



# **Status of National Geoinformation Activities**

## **Country Report**

GREECE

Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization  
July 2012

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## 1. Introduction

Since 2002, the European Union, recognizing the importance of geoinformation in order to accomplish a more effective management and protection of the environment but also to assist all administrative actions regarding decision making and policies related to space, proceeded to all necessary actions that in 2007, led to the adoption of the Directive 2007/2/EC to create a European Spatial Information Infrastructure (INSPIRE - Infrastructure for Spatial InfoRmation in Europe). Member States should bring into force the necessary laws, regulations and administrative provisions to comply with this Directive by 15th May 2009.

The EU Directive INSPIRE requires the compliance of all Member States' Geospatial Information Infrastructures, with the provisions of the Directive, in institutional, organizational and technical level. In Greece, not only there was no such infrastructure, but neither the production and management of geoinformation was under a uniform technical and institutional framework.

The National Law 3882, adopted on September 22nd 2010, has become the institutional tool in order for the Greek State to comply with the INSPIRE Directive and to take measures for the production, management and provision of geoinformation in public administration. The Law foresees the creation of the National Geospatial Data Infrastructure (NGDI), meaning a system of technical specifications, web services, geospatial data and universally applicable regulations. This innovative initiative of the Greek State will have multiple benefits in finance, investments, environmental protection and equal access to geodata for all citizens.

The public body that is legally mandated to develop and operate the NGDI, according to Article 18 of the Law 3882, is the Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization (HEMCO or else OKXE in reek).

Since September 2010, HEMCO has taken numerous actions towards the implementation of the Law 3882/2010. The intention was primarily to cover urgent needs of compliance with the European legislation regarding the INSPIRE Directive, as well as the creation and awareness rising of the public authorities involved.

## **2. Supportive actions for the enactment of Law 3882/2010 and awareness raising.**

During the drafting phase of the Law, the creation of a first network of people involved was pretty much necessary. Various meetings were held, in order to inform the network about the obligations to be met, regarding the European legislation, as well as to write down and encode our country's needs. The basic problem the Law ought to solve was the fact that we did not know what kind of geospatial data and services are produced, by whom and what are the conditions under which a user can have access to them.

In June 2010, the first Memorandum of Cooperation and sharing geospatial data was signed between the basic public sector geodata producers. That was an initiative taken by HEMCO and the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC).

The Law 3882 entitled "National Geospatial Data Infrastructure - Compliance with Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and Council of March 14, 2007 and other provisions, an amendment of the previous Law 1647/1986 "Hellenic Mapping and Cadastral Organization (HEMCO) and other provisions"", was adopted by the Greek Parliament on September 22, 2010.

In June 2010, a pilot internet geoportal was launched ([geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr)). Today (July 2012), a user is able to search among approximately 200 geospatial datasets throughout their metadata. The geoportal also provides view and download access to all datasets in an interoperable way (using international standards).

In November 2010, HEMCO organized a successful 2 day conference for the NGDI and Law 3882/2010, with a vast participation by all scientific, professional and academic bodies of the country.

## **3. The stakeholders' network**

### **3.1 National Geoinformation Committee**

The National Geoinformation Committee (NGC) is a high level political committee consisting of the General Secretaries of the most pertinent Ministries regarding the implementation of the EU Directive INSPIRE, amenable to the Prime Minister and chaired by the Minister of the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Climate Change (MEECC). The composition of the committee is such that allows it to operate as the high-level decision making body which will formulate and adopt, amongst other, sharing policies and frameworks. According to the Law 3882/2010, the NGC is defined as the highest political body with decisive, recommendatory and advisory responsibilities, basically in charge of the development of the National Geoinformation Policy (NGP), ensuring, to a higher political level, the necessary

coordination measures in order to achieve the objectives of the law. NGC is defined as an inter-ministerial body with direct affiliation to the Prime Minister.

HEMCO and the MEECC took the necessary actions for the early formation of the Committee in December 2010 by adopting No. 57880 Decision of the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change. During the first committee's meeting in January 24th, 2011, the Procedural Rules of the Committee were set. The text was published in 2011 (Official Government Gazette, Issue B, No 832). At the same meeting, NGC authorized HEMCO to prepare a proposal concerning the implementation of the Law 3882/2010 in order to submit it to the second committee meeting scheduled in April 2012.

On the 2nd of April HEMCO created by own means, internally, a proposal for a simplified licensing framework in what regards the sharing and reuse of public sector geodata. The proposal was officially voted and approved by the National Geoinformation Committee.

### **3.2 Focal Points of Contact and Public Authorities**

NGDI will set regulations, but will also provide tools to all producers and users of geoinformation in the public sector. The measures taken will emerge through collaborative processes and must meet the needs of all the parties involved. Therefore, the most important actions of NGDI are those concerning the creation, coordination, sustainability, information, education and awareness of this network.

Hence, the legislative solution adopted in Greece for the adoption of the INSPIRE Directive, was designed to establish a well-functioning mechanism of coordination and at the same time represent somehow the multiplicity of stakeholders with often diverse interests and objectives.

