



Past, present and future of INSPIRE: the policy perspective

Presentation of the findings of the evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive

INSPIRE Conference, October 26, 2021



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Aim of evaluation

Support study for the evaluation of INSPIRE (Directive 2007/2/EC on infrastructure for spatial information in the European Community):

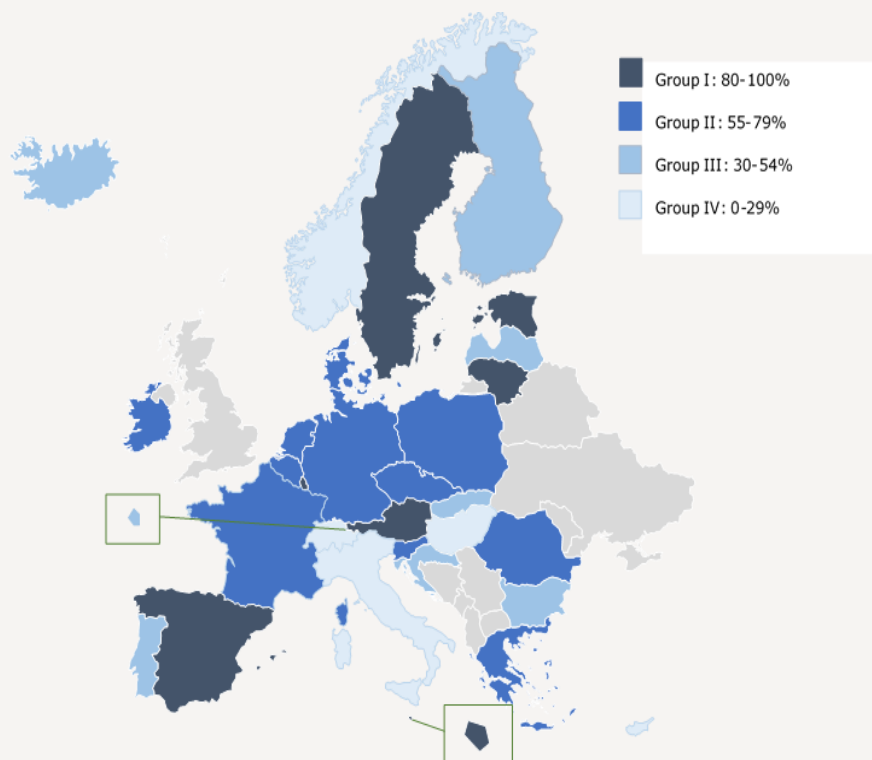
- > **Aim was to analyse:**
 - > how the INSPIRE Directive has achieved its objectives
 - > whether it is effective, efficiency, relevant, and coherent
 - > identify areas for future improvement.
- > **Period:** November 2021 to August 2021.
 - > Analysis of implementation data for 31 countries
 - > Interviews (15) and focus groups (7)
 - > Surveys (targeted (4) and validations (1))
 - > Public consultation (1)

Structure of the analysis

- > **Current status:** implementation status 2021
- > **Effectiveness:** did INSPIRE implementation have results?
- > **Relevance:** does INSPIRE continue to respond to needs and problems?
- > **Efficiency:** can benefits be justified by costs?
- > **Coherence:** is INSPIRE coherent internally and with other policies and legislation (i.e. EU legal framework on public data sharing).
- > **EU Added Value:** what could have been achieved by Member States in the absence of INSPIRE

Key findings – implementation

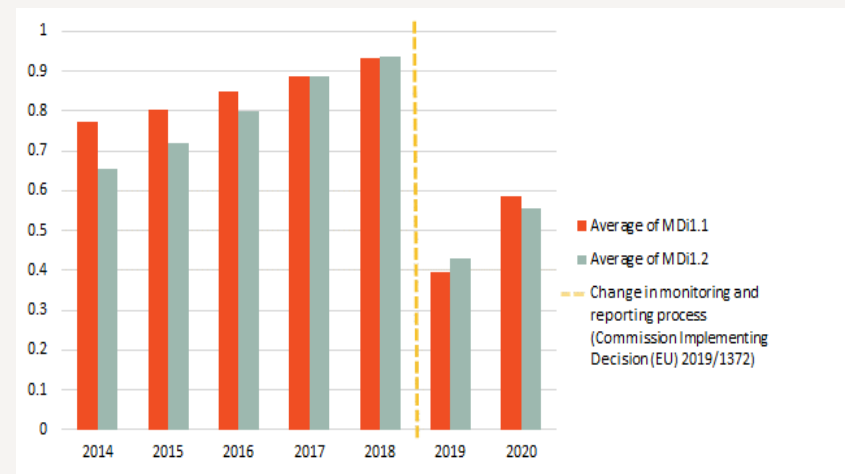
- > Analysis of 31 countries (EU and EEA/EFTA countries) provided overall implementation overview
- > **progress has been achieved** although no full implementation
- > The **monitoring system** does not fully reflect progress/progress
- > No additional **barriers** to implementation were identified
- > Difficult to assess use for **environmental reporting**
- > Focus has been on **implementation** – the effects on users is limited



