



INSPIRE status

1. Background and rationale

Directive 2007/2/EC 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. Member States have until May 2009 to transpose the Directive into their legislative systems. 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 that are called Implementing Rules. 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 2007-2009¹.

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, Eurostat as the overall implementation co-ordinator and supports the IR developments on data and monitoring. 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 Organisations (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: 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 up for each data theme in Annex 1. The TWG are composed of specification development experts, responsible for developing technical specifications for the spatial data themes that they are in charge of.

3. INSPIRE at a glance

- **Metadata:** On 14 May 2008 the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee approved the draft Regulation.../EC implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards metadata, also known as the INSPIRE Implementing Rules for Metadata. The translations of the INSPIRE IR on Metadata is now being finalised by the Commission Translation Service, after which the regulation can be formally approved by the College. The metadata regulation will enter into force the 20th day following its publication in the Official Journal of the European Union", simultaneously in all Member States.

Members of the INSPIRE Metadata Drafting Team and JRC staff have been preparing a revision of the guidance material that is scheduled for publication on the INSPIRE website together with the approved Regulation. A Metadata Editor is already available on the website of the prototype INSPIRE geo-portal² that allows for the creation of metadata files that are compliant, both to the

¹ http://www.ec-gis.org/inspire/reports/transposition/INSPIRE_IR_WP2007_2009_en.pdf

² <http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu>

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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). Also, the definition of the INSPIRE spatial data themes is now available through GEMET.

- **Network Services:** The draft Implementing Rules for discovery and view are being prepared for the opinion of the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee in 19 December 2008. Along with the legally binding Implementing Rules, which will specify *what* is required by Member States, there will be guidance documents to support Member States for the implementation of the discovery and view services. The proposed IR and the guidance documents are based on the latest proposal of the Network Services Drafting Team for the draft *INSPIRE Implementing Rules on Discovery and View Services*³ (Version 3), outcome of the stakeholder consultation. Once the Implementing Rules are adopted, the Commission will propose to the Member States to start a dialog with the organisations in the Member States responsible for the implementation and/or operation of the above mentioned network services, to ensure a smooth transition towards operation and provide a forum for exchange of technical information regarding the set-up of the infrastructure. A workshop on INSPIRE Architecture is foreseen with the experts appointed by INSPIRE Member States Contact Points in 2009.
- **Data Specifications:**
The INSPIRE Data Specifications Drafting Team has finalised the framework documents for the specification development process.
The Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) for the INSPIRE Annex I data themes⁴ that started their work in February have delivered on 30 September 2008 the first draft INSPIRE data specifications (v 1). These specifications were subject to an internal review. The revised version (v. 2) is due in mid December 2008 and will be subject to stakeholder consultation. The models and application schemas will be made available for testing in the first week of December. Following an open call for participation, 78 organisations from 22 countries have registered to participate in the testing. Based on the results of the testing and the stakeholder consultation, the Commission with support of the TWGs and the Data Specification Drafting Team will draft the legal text of the Implementing Rules.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** On the basis of the comments received during the consultation with registered Spatial Data Interest Communities (SDICs) and Legally Mandated Organisations (LMOs), the Monitoring and Reporting Drafting Team has produced a revised version of the draft Implementing Rules on Monitoring and Reporting (Version 3) which has been submitted to the Commission. The Commission will make a final review of this draft, also taking into account the requirements of a European legislative act, and produce a draft Commission Regulation which will be firstly submitted for opinion to the INSPIRE Committee on the 19th December 2008.
- **Data and service sharing:** Members of the Data and Service sharing Drafting Team and staff of the Commission are discussing the draft Implementing Rules. A new draft for SDIC/LMO consultation is foreseen for the beginning of December 2008. The consultation will last 2 months.
- **INSPIRE Geo-portal prototype:** The prototype INSPIRE geoportal (<http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu>) is developed by JRC and aims to provide the means to access the services of the INSPIRE network services in the 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. Anyone interested in participating in informal interoperability tests are invited to contact inspire-geoportal@jrc.it. Current and future work includes:
 - o conducting tests with discovery and view services from Member States;
 - o development of an INSPIRE MD compliant editor;
 - o investigate automatic multi-lingual translation of metadata.
- **INSPIRE registry:** 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 is in particular 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.

³ http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/network/D3.7_IR3_Discovery_Services_v3.0.pdf

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/network/D3.7.2_Draft_IR_View_Services_v3.0.pdf

⁴ Coordinate reference systems, Geographical grid systems, Geographical names, Administrative units, Cadastral parcels, Addresses, Transport networks, Hydrography, and Protected Sites

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- **State of play reports 2007:** The 5th edition of the State of Play reports on Spatial Data Infrastructures in Europe has been published for 2007. As in the previous editions, the objectives of these reports are to describe, analyse and assess the status of National 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, in particular in the area of metadata and service development. The summary and country reports are available on the INSPIRE site.

Within the framework of the new call for tender for the "State of the Play", reporting on INSPIRE and SDI development in Member States, the selection has been made and the new project should start soon.

INSPIRE Conference 2009 : The Third INSPIRE Conference will take place in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 15-19 June 2009, in conjunction with the Eleventh International Conference of the GSDI Association and the national conference on Dutch SDI: Results and Challenges.

The Call for Papers is now open and will close on the 1st December 2008. For more information visit: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2009/index.cfm