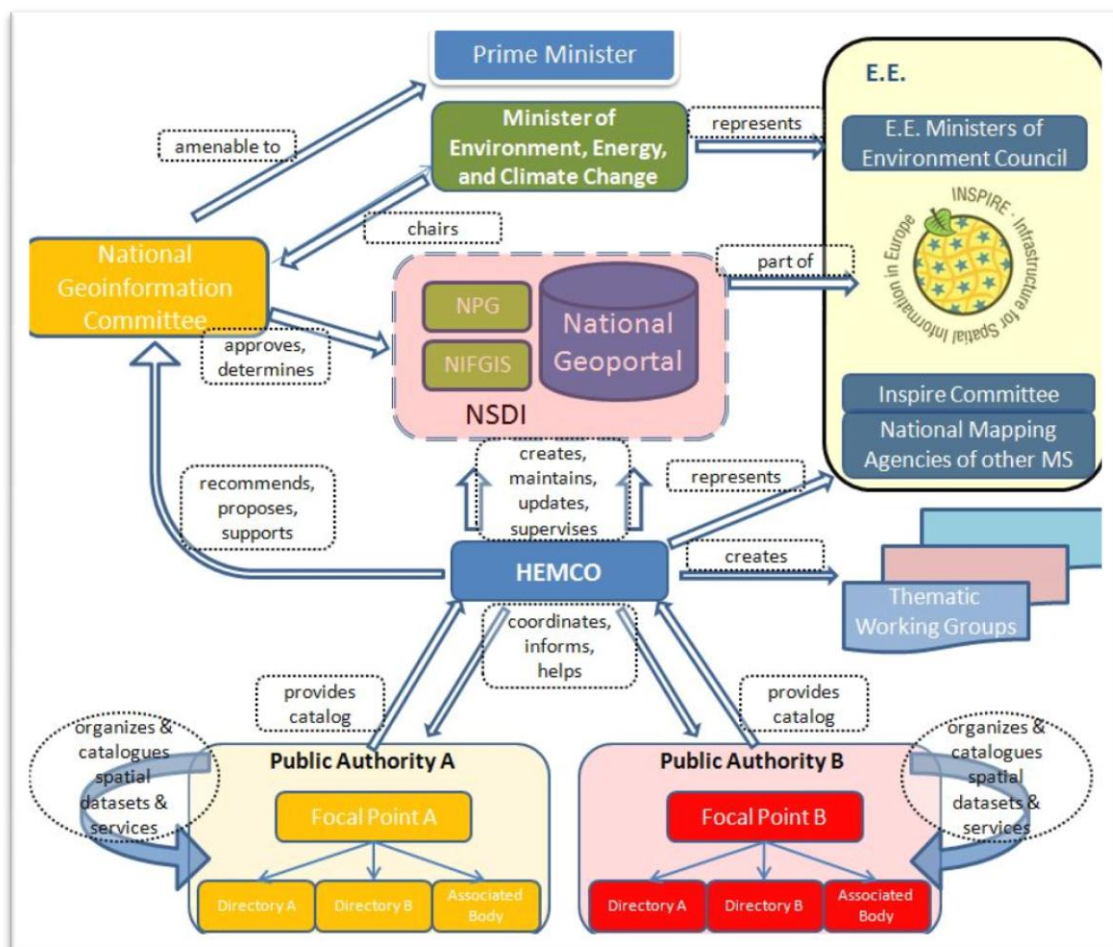
This has been achieved with the establishment of a three level structure. First, the National Geo-information Committee (NGC), as the high-level decision making body which will formulate and adopt, amongst other, sharing policies and frameworks, second, HEMCO, as the operational arm of the structure, responsible for the technical implementation and coordination of the infrastructure and third, Focal Points, responsible for the coordination of data sharing, procurement, monitoring and preservation according to Law 3882/2010.

Focal Points are working groups, consisting of civil servants mainly with university education, acting as representatives of all the different public authorities of the country. Focal points are established in all the Greek Ministries (1 to 5 focal points, depending on the directorates and authorities which fall under their jurisdiction, in all 7 decentralized regional administrations (one in each of them), as well as in all 13 prefectures (one in each of them) and 350 municipalities (one in each of them) of the country. This has resulted essentially within a year and under HEMCO's coordination

to the **establishment of a permanent Focal Point network consisting of over 2500 members**, which officially represent and act on behalf of all government data providers.

The flexibility of this network lies in that it is structured in working groups-committees rather than specific government offices meaning that they do not fall within the official hierarchy, but that have the power to act on specific topics such as the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. Such a hybrid model allows for both long term sustainability of the network, legal validity and official representativeness, whilst avoiding the heavy administrative burdens, related to the establishment funding and operation of government bodies.

It is important to note that while Focal Points are working groups, they do not have a limitation as to their duration and there is no compensation provided to any of its members. The following figure, used in the Member State 2010 Report on the implementation of the INSPIRE directive describes the coordination infrastructure of the INSPIRE implementation in Greece:



**Figure 1:** The administrative structure for the coordination of the NGDI. (Source: K. Pediaditi, S. Athanasiou, K. A. Nedas, El. Grigoriou, K. Stefanakis, INSPIRE Transposition, Member State Report: Greece, 2010)

During the first phase, the network of people involved in the first contacts of HEMCO, with the public administration in the spring of 2010 and the political leadership of ministries, responded immediately. The result has been, the creation of the network of the Ministries' Focal Points in just 6 months after the Law entered into force.

