

# 1 Summary

Realisation of much of space-related developments demands a sound geo-information infrastructure and knowledge base. To realise this objective, the Bsik knowledge project proposal 'Space for Geo-information' is aimed at the enhancement of the current situation as well as the necessary innovations for the future. The knowledge project boosts the knowledge economy of the Netherlands through a well-thought-out balance between geo-science and geo-practice. The mission of this knowledge project is as follows:

'Enhancement and innovation of the geo-information infrastructure and the geo-knowledge community in the Netherlands towards sound and efficient public administration and a robust business'.

This proposal is backed by a broad-based consortium of over 120 parties with a financial commitment of 27 million euro. Our application is for a Bsik contribution of 33.1 million euro.

## Background of the knowledge project

The information aspect of social issues is becoming more and more complex, often including a spatial component. Spatial analysis and scenarios contribute to solutions. This necessitates continual adjustment and innovation of the geo-information infrastructure (NGII), geo-knowledge and cooperation both nationally and internationally. The NGII is a combination of geographic data, technology, standards, policy and organisation. The Dutch NGII at present has its impediments. Bsik is the enabler to bring together and steer the necessary parties and to facilitate the flow of knowledge. A broad-based consortium was formed in 2000 composed of geo-information users, geodata-holders, geo-companies and geo-research and education. New concepts, methods and technologies for the national geo-information infrastructure are developed and applied from within the confines of the knowledge project.

## Scientific relevance

Dozens of scientific issues have been formulated and included in international and national research agendas within the realm of geo-information. The Netherlands has chosen the following spearheads: geo-information infrastructure concepts, spatio-temporal

modelling, geographic man-machine interaction and geo-information & society. These spearheads represent our interests and create the potential to put the Netherlands among the world's leaders.

## Economic and social relevance

The annual turnover of the geo-information sector in the Netherlands amounts to about 2.7 billion euro (2001) and continues to rise. The Space for Geo-information knowledge project has a positive economic effect through product innovation generated by businesses, among other things. Its social relevance lies in improved information for policymaking, service provision and interaction with citizens and companies.

## Knowledge project: implementation

The knowledge project Space for Geo-information consists of six closely interrelated components (see also Figure 1.1): social issues, authentic registrations, NGII, dissemination, fundamental and strategic research and education, and company and product innovation. Several projects will make a 'flying start' in the first year. The organisation of internal and external communication has a place of importance in the knowledge project.

**Consortium**

A consortium has been formed for the execution of the knowledge project consisting of 10 universities, 20 research institutes, 60 companies, 40 government bodies and 30 geo-information producers. This consortium is open to further expansion. In the preparation 62 expressions of interests have been submitted (see CD-ROM). Ravi will be the programme bureau; responsibility for primary policy will lie with the Ministry of VROM.

**Knowledge: distribution and transfer**

The knowledge project supports a diversity of knowledge transfer with the emphasis on flow of knowledge from experts. The identification of knowledge gaps and the embedding of knowledge are central issues.

Each project will include arrangements for the distribution of knowledge, in addition to the common communication mechanisms (publications, lectures, symposia, etc). Geo-information education will be actively strengthened and will accompany knowledge transfer and knowledge distribution.

**Finances: budget and coverage**

The budget for the knowledge project for 2003-2006 comes to a total of 68.4 million euro. A Bsik grant applied for amounts to a sum of 33.1 million euro. A sum of 27 million euro of the required 35.3 million euro has already been agreed to by the undersigned expressions of interest (see CD-ROM).

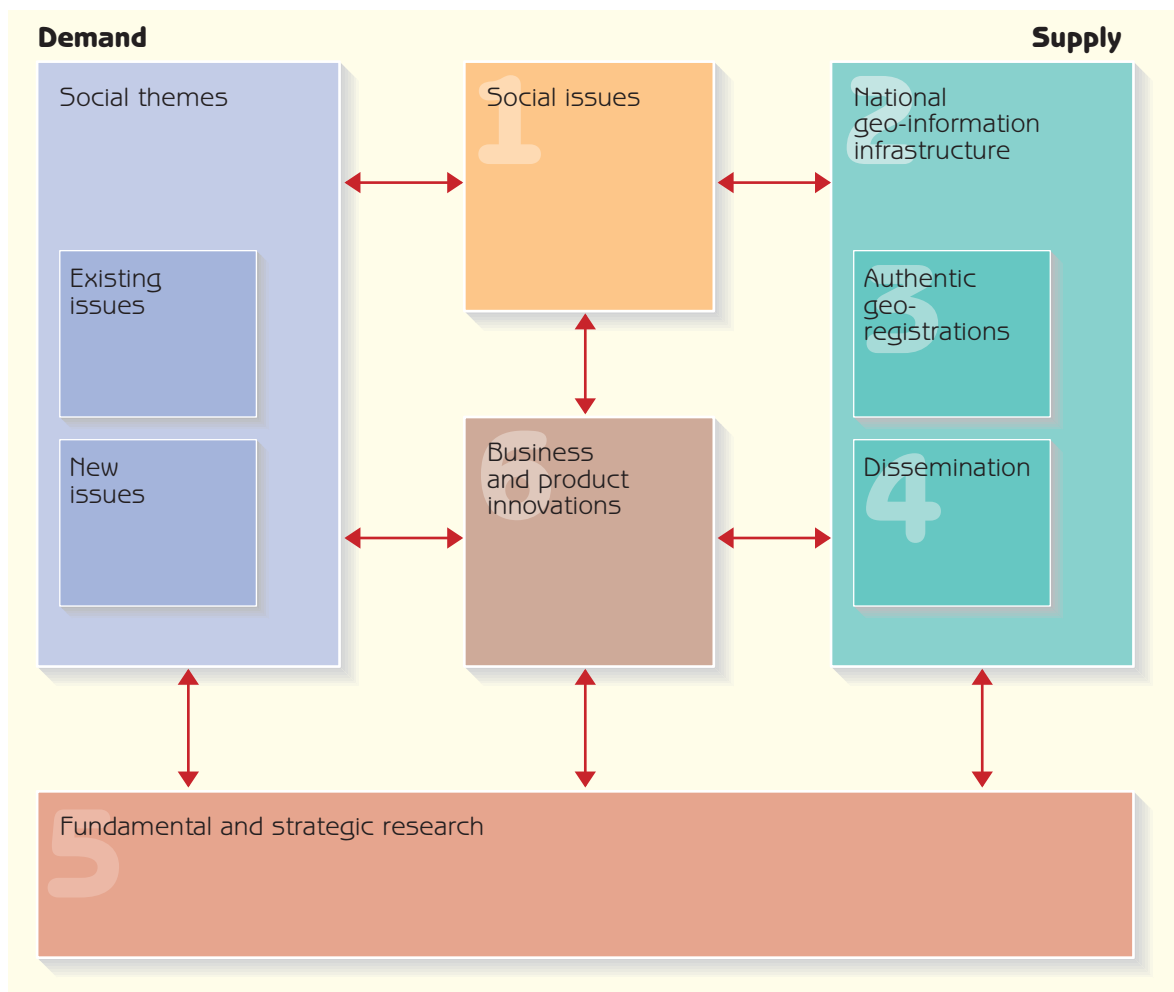


Figure 1.1. The Space for Geo-information knowledge project and its coherence