

Abstract

of

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One important achievement of the civilization in the 20th century is the wide acceptance of the concept about the sustainable development by people and governments around the world. One of the most important principles of the sustainable development is the participation of the general public in related decision making, regional planning and development in particular.

Scientists have the responsibility to find out some suitable platforms (languages) to improve the communication not only between professionals but also among decision makers and people. With the rapid development and applications of information technology, we, geographers, may need to explore better geographic languages for playing a more active role in the regional sustainable development. This lecture will discuss the evolution of the geographic languages from maps to geographic information systems (GIS) and virtual geographic environments (VGE).