The second phase's starting point was on 1.1.2011 and it concerned Municipalities, Regions and the Decentralized Regional Authorities. The Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) of Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization number 53136/2010, set the deadline for the formation of the Focal Point working groups in every Municipality, Region and Decentralized Authority.. The dates were carefully chosen so as to coincide with the taking up duty of the new bodies of the local government and decentralized administration reform, also known as project 'KALLIKRATES' (Law 3852/2010).

The publication of the Joint Ministerial Decision (JMD) of Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization, resulted in the establishment of Focal Points in up to 40% of Municipalities and more than 50% in the Regions and the Decentralized Regional Authorities by the summer of 2011. HEMCO and Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization supported the establishment of Focal Points by issuing circulars, and making contacts by phone, through email and by sending information material.

During 2011, training seminars to all Greek Focal Points throughout the country were conducted by HEMCO. Over 800 people were trained and an e-communication network with email accounts, and websites was established. The courses conducted, concerned the implementation of the Law 3882/2010 and the requirements of the INSPIRE Directive (datasets and geospatial data services repository, metadata production, new terms and conditions for the implementation and delivery of new geospatial products, etc.).

In addition to informing the stakeholders who produce or use geoinformation, HEMCO held an informative meeting with members of the Special Management Services of programs co-financed by the EU. The meeting concerned the new terms of implementation and monitoring of projects and studies related directly or indirectly to geospatial datasets or services.

Prior to the seminars, HEMCO supported the creation of Focal Points with constant communication with the local authorities. The result was, to speed up the establishment of the network



During the seminars, participants were asked to complete a questionnaire which aimed at obtaining a first feedback from each Focal Point. According to the answers of the participants, 70% of Focal Point members who participated, represent Very much / Much the persons responsible for the management of geoinformation in the public body they represent. The provisions of Law 3882/2010, the selection of Focal Points members by public authorities and the directions given by HEMCO during the formation of Focal Points network, resulted in the creation of a network of people, able to support the creation and continuous operation of the National Infrastructure.

One day conferences were also held in three major Greek cities (Thessaloniki, Kalamata and Heraklion), which were highly successful. On this occasion, public servants and professionals were informed about the benefits of the NGDI Law.

The Law 3882/2010 promotes the reuse of geoinformation and related services and applications. In that context, HEMCO attempts to extend the concept of using not only data but also infrastructure, experience and work already done in public administration. Thus, the necessary arrangements were made, for promotion of a constant cooperation agreement with the Central Union of Municipalities (KEDE in Greek) and the Greek Company for Local Government and Development (EETAA in Greek). The three parties are going to cooperate and use their knowledge, mechanisms and structures developed for the management of the Focal Points network in local government, in order to achieve maximum functionality.

#### **4. Technical implementation of NGDI**

HEMCO has supported government officials in performing their duties under the provisions of the Law 3882 and the implementation of the Directive INSPIRE. It has also taken initiatives to implement interoperability and data and service.

The Law 3882/2010, has foreseen the establishment in HEMCO of a Geoinformatics Department, in order for HEMCO to meet its new role as an Organization that implements, manages and operates NGDI. In June 2011, a decision was issued by the Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (No 26793/16.06.2011), which determined the operation, staffing and organization of the Department. The Geoinformatics Department's staff is specialized in the production and management of geoinformation products using the latest technologies.

One of the first actions taken by HEMCO on a technical level in cooperation with the MEECC, was the recording of geospatial data in public administration at the time of drafting the law for NGDI, in order to have an overview of issues the Law will come to face. A second and very important reason for the creation of the Geoinformatics Dept under HEMCO, was the obligation to monitor and report the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive,.

December 3rd, 2010 was the due day for the creation of metadata for geospatial data sets of public authorities within the thematic categories of Annexes I and II of the Directive and Law 3882. Thus, HEMCO prepared a users' guide that was posted on the website [www.inspire.okxe.gr](http://www.inspire.okxe.gr); a video with step-by-step instructions for creating metadata files according to INSPIRE Directive was posted. At the same time, a workshop was organized for the members of the Ministries' Focal Points. The training and support provided by HEMCO was particularly effective as 837 metadata files were created by Ministries Focal Points and our country was consistent to the timing of the implementing provisions of the INSPIRE Directive.

Metadata is a way of accessing geoinformation and they can be used from a Catalogue (Discovery) web service that allows the user to search and have access to the information one needs and to evaluate its suitability and accessibility. Until such search service of geospatial data services is available online, HEMCO proceeded to extend the functionality of the first Catalogue of geoinformation.

