

Geographic Information System (GIS) -> WebGIS -> AlpES WebGIS

A **Geographic Information System (GIS)** is an information system, which is based on [data](#) referenced by geographic coordinates (Curran, 1984)¹⁾.

Object ID	LAU 2 Label	State	Area km2
1	Dirlwang	Germany	23,3
2	Eggenthal	Germany	28,1
3	Apfeltrach	Germany	15,0
4	Unteregg	Germany	23,7
5	Bad Wörishofen	Germany	58,5
6	Baisweil	Germany	26,3
7	Irsee	Germany	17,3
8	Pforzen	Germany	23,6



It is a system consisting of hardware, software, data, people, organizations and institutional arrangements for capturing, collecting, storing, manipulating, analyzing and disseminating information about areas of the earth (Dueker & Kjerne, 1989)²⁾. Analyses of geodata or spatio-temporal phenomena can be presented and visualized (Goodchild, 2009)³⁾.

A **WebGIS** provides access to a GIS requiring only a web browser. It is an Internet based Geographic Information System with reduced GIS functionality (Bartoschek, 2009)⁴⁾. The best known example of a WebGIS is probably Google Maps.

AlpES WebGIS

One of the main outputs in the [AlpES project](#) is the AlpES WebGIS. This WebGIS makes the spatial project data results available to the public and especially to the stakeholders. It can be used as a planning tool concerning [ecosystem services](#).

Why do we use a WebGIS in the AlpES project?

Since it is the easiest and cheapest way to publish spatial project results to a broad audience. The AlpES WebGIS makes the [ecosystem services](#) (ES) [indicators](#) accessible to the stakeholders. A large number of people can use it at the same time. There is no need of having proprietary GIS software (Painho et al., 2001)⁵⁾, local storage capacity and professional knowledge. It only requires a webbrowser.

The AlpES WebGIS...

- ... is interactive and userfriendly
- ... is multilingual (DE, EN, FR, IT, SL)
- ... does not allow data download
- ... has a modern look and feel
- ... is based on open-source WebGIS architecture
- ... has pregenerated styled project result and background data
- ... is provided by [IGF/ÖAW](#).

Users of the AlpES WebGIS can...

- ... zoom in and out
- ... shift to the area of interest
- ... select layers
- ... access layer and metadata information
- ... change layer's transparency
- ... choose background data
- ... create own maps in an easy way
- ... print maps

Additional Resources

- www.alpes-webgis.eu
- [AlpES WebGIS tutorials](#)
- [Data quality requirements for AlpES-WebGIS](#)

[WebGIS, ecosystem services, AlpES project, indicator](#)

¹⁾
Curran, P. (1984). Geographic Information Systems. Area, 16 , 153-158. Retrieved from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20002046>

²⁾
Dueker, K. J., & Kjerne, D. (1989): Multipurpose cadastre: Terms and definitions. American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing

³⁾
Goodchild, M. F. (2009): Geographic Information System. In: Encyclopedia of Database Systems, pp. 1231-1236. Springer US. DOI: 10.1007/978-0-387-39940-9_178. Retrieved from http://link.springer.com/referenceworkentry/10.1007%2F978-0-387-39940-9_178

⁴⁾
Bartoschek, T. (2009): WebGIS für die Schule – ein Überblick. Retrieved from https://www.researchgate.net/publication/236340662_WebGIS_fur_die_Schule_-_ein_Uberblick

⁵⁾
Painho, M., Cabral, P., Peixoto, M. & Sena, R. (2001): WebGIS as a Teaching Tool. Retrieved from http://www.academia.edu/2861405/WebGIS_as_a_teaching_tool

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