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Innovative visualisation systems for EU coastal Countries

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Abstract

The project rises from the collaboration between different Italian National Statistical Institute (Istat) Departments: Regional office for Sicily and Territorial and IT Directorate that have participated to a EU Grant launched in 2016 on “Merging statistics and geospatial information”. The main aim of the paper is to describe innovative visualization systems to develop a model for integrating statistical and geographical information on EU coastal countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and, in a second step, in enlarging the prototype to all the European countries.

In the web application geographical data are referred to NUTS 2 and 3 level, according to the availability of time series concern different thematic areas: tourism, environment, transportation, population, economic growth, social inclusion and education, indicators are selected by DB Regio and Census Eurostat Databases.

A metadata template site has been used and customized to provide documentation information throughout queries by the users; it is related to the data, application, representation techniques and classification methodology. Therefore the web application ensures thematic, geographical and historical comparability through four different quadrants. Some guidelines provided to the users describes different comparison and classification systems for class breakdown. More in detail 4 different indicator comparisons are available: a) Spatial – 4 geographical areas and same year; b) Temporal – 4 different years and same area; c) Thematic – different indicators in the same thematism for same year or same area; d) Free – different indicators in different thematisms for same year or same area.

The work in progress version has been extending in bilingual version, all EU countries and more enlarged indicators. On this last point a focus has been developing on the possibility to implement territorial indicators integrating different sources for some NUTS 2 European regions referred to some of Sustainable Development Goals (consolidated databases for indicators at regional level are already available for Italy).