During February - March 2011, HEMCO extended the usability and the structure of the original Catalogue of 2010 with many new features and capabilities, combining in this way the needs of a broader recording with the need to monitor the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. In particular, HEMCO developed a spreadsheet application (excel) with built-in macro code language Visual Basic for Applications (VBA). The new catalogue, lists many new features and includes all necessary metadata elements according to Regulation 1205/2008 of INSPIRE, other elements of detail needed to report annually to the EU, as well as cost elements etc.

In addition to the geospatial datasets and services, this Catalogue has the ability to record other resources related, such as information about infrastructure and software used by public authorities for geospatial data management and many automated features with a much more friendly environment for the user (built-in help, code lists, batch data entry, automated syntax checks, etc.).

HEMCO posted the Catalogue on its website, accompanied by a user guide, suitable to support non-specialized users to fill it in. Information seminars were conducted, that addressed to members of ministries Focal Points and other civil servants. The seminars were organized by HEMCO in collaboration with the Institute of Education, in March and April 2010 and involved over 200 Ministry civil servants.

For the syntactic and conceptual evaluation of the catalogue's entries, HEMCO employees made the necessary corrections on several occasions in contact with the responsible person that filled the Catalogue, during May - September 2011. This action was very successful because in September 2011 the National Geospatial Catalogue contained information for more than 1600 datasets and 60 web services.

In the same context, HEMCO has trained its employees in the management of [geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr) portal. Until the development and operation of the National Geoportal, [geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr) is a search, access and download web application for public

geospatial information. Today [geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr) provides access to about 200 datasets. New data are posted almost daily.

Finally, HEMCO updated and developed the functionality and information provided by its web site [www.inspire.okxe.gr](http://www.inspire.okxe.gr), in October 2011. All stakeholders can have access to information related to the development of the NGDI and the implementation of INSPIRE, as well as tools, support and educational material and applications. Contact information of all Focal Points is uploaded and is being continuously updated, so as to enable communication and interaction in NGDI network and to promote good practices and cooperation. The website is updated daily by the staff of the Geoinformatics Department.

## **5. Promotion of sharing and free distribution**

An important innovation in the distribution of government information was the launch of [geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr). Prior to this, data produced by the Greek government was not available to citizens and professionals or public services used to charge large fees for the provision of geospatial information. [Geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr) is the first step towards practical implementation of free distribution of geospatial data to everyone without institutional and technical barriers.

Dozens of organizations responded to the call to share their data, so these are now available for discovery, view and even direct access. The user can now download data and use it in various applications for free. The legally mandated organizations for the production and maintenance of the data are responsible for their quality, though there is no quality framework available yet. The users receive the same data they would get if they visited the responsible organization. However, many working hours were spent to create the infrastructure process to the data in order to be uploaded in various open formats. The [geodata.gov.gr](http://geodata.gov.gr) management team receives requests, suggestions and even complaints about the quality of the data on a daily basis. This communication also gives users the means to freely share data, optimize them and identify errors and omissions through reuse. Furthermore, the use of publicly available existing data as a resource, leads to the creation of data and services with added value.

Another important issue is the protection of confidential and sensitive data. Some examples are data regarding national security or private personal data. Trying to protect this kind of data, Greece has adopted policies that prohibit the use or discourage the potential user from selling the data in high prices. In HEMCO we believe that new technologies in the field of geoinformation as well as international experience in pricing and access, will lead to efficient protection of sensitive and confidential information, whilst preserving the right of free access under harmonized conditions that preserve national security. HEMCO took the initiative to launch a series of meetings - the most important was in April 2011 - with large cartographic

organizations of the country, in order to start working on certain technical and organizational issues.

HEMCO has already intervened in cases where institutions banned or hinder access to the data they produce, mostly by raising awareness to the public authorities and informing them on the provisions of the Law 3882 / 2010.

On January 19, 2012, the Board of HEMCO, at the suggestion of Board member Mr. Konstantinos Nedas decided – an historic decision - on the provision and reuse of geospatial data owned by HEMCO (decision with number 535/06/19.01.2012). According to this decision, orthophotomaps produced by the Organization for the region of Attica are freely available to everyone for private or commercial use at no cost.

The orthophotomaps project aims to cover the Region of Central Greece and the island of Salamis in Attica Region. Aerial photographs, taken in summer 2010, cover a surface of 3018 sqr kilometers, with a spatial resolution of 0.25m. The coordinate reference system is the Greek Geographic Reference System of 1987 (GGRS87). The orthophotomaps follow 1:2500 scale grid, using the Transverse Mercator Projection. In line with this decision, HEMCO was authorized by the Board to forward a report to the NGC regarding measures to be taken to promote the sharing and further distribution of the most important geospatial data sets that are currently available by public authorities.

HEMCO created by own means, internally, a proposal for a simplified licensing framework in what regards the sharing and reuse of public sector geodata. The proposal was officially voted and approved by the National Geoinformation Committee on the 2nd of April.

HEMCO continues to produce geospatial data. The initiatives of the Organization for free access to geoinformation can be extended to new and older products.

