



INSPIRE status

May 2009

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 15 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, 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 2007-2009¹.

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 while Eurostat is the overall implementation co-ordinator and supports the IR developments on data and service sharing and on monitoring and reporting. 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: 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 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:** 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 on the Official Journal on 4th December and entered into force on 24th December 2008².

An updated version of the guidelines to implement the Regulation using EN ISO 19115 and ISO 19119 were published on the INSPIRE web site in February 2009³.

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 to 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). Also, the definition of the INSPIRE spatial data themes is now available through GEMET⁴.

- **Network Services:** On 19 December 2008 the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee approved the draft *Regulation.../EC implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council for*

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

² Metadata regulation: <http://eurlex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:326:0012:0030:EN:PDF>

³ Metadata Guidelines: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/metadata/MD_IR_and_ISO_20090218.pdf

⁴ General Multilingual Environmental Thesaurus: <http://www.eionet.europa.eu/gemet>

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discovery and view⁵. The translations of the INSPIRE IR on discovery and view is now being finalised by the Commission Translation Service, after which the regulation can be formally approved by the College once checked by the Council and the European Parliament. The discovery and view 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 Network Service 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.

The Commission has proposed 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. This will ensure a smooth transition towards operation during the Initial Operation Capability phase and provide a forum for exchange of technical information regarding the set-up of the infrastructure.

A workshop of the Initial Operating Capability task Force is planned for the 18th of June 2009 with the experts appointed by INSPIRE Member States Contact Points.

Members of the Network Services Drafting Team finalised the draft Implementing Rules regarding the download services and transformation services⁶. They have also prepared guidance documents to accompany the draft IRs⁷. The draft IRs for download services and transformation services was published for SDIC/LMO consultation in February 2009. On the draft Implementing Rules for download services, almost 400 comments were submitted. The draft Implementing Rules of transformation services received almost 150 comments.

A revised version of the draft measures will be elaborated on by the experts, which the Commission will then use to draft the legal act.

- **Data Specifications:** The INSPIRE Data Specifications Drafting Team has finalised the framework documents for the specification development process, after incorporating the results from a dedicated stakeholders consultation. These documents are available in the INSPIRE website⁸.

The Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) for the INSPIRE Annex I data themes delivered the first draft INSPIRE data specifications (v 1) on the 30th September 2008. These specifications were subject to an internal review. The revised version (v. 2) was submitted to the stakeholder consultation on 19th December 2008.

The consultation period ended at the beginning of March, during which 3649 comments were submitted by SDICs and LMOs and the INSPIRE national contact points. On 23 and 24 April, over 60 experts representing INSPIRE stakeholders met to discuss comments submitted on the draft INSPIRE data specifications for the INSPIRE Directive Annex I data themes. They also provided the consolidated and harmonised resolutions that will act as a basis for developing the final data specifications – guidelines (v. 3) and draft Implementing Rules on Interoperability of Spatial Data Sets and Services.

The models and application schemas were also made available for testing. Following an open call for participation, 78 organisations from 22 countries have registered to participate in the testing. A wiki Forum was implemented to support the testing.

The process of the testing for proposed INSPIRE Annex I themes data specification finished on 6 March 2009. 80 testing reports were submitted, summarising the experience from 46 SDICs and LMOs across at least 16 countries. The general observation from the tests confirms the feasibility of the proposed specifications implementation, taking into consideration comments and recommendations collected via those reports. The results collected via the testing process will help to fine-tune the final version of Annex I data specifications. The testing reports will also provide a very important input for upcoming activities focused on Annex II and III themes.

The next step is that the TWGs will prepare a new version (V.3) of the draft INSPIRE data specifications. Based on this the Commission, with support of the TWGs and the Data Specification Drafting Team, will draft the legal text of the Implementing Rules.

⁵ Network Service, discovery and view draft regulation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/searchform/OpenAttachment.cfm?A+sZL47YOVF4majPTsay93w664peRRNRvc3r3kQpHG+G/8FzgZz0kZQYcKAF5QepudX+ahnEys5S8z4TA3sq42NTKySHpG0mNvuqK9epqldZJ6Khif9mUSuCaMpEeEy>

⁶ http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/network/D3.9_Draft_IR_Download_Services_v2.0.pdf

⁷ http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/reports/ImplementingRules/network/Draft_Technical_Guidance_Download_Services_v1.0.pdf

⁸ Draft Data Specifications: http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/implementingRulesDocs_ds.cfm

INSPIRE registry:⁹ 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.

- **Data and service sharing:** The Draft Implementing Rules regarding the provision of harmonised access to spatial data sets and services by Member States to Community institutions and bodies was published at the beginning of December 2008 for SDIC/LMO consultation. The consultation closed on the 13th February 2009. More than 500 comments from 14 countries were received. Based on the results a revised draft proposal has been submitted to the Commission, together with a Commentary. The guidelines are still under review. A "Good Practice" document is also under development, with the aim of illustrating how the principles of the IR can be applied to data and service sharing between Member States.
- **Monitoring and reporting:** On 19 December 2008 the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee expressed its positive opinion on the submitted draft *Commission Decision as regards monitoring and reporting*¹⁰. The adoption process has begun, leading to a likely entry into force of the Decision by mid 2009. The drafting team also developed a justification document which explains the rationale of the choice of the indicators, while a guidelines document on the implementation of the future legal act is currently under revision.
- **INSPIRE Geo-portal prototype:** The prototype INSPIRE geoportal¹¹ is developed by 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. 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 Investigation of automatic multi-lingual translation of metadata.
- **State of play reports 2007:** The 5th edition 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 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 can be downloaded from the INSPIRE web site.

The new "State of Play" study, reporting on INSPIRE and SDI development in Member States, has just started. The first activity consists of testing and evaluating the existing indicators and fine-tuning them with the indicators defined within the implementing rules for monitoring and reporting. To this end a workshop with international experts will be organised in May 2009, for discussion and revision of a list of indicators. The workshop will produce a set of recommendations for the further development of the "State of Play" study.

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.

For more information please visit:

http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/events/conferences/inspire_2009/

⁹ INSPIRE Registry; <https://inspire-registry.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

¹⁰ Monitoring and reporting draft regulation:

<http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regcomitology/searchform/OpenAttachment.cfm?A+sZL47YOVF4majPTysay5twz/NSPBNO5riVO3qwp2O+G/8FzgZz0kZQYcKAF5QepudX+ahnEys5S8z4TA3sq42NTKySHpGOmNvuqk9epqldZJ6Khif9mUSuCaMpEeEy>

¹¹ INSPIRE Geoportal: <http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu>