



LifeData improves the life cycle and accessibility of environmental data

LifeData 2011–2015

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LifeData identifies, applies and demonstrates new database management methods and user application systems for environmental organizations. The project improves the use of collected data by providing easier access to data sources and bridging the gap between data producers and users. The appropriate and tested data management tools, as well as organized working methods facilitate the data collection, documentation, storing, data (re)use and data mining.

LifeData (2011–2015) is a joint project between Finnish Forest Research Institute Metla (coord.), Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute (RKTL). Agrofood Research (MTT) is participating as a project partner with independent funding. LifeData is funded by EU Life+ instrument.



METLA



Important questions and steps towards project objectives

Who use the data/information? What is the role of data during research process?

Customers and their needs will be analysed. The process description of research activities and connections to the data management process will be defined. Organizational customer service strategies will be defined.

Who can use the data/information during its life-cycle and which data sets should be prioritised when building networks for public access?

The data policy and service terms will be analysed and identified at the organisation level. The existing data sets/databases and services will be identified.

How can the data mining be conducted? How can separate data sets be combined by the casual user?

New databases will be built or existing databases will be improved such that new data combinations can be created. Proper integrated databases and user interfaces will be built and outdated systems will be modernised.

How to identify and manage the data maintained by just few key persons?

The data storages, data interactions and utilization facilities will be described by the data architectural plan.

The process description of data management and managers will be defined. A detailed data description at variable level will be improved. The used variables will be standardised.

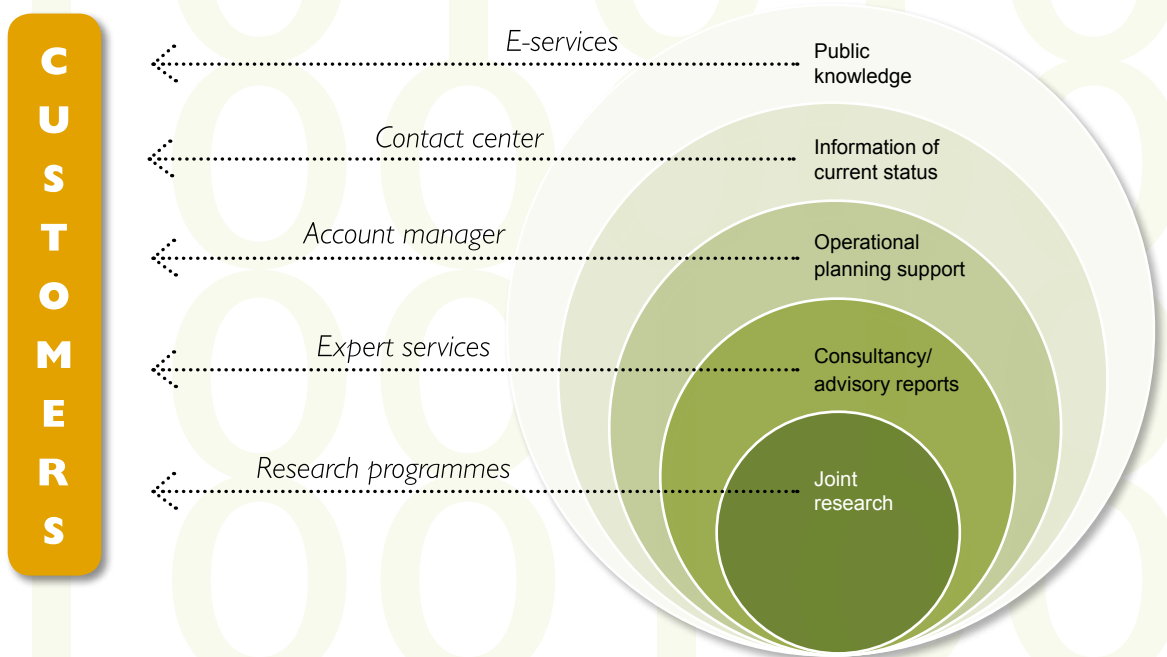
How does the user find the data? Can data delivery be user-friendly?

By developing data searching systems LifeData provides open and easy access to the public knowledge bases allowing innovative communication channels between the public and the scientific knowledge.

Map applications demonstrate the results of the project. Tools are offered for interactive use of spatial and register data for land cover, species data and hydrology.

LifeData will be put into practice in six actions

- Data architecture; data modelling and databases
- Customer service strategy
- Data searching systems
- Internet map services
- Dissemination and communication
- Project management



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