## **6. Other actions of HEMCO**

HEMCO, as the Public Body, responsible for the development and operation of NGDI and the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive; represents the country in the INSPIRE Committee. The INSPIRE Committee has the general task to assist the European Commission and to deliver its opinion on the draft Implementing Rules proposed by the Commission. This opinion is delivered in the form of a vote. Greece is represented by Mrs. Eleni Grigoriou, Rural and Surveying Engineer, MSc in Geoinformatics.

Furthermore, HEMCO participates in Working Groups related to the use and availability of geospatial data in an interoperable and uniform manner. An example is

the participation in the Working Group for the EU programme “Global Monitoring for Environment and Security” (GMES). This EU action consists of a complex set of systems which collect data from multiple sources (earth observation satellites and in situ sensors such as ground stations, airborne and sea-borne sensors), process these data and provide users with reliable and up-to-date information through the services mentioned above. GMES and similar initiatives, aim at the availability of reliable data that can be used directly, without institutional and technical constraints.

HEMCO also participates, in national and international scientific conferences, presenting the organization's work and the effort of the Greek public sector. This way, HEMCO is in constant contact with scientists and professionals on geoinformation, exchanging views, experiences and good practices. This creates a communication channel in an area that is constantly evolving on a theoretical and technological level.

In February 2012, HEMCO was invited to participate in the proceedings of the trial operation the European Geoportal. The Geoportal will provide discovery, view, download and transformation services of geospatial data of all Member – States, participating in the European Infrastructure.

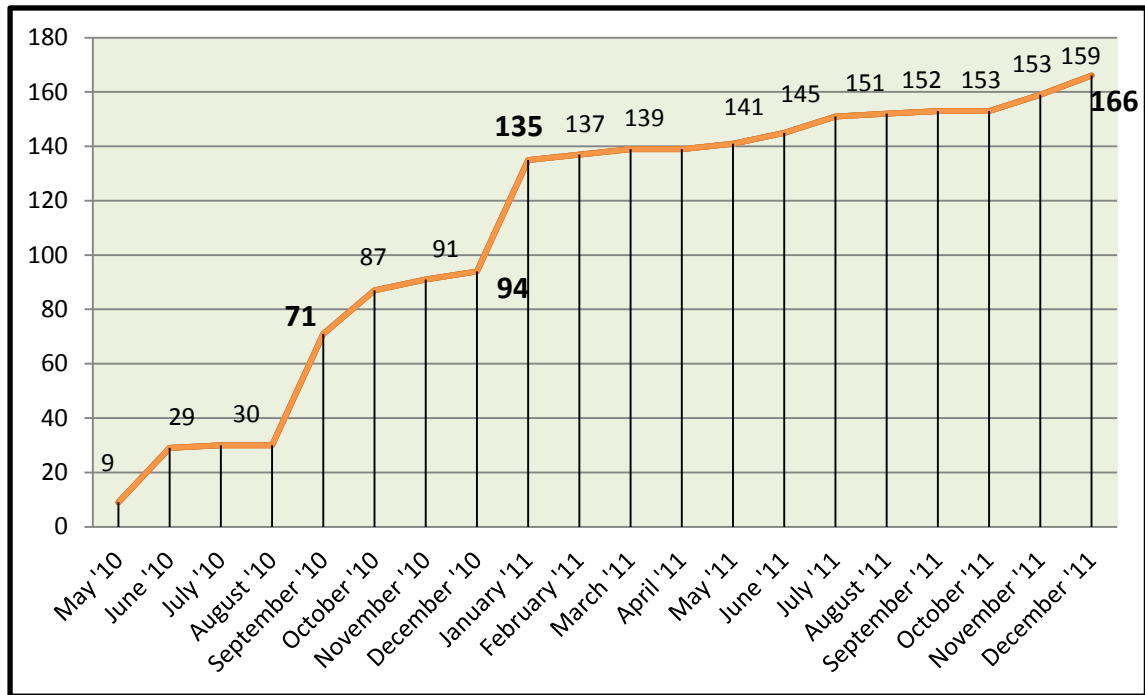
It is obvious that many of the actions for NGDI require technical and institutional measures. High quality web services must be developed, geospatial data must be delivered under harmonized and interoperable conditions, institutional and organizational changes must be made, along with information campaigns and awareness raising initiatives, on a wide network of stakeholders.

For that reason, HEMCO in order to retain and enhance its services proceeded to the submission of proposal for the development of the "National Geospatial Data Infrastructure" in order for it to be funded by EU funds (under the “Digital Convergence” Operational Programme). The funding of the project has been approved and is now being implemented.

