

INSPIRE DIRECTIVE

In Europe a major recent development has been the entering in force of the INSPIRE Directive in May 2007, establishing an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe to support Community environmental policies, and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment.

INSPIRE is based on the infrastructures for spatial information established and operated by the 27 Member States of the European Union. The Directive addresses [34 spatial data themes](#) needed for environmental applications, with key components specified through technical implementing rules. This makes INSPIRE a unique example of a legislative “regional” approach.

History

In September 2001, the first INSPIRE Expert group was convened in Brussels. The INSPIRE Expert group was composed of representatives of the Commission, the EEA and of nominated representatives of the Member States' environmental and geographic information communities. A number of observers representing governmental bodies and NGO's were also invited to participate.

In December 2001, an Action Plan was published by the Commission. It served as the reference document for preparing the ground for the proposal for legislative framework for the European SDI: the creation of the necessary organisational entities and the implementation of the overall action plan. Working groups were created to work the topics: Common Reference Data and Metadata, Architecture and Standards, Legal Aspects and Policy, Funding and Implementation Structures and Impact Analysis.

In July 2004, the INSPIRE Proposal for a Directive was adopted by the Commission. (<http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/proposal/EN.pdf>) This was a major milestone for the use of Geographical Information in Europe as a contribution to environmental policy and sustainable development. It was the first step in a co-decision procedure that led to the formal adoption of the INSPIRE Directive, which then has to be implemented in every EU Member State.

After intensive informal discussions between the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the Commission the final directive was agreed.

Legislation (main Directive and daughter legislation)

The 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) was published in the official Journal on the 25th April 2007. ***The INSPIRE Directive entered into force on the 15th May 2007***

To ensure that the spatial data infrastructures of the Member States are compatible and usable in a Community and transboundary context, the Directive requires that common Implementing Rules (IR) are adopted in a number of specific areas (Metadata, Data Specifications, Network Services, Data and Service Sharing and Monitoring and Reporting).

These IRs are adopted as Commission Decisions or Regulations, and are binding in their entirety. The Commission is assisted in the process of adopting such rules by a regulatory committee composed of representatives of the Member States and chaired by a representative of the Commission (this is known as the Comitology procedure).

The following legal acts have been adopted so far

- 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) 14.03.2007
- INSPIRE Metadata Regulation 03.12.2008
- Commission Decision regarding INSPIRE monitoring and reporting 05.06.2009
- Regulation on INSPIRE Network Services 19.10.2009

Meanwhile the following legal act are currently developed

- Draft Commission Legislation (in progress)
- Draft Regulation on INSPIRE Data and Service Sharing 05.06.2009
- Draft COMMISSION REGULATION implementing Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services 14.12.2009
- Draft COMMISSION REGULATION amending Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 as regards download services and transformation services 14.12.2009

Who's who

In 2002 Commissioners Wallström, Solbes and Busquin agreed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation between ENV, ESTAT and JRC for the first steps in the development of the INSPIRE initiative. This MoU was established to operate up until the adoption of a proposal for an INSPIRE directive by the Commission after which the MoU should be revised and updated. The Commission proposal was adopted in July 2004.

This updated Memorandum of Understanding, signed in 2006, provided the basis for continued co-operation between the services of DG Environment, EUROSTAT and the JRC on the INSPIRE initiative. It outlined roles and responsibilities, working arrangements and cooperation mechanisms until the end of 2013.

It was agreed that a key success factor for the implementation of the directive is the identification of durable and precise roles and responsibilities for each of the leading services, as well as of efficient and effective coordination mechanisms to ensure coherence throughout the INSPIRE implementation process. The three collaborating DGs also agreed to undertake a full commitment towards a continued openness and transparency with respect to the different communities which will be involved in the implementation of INSPIRE.

1. European Commission INSPIRE Team (CT)

The INSPIRE team consists of staff of the European Commission from the three DGs, DG Environment, Eurostat and JRC.

Role: Its role is to coordinate the IR development.

DG Environment acts as an overall legislative and policy co-ordinator for INSPIRE. The establishment of the legislative act and its follow-up is led by DG Environment, supported and advised by Eurostat. Given the primary focus of INSPIRE on environmental policy, and based on liaison with the EEA, DG Environment specifies environmental thematic policy requirements for INSPIRE as a framework for the implementation programme.

Eurostat acts as the overall implementation co-ordinator for INSPIRE. Eurostat and JRC jointly prepare the programme of work taking into consideration the technical approach proposed, and solutions provided for, by the JRC, building on the policy requirement inputs provided for by DG Environment, and taking into consideration the overall Commission wide policy requirements provided for by the Commission inter-services group on Geographic Information (COGI). Following adoption of the Directive, Eurostat will assure the secretariat for the INSPIRE Regulatory Committee as part of its operational responsibilities.

