



INSPIRE status

October 2009

1. Background and rationale

Directive 2007/2/EC¹ of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) entered into force on the 15th May 2007. The Deadline for transposition into National legislation was 15 May 2009². INSPIRE lays down general rules to establish an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe for the purposes of Community environmental policies, and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment.

INSPIRE foresees the establishment of more detailed provisions, known as Implementing Rules (IR). Implementing Rules need to be established for:

- Metadata
- Network services
- Data specifications
- Data and service sharing
- Monitoring and reporting

The establishment of these Implementing Rules is the responsibility of the European Commission. A process for extensive stakeholder participation has been set-up, which is described in the INSPIRE Work Programme Transposition Phase 2007-2009³.

The three lead services of the European Commission are Directorate General Environment, Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre (JRC). DG Environment acts as the overall legislative and policy co-ordinator for INSPIRE while Eurostat is the overall implementation co-ordinator and supports the IR developments on data and service sharing and on monitoring and reporting. The JRC acts as the overall technical co-ordinator of INSPIRE, and is responsible for the development of IRs for metadata, data specification and network services. This report summarises recent developments in INSPIRE.

2. Stakeholder participation

In the context of INSPIRE, an open and transparent process for stakeholder participation has been set up. Stakeholders can register at the INSPIRE website (<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>) as a Spatial Data Interest Community (SDIC) or as a Legally Mandated Organisation (LMO). SDICs are those organisations that are involved in a network representing producers, transformers and users of spatial data that falls within the scope of INSPIRE. LMOs are organisations that have a legal mandate for one or more aspects of INSPIRE. The involvement of stakeholders can be one or more of the following: to keep informed, review INSPIRE deliverables, propose experts, submit reference material, and/or test draft specifications. Registration is continuously open. In close collaboration with stakeholders in the Member States the Commission started the drafting of the Implementing Rules. This is being done in Drafting Teams, which are composed of experts from stakeholder organisations. For the Data Specification IR, Thematic Working Groups (TWG) have been set up for each data theme in Annex 1. The TWGs are composed of specification development experts responsible for developing technical specifications for the spatial data themes that they are responsible for.

3. INSPIRE at a glance

- Metadata:

COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 1205/2008, of 3 December 2008, implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards metadata was published in the Official Journal on 4th December and entered into force on 24th December 2008⁴.

An updated version of the guidelines to implement the Regulation using EN ISO 19115 and ISO 19119 was published on the INSPIRE web site in February 2009⁵.

A Metadata Editor is available on the website of the prototype INSPIRE geo-portal that allows for the creation of metadata files that are compliant, both with the INSPIRE Implementing Rules for Metadata, as well as relevant European and international standards for geographic information (notably EN ISO 19115, EN ISO 19119, and ISO TR 19139). The definition of the INSPIRE spatial data themes is now available through GEMET⁶.

¹ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/JOHtml.do?uri=OJ:L:2007:108:SOM:EN:HTML>

² Information on the status of transposition of the INSPIRE Directive in the Member States can be found on <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:72007L0002:EN:NOT>

³ Work programme: http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/reports/transposition/INSPIRE_IR_WP2007_2009_en.pdf

⁴ Metadata regulation: <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:326:0012:0030:EN:PDF>

⁵ Metadata Guidelines: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/metadata/MD_IR_and_ISO_20090218.pdf

⁶ General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus: <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gemet>

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- Network Services:

Discovery and View Services

On 19 December 2008 the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee expressed its positive opinion on the draft *Regulation.../EC implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council* for discovery and view⁷. This proposal for the Network Services Regulation has successfully passed the scrutiny of the Council and of the European Parliament, and is planned to be adopted by the Commission before the end of 2009. Once this formal process is completed, the discovery and view regulation will be published in the "Official Journal of the European Union", and will enter into force on the 20th day following its publication simultaneously in all Member States.

The Technical Guidance Discovery Services, (V 2) was prepared by the Network Services Drafting team and published on the INSPIRE site. This document identifies the recommendations and implementation guidelines for Discovery Services to fulfil the INSPIRE directive.

The INSPIRE View Service Technical Guidance (Version 2.0) has also been published. This document defines how to implement INSPIRE View services according to the INSPIRE View Services Implementing Rule.

Download Services and Transformation Services

The Network Drafting Team has finalised the next version of their proposal for the Transformation and Download services' Implementing Rules and the accompanying Technical Guidelines⁸. They have been updated taking into account the comments received from the SDIC (Spatial Data Interest Community) and LMO (Legally Mandated Organisations) with the comments recorded in the separate document. The Draft Legislation for the Transformation and Download Network Service is currently being prepared by the European Commission for submission to the INSPIRE Committee. The Draft Implementing Rules, the Technical Guidelines and the comments resolution documents are now publicly available.

Initial Operating Capability Task Force

The Initial Operating Capability Task Force (IOC TF) was set up in June 2009 to help and support Member States in the implementation of INSPIRE services and to ensure interoperability with the INSPIRE geoportal of the European Commission. The IOC TF consists of the representatives, from all Member States, responsible for the Architecture design and the service implementation of the National SDIs. The initial focus of the IOC TF is on the implementation of the INSPIRE Discovery and View Services. The IOC TF met for the first time in Rotterdam on the 18th of June during the INSPIRE conference.

