

Abstract

Promoting GIS Within an Organization

Track: System Implementation for GIS

Author(s): Piet Houben

In my organization (Transportation Research Centre of Ministry of Transport) GIS (ESRI software) is being used as technical tool supporting production processes. GIS, as analytic tool for end-users is relatively new. In the past few years some analytic GIS expertise has been developed within our department. However, only a few persons developed this expertise. Because of a heavy workload this knowledge and experience was not communicated within the department. Because of this the (analytic) possibilities of GIS kept under-exposed and opportunities for the department were missed. The management of our department saw this problem and started a project to establish a so-called GIS-Knowledge Centre (GKC): a communication platform for discussion on GIS-related subjects in which all relevant sub-departments were represented. (More details about this GKC will be given during a short presentation). Organizing this GKC-platform means that people have to invest time! And time, again, is a crucial factor in this issue. Working to establish a GKC is not directly productive, nor is it directly accountable to projects, resulting in a situation that it gets the lowest priority given the everyday workload. My statement is that, in order to be successful in promoting GIS-knowledge and communicating about GIS within an organization, it is necessary to disengage capacity/people to fulfill this task and, even better, to embed this task within the organization.

Piet Houben

Transport Research Centre

Hoofdafdeling Basisgegevens

Akerstraat 27a

Heerlen 6411 GW

Netherlands

Phone: (31) 45 5605371

E-mail: p.g.p.houben@avv.rws.minvenw.nl