## Annex A

### Statistical data and Figures

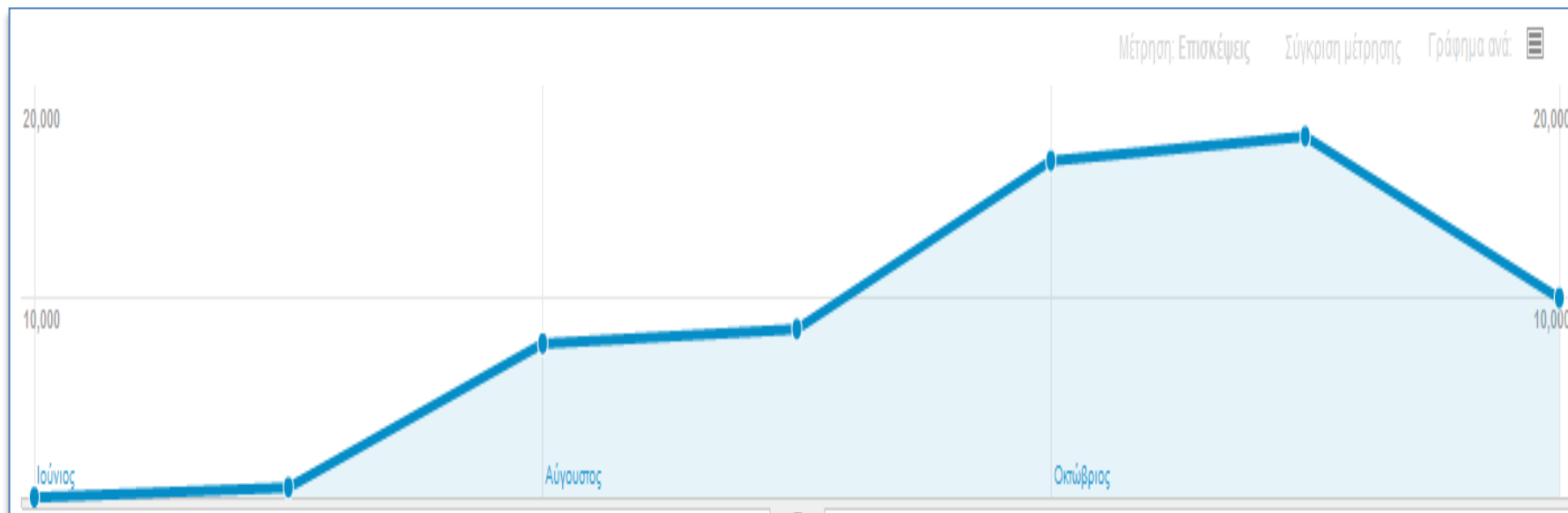
#### geodata.gov.gr progress



**Figure 1.1: Progress of posting geospatial data of public administration at geodata.gov.gr**

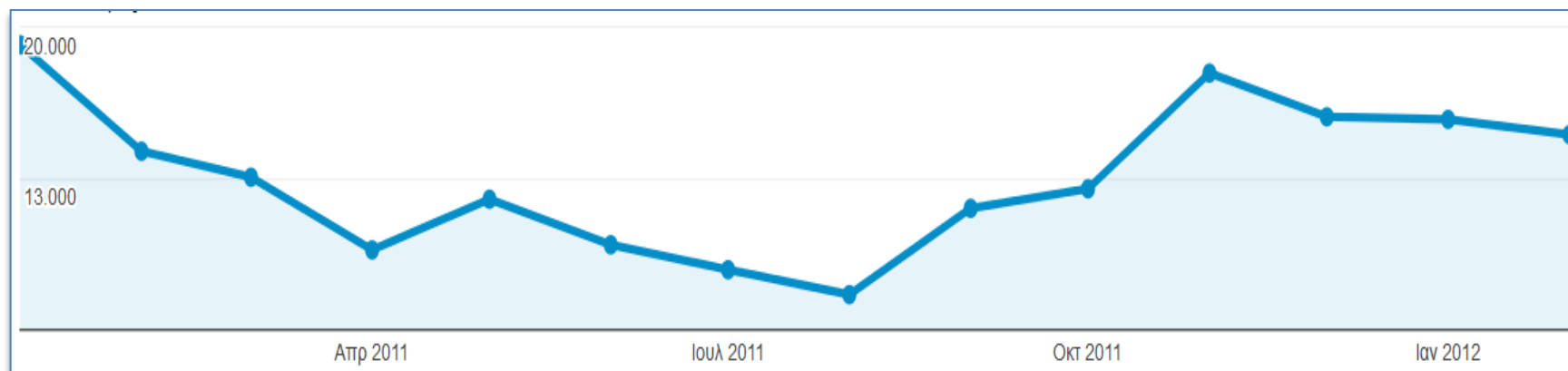
Since May to June 2010, when the memorandum of cooperation for sharing geospatial data was signed, the number of datasets published on the portal has increased by 20. After the enactment of the Law 3882/2010, more data were added with a continuously increasing rate, till December 2010. In January 2011, vector files of 33 General Urban Plans of Attica were added, increasing the amount of data supplied to the portal to 135. By October 2011, 153 datasets were made available. During the seminars conducted for the members of the local Focal Points, in combination with supplementary and supportive information campaigns of HEMCO, the portal was enriched with important local and regional data. The portal, in January 2012 hosted 166 data sets. In summer 2012 the available datasets are about 200 and rising.

