

Report from workshop: Has the Copernicus services' access to geospatial data been improved through the implementation of INSPIRE?

Three main findings

The Copernicus Services require access to coherent and harmonised geospatial information at the European level to produce and validate a number of their products. It is evident that there is a strong and clear overlap between the in situ data required by the Copernicus Services and the data themes offered by MS through INSPIRE. The Copernicus Services operate in a operational environment and rely consequently on efficient and stable solutions as regards data availability and interoperability.

It is clear that the basic INSPIRE principles, implementing rules and guidelines underpin the operational goals of Copernicus. INSPIRE ensures that gradually more and more relevant data sets will be discoverable and accessible by the Copernicus Services in pace with the MS' implementation of INSPIRE. To ensure that Copernicus will be able to use INSPIRE data, technical, semantic and geometric requirements have to be documented use case by use case and communicated to the INSPIRE community. This can create a positive feedback by creating significant demand for INSPIRE data.

Currently INSPIRE faces a number of well known challenges such as the speed of implementation, metadata specifications, interoperability, and data harmonisation. These challenges also negatively impact the efficient exploitation of INSPIRE resources by the Copernicus Services. Consequently, the Copernicus Services are also expected to benefit from the many initiatives taken to improve the situation. Additionally, the various activities taking advantage of INSPIRE and adding functionality, particularly concerning discoverability and cross-border harmonisation of data sets (such as ELS), seem to be essential to reach the full potential of INSPIRE.

Best regards
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