Key findings – needs and efficiency

- > INSPIRE is relevant for policy making, less so for private sectors
- > **The issues:** for geospatial data (INSPIRE): access, integration, costs, harmonisation to information and more
- > **key benefits:** improved overviews, discoverability, availability and access to data - overall proportional to the costs
- > **Asymmetrical cost:** different perception of cost/benefit relations
- > **Scope for simplification:** attention should be paid to costs of harmonisation and interoperability (burden for stakeholders)

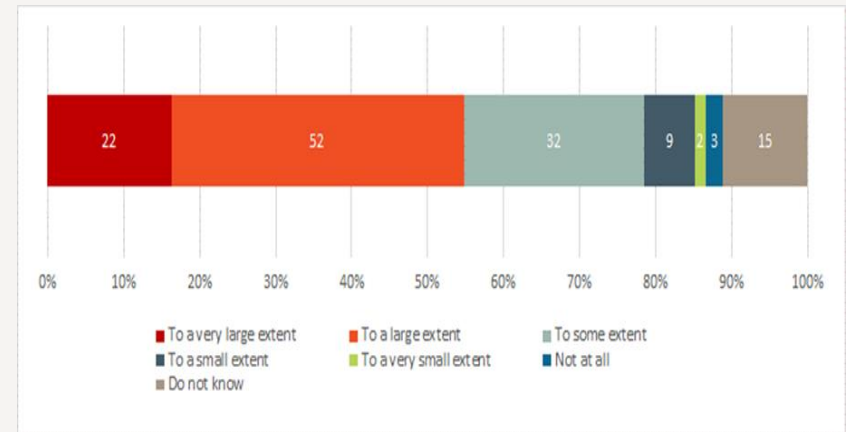
Figure 7 5 Conformity of metadata with Regulation (EC) No 1205/2008



Key findings – links to other policies and added value

- > **INSPIRE coherent internally and with other legislation/policy**
- > **Synergies** with data sharing and reporting initiatives in environmental and other areas could be further developed
- > At a **national level**, INSPIRE implementation supported:
 - > governance structures,
 - > achieving interoperability in a broader scope (EU-wide),
 - > unlocking public data
 - > and creating EU level expertise.
- > The rationale behind and the principles of the INSPIRE Directive are justified.

Extent to which the obstacles and needs related to sharing and disseminating spatial data as addressed by the INSPIRE Directive continue to require action at EU level (N=139)



Recommendations

- > the implementation of INSPIRE according to the INSPIRE roadmap supposed to have been completed in 2021.
- > there is still some way to go to reach the initial expectations.

Three key **groups of recommendation** are put forward:

1. Closing the implementation gap
2. Applying a user-driven approach
3. Ensuring an alignment of INSPIRE with other policy areas

1. Closing the implementation gap

- > The INSPIRE Roadmap will not fully achieved by the deadline of end of 2021

Recommendations:

- > **Prioritize data sets:** full interoperability of those that are used/needed
- > **Flexible implementation:** technology neutral, to allow for both well-established and emerging technological standards
- > **Simplify implementation:** to reduce costs of harmonization and interoperability
- > **Other digital processes:** align to make use and data reuse easier.
- > **Linkages between national SDI and INSPIRE:** will reduce cost and increase use of national SDI data for specific use cases.

Validation survey:

- > Need for a more targeted and proportional harmonization
 - > 91% Agree or strongly agree
- > Need to implement the INSPIRE Directive as part of the national SDI
 - > 81% Agree or strongly agree
- > Need to involve a more diverse representation of stakeholders
 - > 87% Agree or strongly agree

2. Applying a user-driven approach

- > There is limited knowledge of the needs of the different users
- > The use of datasets and services through the INSPIRE has barriers for users

Recommendations:

- > **Develop use cases:** of INSPIRE relevant data for making spatial data available and usable
- > **Identify spatial data users:** assess the current and future needs (content, formats and tools used, products and services)
- > **Define schemes and mechanisms:** to encourage the private actors to share their data
- > **Complexity of data models:** offer simpler views of structures and relationships between data elements (via complementary data models for non-expert users)

Validation survey:

- > Need for assessing the needs of the different user groups (private and public sector) to prioritise data to be harmonised
 - > 91% Agree or strongly agree
- > There are constraints to the USE of data shared under INSPIRE especially for less experienced users
 - > 79% Agree or strongly agree
- > There is a need to identify the obstacles to the use of data shared under INSPIRE
 - > 90% Agree or strongly agree

3. Ensuring an alignment of INSPIRE with other policy areas

- > No coherence issues with INSPIRE, but synergies could be enhanced in terms of:
- > **Public access to environmental information:**
 - > data referred to in Article 7(e) should be shared in accordance with INSPIRE.
- > **Open data Directive:**
 - > address derogations for public authorities to limit public access, license and require payment for data with Open Data Directive and High Value Datasets Regulation.
- > **Data Strategy and Green Deal Data space:**
 - > unlock the full potential of the INSPIRE Directive as an enabler for the European Green Deal
 - > include more data beyond the spatial data scope in the INSPIRE infrastructure
 - > develop a linked data approach to associate spatial and non-spatial data.

Validation survey:

- > There is a need to update Directive 2003/4 on Public access to environmental information so that spatial data covered by Article 7 is shared in accordance with INSPIRE rules
 - > 72% Agree or strongly agree