### Number of visitors



**Figure A.1.2. Number of visitors of the portal during the period June 1<sup>st</sup> , 2010 - December 31, 2010**

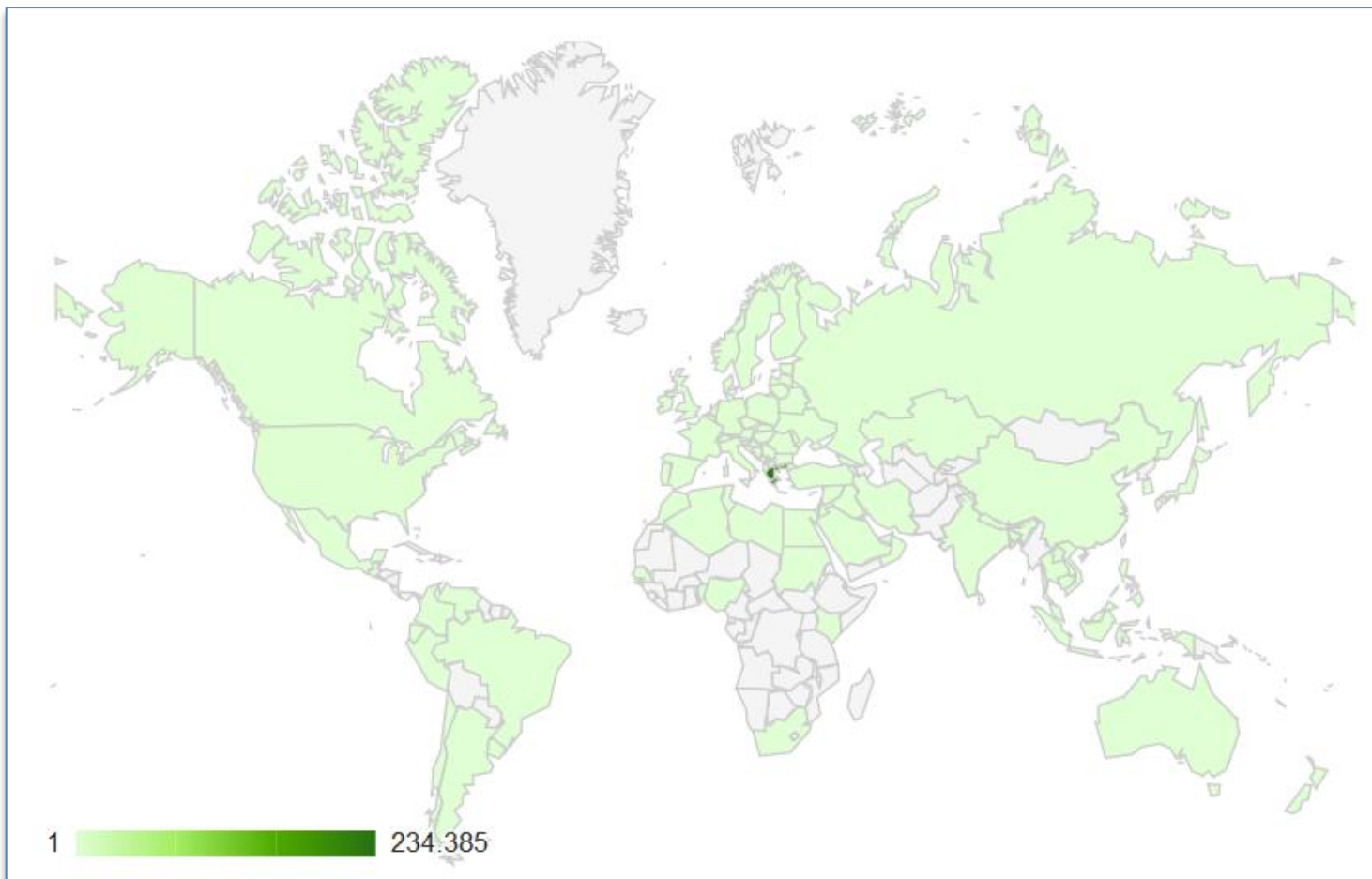
The operation of geodata.gov.gr was announced in June 2010. By September, visits were approximately 10,000. Following the voting of the Law 3882/2010, the one day conference held by HEMCO in November 2010 and the parallel action of Geodata Camp, during which the development of applications using FOSS we presented, unique visits in November rose up to 20,000. About 40% of visitors of the portal returned again after the first time.



**Figure A.1.3. Number of visitors of the portal during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 - February 29, 2012**

After a slight decrease of the traffic in December 2010, a growth was noted in January 2011, which can be connected with the posting of the General Urban Plan of 33 areas in Attica. From March 2011, until September there is constant traffic with an expected sharp fall in August. In November and December, visitors increased significantly, reflecting the view of the importance of free access to the data during the seminars. at that time. Since then, traffic has been maintained at high levels. During this period, the users visit the portal again at a rate exceeding 50%.





