS	RESPONSES	PERCENTAGES
Who should gather geospatial information	Public Sector	76.8% (229)
Geospatial Collection is a necessity for all libraries	Yes	65.1% (194)
Libraries should collect geospatial data	Yes	81.9% (245)
What a library should do for developing geospatial collections	Policies	59.9% (179)
Obstacles for geospatial collection development	Lack of policies	52.2% (156)

D. Open Access

STATEMENTS	PERCENTAGES
Libraries should use open geospatial data for providing better services	79.8% (237)
Libraries should provide geospatial data of their parent institution	64.4% (192)

Next priority for geospatial data according the respondents (Top Ten)

RANK	STATEMENT	PERCENTAGES
1	Open access and disposal at no cost	20.43% (28)
2	Collection and organization of data	18.97 % (26)
3	Policies development	15.32% (21)
4	Establishment of an aggregator for the management of produced geospatial data	8.75% (12)
5	Users information	8.02% (11)
6	Quality of data	7.3% (10)
7	Cooperation of public sector units	6.6% (9)
8	More data in libraries through the disposal of geospatial data to them	5.8% (8)
9	Infrastructure development and use of the new technology (cloud sourcing, location based services etc)	5.1% (7)
10	Use of standards	4.4% (6)

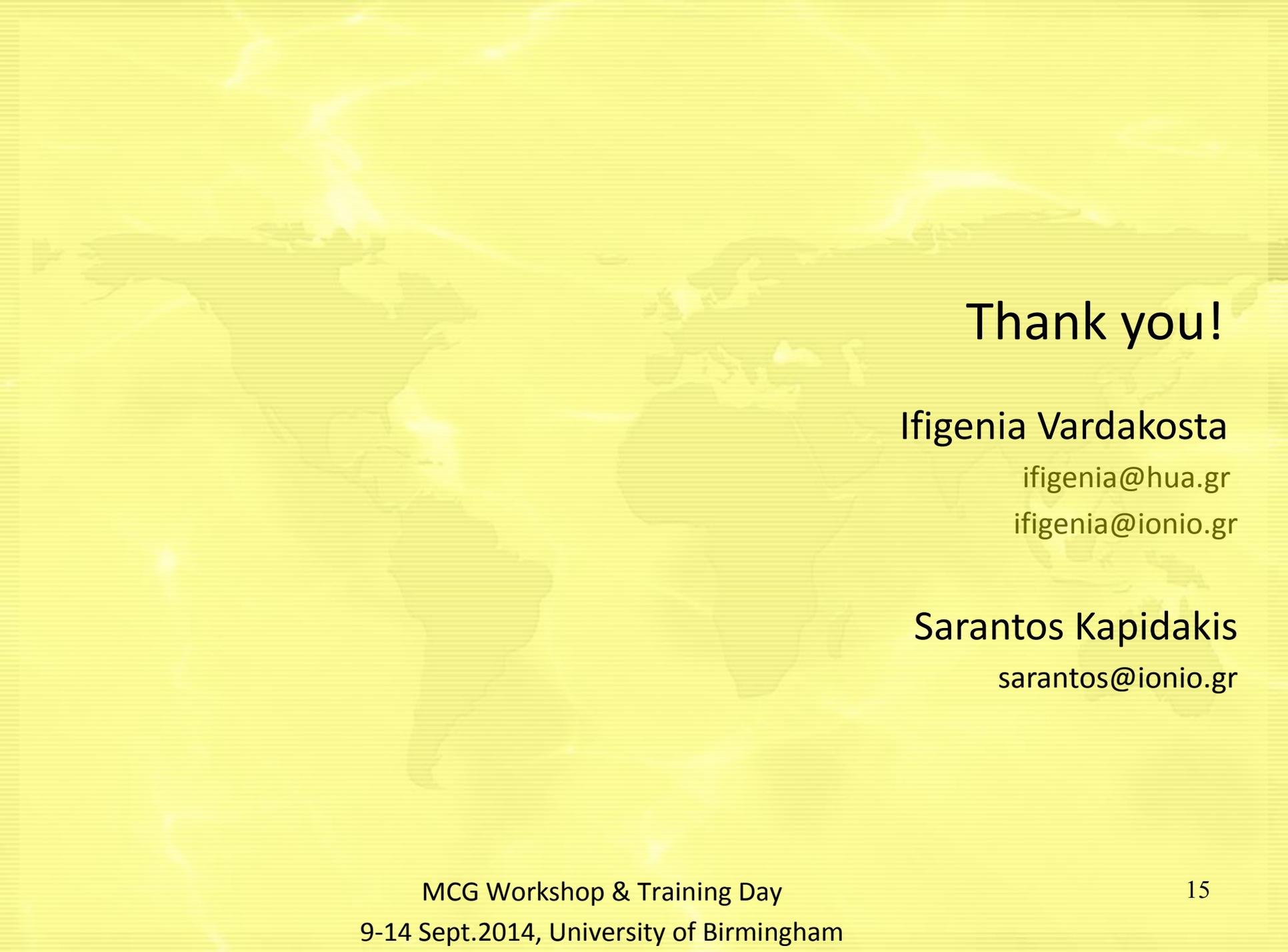
Conclusions (1)

- The variety of disciplines that users are involved in, demonstrates GIS technology and data impact in today's information society
- GIS users do not use Greek libraries for covering geo-information needs although they recognize their role in collection and dissemination of geospatial information
- The implementation of geospatial collections is considered as a necessity in all types of libraries and therefore appropriate policies should be developed
- Open access consists an opportunity for the exploitation of geospatial data
- There are certain issues that should be thoroughly discussed and defined for geospatial data information (e.g. organization of data, policies, synergies)

Conclusions (2)

GIS users believe that Greek libraries should:

- expand their services and respond to their geo-informational needs
- develop geospatial collection development policies
- adopt open access for providing better services
- diffuse the geospatial data produced by the parent institution
- Cooperate for developing common practices

A faint, light-colored world map is visible in the background of the slide, centered behind the text.

Thank you!

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