JRC acts as the overall technical co-ordinator of INSPIRE. The JRC ensures the viability and evolution of the technical infrastructure for INSPIRE and guarantees the liaison with the European and international research community. JRC also initiates and monitors the work with international standardisation bodies for the purposes of INSPIRE and will be responsible for the technical coordination with other relevant international initiatives.

2. INSPIRE Committee (IC)

The regulatory nature of the Implementing Rules requires the Commission to present them to a Regulatory Committee of Member States representatives, referred to as the INSPIRE Committee.

Role: The INSPIRE Committee has the general task to assist the Commission and to deliver its opinion on the draft Implementing Rules proposed by the Commission. This opinion shall be delivered in the form of a vote.

3. Member State Contact Points (MSCP)

Each member state must designate a Contact Point, usually a public authority, to be responsible for contacts with the Commission in relation to INSPIRE.

Role: The role of the contact points is to provide results about the transposition of INSPIRE in National legislation. The contact points will also be responsible for providing regular information about the implementation of INSPIRE in their country and report on behalf of the Member State to the Commission.

4. Initial Operating Capability Task Force (IOC TF)

The Initial Operating Capability Task Force (IOC TF) was set up in June 2009 to help and support Member States in the implementation of INSPIRE services and ensure interoperability with the INSPIRE geoportal the European Commission. The IOC TF consists of the representatives, from all Member States, responsible for the Architecture design and the service implementation of the National SDIs.

Role: The initial focus of the IOC TF is on the implementation of the INSPIRE Discovery and View Services.

INSPIRE Roadmap

Last Updated: 22/07/2009

Adoption

Milestone date	Article	Description
15-May-2007	-	Entry into force of INSPIRE Directive
15-Aug-2007	22§2	Establishment of the INSPIRE Committee
14-May-2008	5§4	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR for the creation and updating of metadata
03-Dec-2008	5§4	Adoption of INSPIRE Metadata Regulation
19-Dec-2008	21(4)	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR for monitoring and reporting
19-Dec-2008	16	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR for discovery and view services
24-Dec-2008	5§4	Entry into force of INSPIRE Metadata Regulation
15-May-2009	24§1	Provisions of Directive are brought into force in MS
05-Jun-2009	17(8)	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR governing the access rights of use to spatial data sets and services for Community institutions and bodies
05-Jun-2009	21(4)	Adoption of COMMISSION DECISION regarding INSPIRE monitoring and reporting
19-Oct-2009	16	Adoption of INSPIRE Regulation on Network Services (Discovery and View)
14-Dec-2009	9(a)	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IRs for the interoperability of spatial data sets and services for Annex I spatial data themes
14-Dec-2009	16	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR for download services
14-Dec-2009	16	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR for transformation services
December 2009 ³	17(8)	Adoption IR governing the access rights of use to spatial data sets and services for Community institutions and bodies
15-May-2012	9(b)	Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IRs for the

interoperability of spatial data sets and services for Annex II and III spatial data themes

June 2012¹ 16 Submission for opinion of the INSPIRE committee of IR for the services allowing spatial data services to be invoked

Implementation

Milestone date	Article	Description
15-May-2010	21§1 21§2	Implementation of provisions for monitoring and reporting
30-Nov-2010	15	The EC establishes and runs a geo-portal at Community level
03-Dec-2010	6(a)	Metadata available for spatial data corresponding to Annex I and II
19-Oct-2011	16	Discovery and view services operational
June 2012 ¹	16	Download services operational
June 2012 ¹	16	Transformation services operational
June 2012 ⁵	7§3, 9(a)	Newly collected and extensively restructured Annex I spatial data sets available
03-Dec-2013	6(b)	Metadata available for spatial data corresponding to Annex III
January 2015 ⁵	7§3, 9(b)	Newly collected and extensively restructured Annex II and III spatial data sets available
June 2017 ⁵	7§3, 9(a)	Other Annex I spatial data sets available in accordance with IRs for Annex I
30-May-2019	7§3, 9(b)	Other Annex II and III spatial data sets available in accordance with IRs for Annex II and III

1 Date proposed by the commission

3 Under scrutiny by European Parliament and Council

5 Date depending on entry into force of measure

More information

- **INSPIRE Website** <http://inspire.jrc.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm>
- **INSPIRE Geoportal** <http://www.inspire-geoportal.eu/>
- **INSPIRE Forum** <http://inspire-forum.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>