

**The roles and duties of the INSPIRE  
Initial Operating Capability Task Force**

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## **Initial Operating Capability Task Force Terms of Reference**

The Draft COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the Network Services, Article 4.1 requires that, *"Not later than 18 months after the date of entry into force of this Regulation, Member States shall provide the Discovery and View Services with initial operating capability."*

Initial Operating Capability (IOC) is defined in Article 2.1 of the draft regulation as *"...the ability of a Network Service to provide full functionality without guaranteeing quality of service in conformity with the rules set out in Annex I to this Regulation or access to the service for all users through the INSPIRE geo-portal;"*

In this context the European Commission proposed the creation of the IOC Task Force (TF) consisting of representatives, from all Member States, responsible for the Architecture design and the service implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructures.

### **Purpose**

The purpose of setting up the Initial Operating Capability Task Force (IOC TF) is to help and support the implementation of INSPIRE in the Member States.

### **Scope**

The scope of the IOC TF includes architectural aspects and implementation of Network Services to ensure interoperability with the INSPIRE geoportal and among Member States. The IOC TF shall initially focus on the implementation of the INSPIRE Discovery and View Services. The scope will open for revision at the next meeting to potentially include additional Network Services or addressing other technical chapters.

### **Objectives**

The IOC TF goal is enabling interoperability among the INSPIRE technical components through facilitation, technical analysis, advocacy and education. The following items will be addressed:

1. INSPIRE Architecture: Best Practices and preliminary implementations of INSPIRE discovery and view services at National Level; Identify needs and support the design and implementation of other components not explicitly required by the Directive (e.g. Registers and registry services);
2. Ensure that the INSPIRE geoportal has a full functional access to the network services through testing to be done in close cooperation with the Member States;
  - Identify Technical Issues related to the implementation of discovery and view services, their implementation and access through the INSPIRE geoportal; this will allow to perform any necessary modifications or adjustments to improve interoperability and the overall architecture performance and in general facilitate the way towards the full operating capability as required by Article 4.2 of the draft regulation;
6. Define and establish interoperability arrangements, related to the implementation of the Network Services Regulation, to which Member States agree to adhere;
7. Review and Produce supportive technical documentation, considering that the current set may be incomplete and serves as a starting point for the Implementation;
8. Help promote exchange of information, according to National policies and the INSPIRE Directive and Regulations.
9. The IOC TF will encourage the broader use of existing standards in recommending interoperability solutions for INSPIRE, using formal international standards organizations as much as possible. Where appropriate, the IOC TF will identify gaps in current standards

and promote the creation of standards through existing Standards Development Organizations to fill such gaps.

## Approach and Functions

The IOC TF's approach to providing advice and recommendations in the implementation of INSPIRE may include:

- a. Providing a forum for dialogue and resolution of issues at varying levels;
- b. Advocacy within and across existing systems;
- c. Coordinating with, collaborating with, or referring specific tasks to, participating national agencies;

## Resources

The Commission will set up the appropriate infrastructure to facilitate communication and exchange of documents and experiences within the IOC TF:

- A mailing list <[inspire-ns-ioctf@jrc.ec.europa.eu](mailto:inspire-ns-ioctf@jrc.ec.europa.eu)> (already set up)
- A collaborative website (such as a wiki) and document repository

## Deliverables

Produce supportive technical documentation, considering that the current set may be incomplete and serves as a starting point for the Implementation, including:

1. Documented best practices and consensus building towards a common solution or set of solutions
2. Technical guidance Documents for INSPIRE Discovery and View Services
3. Set of JRC Technical reports (Catalogue study, Related SOAP documents, etc)

## Relevant Documents

1. [Draft COMMISSION REGULATION implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the network services \(149 Kilobytes\)](#)
2. [Draft Technical Guidance: Discovery Services \(Version 1.0\)](#)
3. [Draft Technical Guidance: View Services \(Version 1.0\)](#)
4. [Network Services Architecture \(Version 3.0\)](#)
5. [Technical Report: INSPIRE NETWORK SERVICES SOAP Framework](#)
6. [Technical Report: SOAP HTTP Binding Status - Survey on OGC and ORCHESTRA Specifications Relevant for the INSPIRE Network Services](#)
7. [INSPIRE SOAP primer for INSPIRE Discovery and View Services providing simple examples of the proposed INSPIRE SOAP framework and additional clarifications](#)
8. [Proposals for the documentation of the communication of the view and discovery service using the Web Service Description Language](#)