- Data Specifications:

In September 2009 the INSPIRE Thematic Working Groups, the Data Specification Drafting Team, and the INSPIRE Team finalised the third version of Data Specifications. Based on these, the Commission, with support of the TWGs and the Data Specification Drafting Team, has drafted the legal text of the Implementing Rule for Interoperability of Spatial Datasets and Services, which will be submitted for Inter-Service Consultation in October 2009.

The Data Specifications are published as Guidelines for the INSPIRE Annex I data themes. They will supplement the Implementing Rule for Interoperability of Spatial Datasets and Services and enable preparation for implementation. Together with the relevant materials (GML application schemas, UML models and registries), they will support the implementation and provide a better understanding of the requirements of the Implementing Rule.

The Draft Legislation for interoperability of spatial datasets and services is currently being prepared by the European Commission for submission to the INSPIRE Committee. The Guidelines and the related supporting materials are now publicly available⁹.

INSPIRE registry¹⁰: A registry for feature concept dictionary and glossary has been developed to provide support to the development of the data specifications. The feature concept dictionary register is required for specifying thematic spatial object types and its main role in particular is to support the harmonisation effort and to identify conflicts between the specifications of the spatial object types in the different themes. The glossary register supports the use of a consistent language in different documents when referring to the terms.

⁷ Network Service, discovery and view draft regulation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/searchform/OpenAttachment.cfm?A+sZL47YOVF4majPTysay93w664peRRNRvc3r3kQpHG+G/8FzgZz0kZQYcKAF5QepudX+ahnEys5S8z4TA3sq42NTKySHpG0mNvuqK9epqldZJ6Khif9mUSuCaMpEeEy>

⁸ <http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/5>

⁹ <http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/2>

¹⁰ INSPIRE Registry: <http://inspire-registry.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

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- Data and service sharing:

The INSPIRE committee, during its last meeting on 5 June 2009, formally expressed its positive opinion on Implementing Rules on the access to Member States spatial data and services by Community institutions and bodies. The "Draft COMMISSION REGULATION implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the access to spatial data sets and services by the Member States to the Community institutions and bodies under harmonised conditions", will be submitted to the European Parliament for scrutiny; it is publicly available on the Comitology Register¹¹. Its adoption and publication in the Official Journal in all EU languages is expected by the end of 2009. Guidelines for data and service sharing are under revision and are expected to be published in autumn 2009.

A "Good Practice" document is under development, with the aim of illustrating how the principles of these Implementing Rules can be applied to data and service sharing between Member States. Its publication is foreseen at the beginning of 2010.

- Monitoring and reporting:

On 5 June 2009 the COMMISSION DECISION implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards monitoring and reporting was adopted. The full text of the decision can be found on the EUR-Lex website¹².

The drafting team also developed a justification document which explains the rationale of the choice of the indicators¹³.

An updated version of the Guidelines for Monitoring and reporting¹⁴ and an Excel template¹⁵ for reporting were published on the document archive in July 2009.

- INSPIRE EU Geo-portal prototype:

A prototype of the INSPIRE Geoportal has been developed by the JRC and aims to provide the means to access the services of the INSPIRE network services in Member States and sector specific services. Furthermore through this development it provides the opportunity to assess the specifications that are being proposed by the Drafting Teams.

A new version of the prototype INSPIRE geoportal was released in June 2009, and is available at: <http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu>. The INSPIRE geoportal provides the means to search for spatial data sets and spatial data services, and subject to access restrictions, view and download spatial data sets from the EU Member States within the framework of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) Directive. This version is a prototype INSPIRE geoportal and allows for the discovery and viewing of spatial data sets and services. Its aim is to identify issues related to its implementation and accessing distributed INSPIRE services and to help towards the development of the operational geoportal. Note that in this version Discovery of spatial data sets and services as well as viewers for spatial data sets are based on open source software and internal development within the JRC"

Current and future work includes:

- o Conducting tests with discovery and view services from Member States;
- o Investigation into automatic multi-lingual translation of metadata.

- State of play reports: The 5th edition (2007) of the State of Play reports on Spatial Data Infrastructures in Europe is now available. As in the previous editions, the objectives of these reports are to describe, analyse and assess the status of National Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) in 32 countries in Europe. The main findings of the 2007 report is that INSPIRE has stimulated the further development of SDIs in Europe, particularly in the area of metadata and service development. The summary and country reports can be downloaded from the INSPIRE website.

The new "State of Play" study, reporting on INSPIRE and SDI development in Member States, is underway. A workshop with international experts was organised in May 2009, for discussing and revising the list of indicators used for the country reports. The workshop produced a set of recommendations for further development of the "State of Play" study. In addition to the general country surveys, an in-depth study on "Coordination, funding and sharing measures" is also foreseen. Both surveys will begin in autumn 2009.

¹¹<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/searchform/DocumentDetail.cfm?o1zZRSuBXDWNJfgllnPW3K6Mfjz5PjGANUUGptseSCs/zBk6+Yr2dzbt8GfTzcg1>

¹²<http://eurlex.europa.eu/Notice.do?val=496521%3Acs&lang=en&list=496521%3Acs%2C484053%3Acs%2C&pos=1&page=1&nbl=2&pgs=10&hwo rds=>

¹³ http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/monitoring/INSPIRE_DT_MR_JustificationDocument%20_V2.pdf

¹⁴ http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/monitoring/INSPIRE_MR_Guidelines_Reporting_2009-07-10_v.3.0.pdf

¹⁵ http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/monitoring/MR_indicators_Template-v_1.0.xls

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