**Map A.1.1: Visits by country during the period June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012**



Map A.1.2: Visits per city during the period June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

## Annex B

### Progress roadmap

DATE	ACTION
<b>2010</b>	
<b>March 2010 - May 2010</b>	Informational meetings with authorities of central government on the INSPIRE Directive. Information on preparing a draft law for NGDI. First recording of datasets and geospatial data services available.
<b>May 2010</b>	Reporting on the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive in Greece, accompanied by indicators for monitoring and list of datasets and geospatial data services, according to the Decision 2009/442/EKEC.
<b>June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b>	Memorandum of cooperation in order to make geospatial data available and free of charge, to the participants.
<b>June 2010</b>	Announcement of the launch of portal geodata.gov.gr' s operation
<b>September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010</b>	Publication of the Law 3882/2010 entry into force.
<b>October 2010 – April 2011</b>	Ministries Focal Points creation
<b>November 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b>	HEMCO Conference for the NGDI development.
<b>November 2010</b>	Coordinate Reference System transformation of orthophotomaps covering the whole country, in the GGRS87/Greek Grid
<b>December 2010</b>	Creation of metadata files for geospatial data sets and services of Annexes I & II of the Law 3882/2010 and the Directive INSPIRE. The files were created by

	public authorities with the support of HEMCO (educational material, seminars).
<b>December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b>	Joint Ministerial Decision of the Ministers of Interior, Decentralization and E-Government and Environment, Energy and Climate Change (number. 53163/2010), setting the time limits for the creation of Focal Points in municipalities, regions and decentralized administrations.
<b>December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2010</b>	Presentation of HEMCO and Greek public administration progress in the implementation of INSPIRE during the 6th meeting of the INSPIRE Committee.
<b>December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010</b>	Publication of Ministerial Decision 57880 of Environment, Energy and Climate Change Minister on the formation of NGC.
<b>2011</b>	
<b>January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b>	NGC's first meeting.
<b>February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b>	Information seminar for executives of Managing Operational Programmes on the new terms and conditions for the projects and the studies related directly or indirectly with the production, supply or use of geospatial data and services.
<b>February 2011 - March 2011</b>	Creation of a new Catalogue of geospatial resources in public administration with multiple usage and functionality.
<b>March 2011</b>	Training of the Geoinformatics Department's executives in managing and maintaining geospatial data and services using the latest FOSS and web technologies.
<b>April 13rd, 2011</b>	Meeting with public cartographic

	institutions and academics on issues about distribution and protection of sensitive and confidential national data.
<b>March 2011 - April 2011</b>	Educational workshops for members of Ministry Focal Points in cooperation with the Institute of Education. The seminars were about the implementation of the Law 3882/2010 and the NGDI, the recording of geospatial resources to create the National Catalogue, the new terms and conditions for launching, monitoring and delivery of projects regarding directly or indirectly geoinformation.
<b>April 2011 – May 2011</b>	Introductory training seminars to HEMCO's employees on data management, infrastructure and user community of the portal geodata.gov.gr. The training was completed in March 2012.
<b>May 2011 – September 2011</b>	Editing and correction of the completed Catalogues of geospatial resources, received by the Ministries Focal Points.
<b>May 2011</b>	HEMCO started participating in the Working Group for the GMES initiative.
<b>June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b>	Publication of the Ministerial Decision forming the Geoinformatics Department of HEMCO
<b>June 2011</b>	Participation of HEMCO with oral presentation and poster at the annual INSPIRE conference (Edinburgh, June 27 <sup>th</sup> to July 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2011).
<b>June 2011 – August 2011</b>	Preparation of the tender documents for Subproject 1 of the project "National Geospatial Data Infrastructure" by the Geoinformatics Department of HEMCO.
<b>August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011</b>	Public consultation of the above mentioned tender documents.

<b>September 2011 – October 2011</b>	Information and awareness-raising of Municipalities, Regions and Decentralized Administrations on the creation of Focal Points, prior to the educational meetings in November and December 2011.
<b>October 2011</b>	CRS transformation of high-resolution Orthoimages (VLSO) and digital terrain models and digital surface models (DTM & DSM) in GGRS87/Greek Grid.
<b>October 2011</b>	Upgrade of the website <a href="http://www.inspire.okxe.gr">www.inspire.okxe.gr</a> . HEMCO's website for the NGDI was enriched with all the necessary information for Focal Points, all public authorities and citizens about the Law 3882 and the INSPIRE Directive as well as with useful tools and applications. The site is updated on a daily basis by the Geoinformatics Department of HEMCO.
<b>November 2011 – December 2011</b>	Informational-educational workshops, for the members of Focal Points of Municipalities, Regions and Decentralized Administrations in cooperation with the Institute of Education. The workshops concerned all issues addressed in the Law 3882 and the INSPIRE Directive
<b>2012</b>	
<b>January 2012</b>	Decision of the Board of HEMCO numbered 535-06, on the free distribution of the Orthophotomaps of part of Attica Region, which were produced from aerial photographs taken in 2010.
<b>February 2012</b>	Participation of HEMCO in the trial operation activities of the European Geoportal organized by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC).

**February 2012**

Approval of tender documents for the operation of the NGDI (operational program "Digital Convergence"). HEMCO launched and closed the competition as legally required and is now in the process of evaluating the offers and foresees to have assigned the contract by the end of 2012.

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

HEMCO created by own means, internally, a proposal for a simplified licensing framework in what regards the sharing and reuse of public sector geodata. The proposal was officially voted and approved by the National Geoinformation Committee.