INSPIRE

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

Draft summary report of the 8th INSPIRE MIG expert group meeting, 21 – 22 June 2018, Brussels

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1 Approval of the agenda and of the minutes of previous meeting

The meeting was opened and chaired by Joachim D'Eugenio, Deputy Head of DG ENV Unit E.4 Compliance and Better Regulation.

The Chair presented the meeting agenda (*DOC1*) and the summary of the previous meeting (*DOC2*). The MIG had no comments on the meeting agenda and the summary of the previous meeting.

The Chair also proposed to the MIG to use a tool called "sli.do" which allows for augmented interactive engagement of the participants. They can post questions to the Chair or respond to surveys and polls. The MIG welcomed the use of the tool.

All meeting documents and presentations have been made available on the *collaboration platform of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation expert Group (MIG)[1]*.

Conclusions and Actions

The meeting agenda and summary of the previous meeting were approved.

2 Nature of the meeting

The meeting was a non-public meeting and was attended by nominated experts of EU Member States (MS), Iceland, Norway, the Commission Services (DG ENV and JRC) and the European Environment Agency (EEA). There were no experts from the following Member States: Bulgaria, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg.

3 List of points discussed

3.1 Update on Commission initiatives (Information and discussion)

Introduction

The Commission presented information document *[DOC3]* and informed the MIG about the following ongoing Commission initiatives:

- Reporting Fitness Check
- Study on improving national environmental information and harvesting data
- Study of INSPIRE data sharing, access and use (Article 17)
- Copernicus – latest developments
- Monitoring 2018 (ref. year 2017)
- European Location Interoperability Solutions for e-Government (ELISE) action update.
- INSPIRE Conference 2018

Discussion

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[1] *https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/mig-p/wiki/8th_meeting_of_the_MIG*

Questions were raised by Member State experts related to the Reporting Fitness Check alignment proposal and the INSPIRE Article 17 study on data sharing.

The Commission will evaluate the status of ongoing procedures for the new reporting decision and the Fitness Check alignment proposal and timely inform the Member States about the INSPIRE monitoring and reporting process for 2019. The Commission also acknowledged the need to further work on the harmonisation of data licenses together with the Member States. Possible actions could be initiated based on the findings of the study on data sharing.

The Commission will keep the MIG informed on any progress made in the presented initiatives.

3.2 Revision of Implementing Rules (Information/Discussion)

3.2.1 Possible revision of Data Specifications (use JRC report)
<u>Introduction</u>

The Commission presented (*DOC4) - Possible revision of IR on data interoperability*. This document describes the proposed resolution of the comments received from MS and EU agencies and services of the Commission on the Implementing Rules on data interoperability, grouped in the following areas:

- Issues related to code lists and the INSPIRE registry
- Issues related to voidability and multiplicities
- Issues related to coordinate reference systems and grids
- Issues related to the data models for Statistical Units, Population Distribution & Demography and Human Health and Safety

The proposed corrigenda and minor adaptations to technological and scientific evolution had already been endorsed and will be certainly taken forward.
<u>Discussion</u>

The Commission presented the different issues, change proposals and proposed resolutions in detail for further discussion with the MIG. The discussion was supported by the use of the "sli.do" tool for greater interaction and to allow all participants to express their opinion on the proposed resolutions.

The MIG supported the proposed resolutions of the change proposals. In particular, the MIG supported the proposals to remove all code list and enumeration values from the legal act (and replace them with a reference to the INSPIRE registry) and to clarify, but not completely remove, the notion of voidability. Furthermore the MIG supported the proposed solution to setup a Coordinate Reference System (CRS) registry and control body to manage the proposal of additional CRS under the governance of the MIG and to not make any changes to the Implementing Rule regarding the support for Web Mercator. Also on the change proposals regarding the data models of Population Distribution & Demography (PD) the MIG found the consensus not to introduce changes to the legal act but to update the existing technical guidance and identifying good practice.

Conclusions and Actions

> *The MIG supported the continuation of the work on revising the interoperability regulation. Based on the discussion, DG ENV and JRC will now prepare a concrete proposal for the amendment of the legal act, a first draft of which will be presented and discussed in the MIG in November 2018.*

3.2.2   Possible revision of Reporting Decision (2009/442/EC) (use JRC report)

Introduction

The Commission presented the draft review of the Reporting Decision (*14th INSPIRE Committee DOC4*) for further discussion in the MIG.

Discussion

A majority of Member State experts supported the draft revision. Some Member State experts stated that the provision of the suggested additional metadata keywords will create significant impact in their Country. Other experts asked for additional clarification on the practical aspects (e.g. timing, future reporting deadlines and responsibilities) and consequences of the proposal.

The Chair explained that further clarification on the metadata keywords and monitoring and reporting specifics will be provided in the explanatory note. To limit the possible impact of the provision of keywords, it was proposed to limit the scope of the indicator on the data set coverage to the national and regional data sets. To support Member States in their transition towards the new monitoring and reporting mechanism the Commission had prepared a new MIWP action mandate (2018.1) for endorsement by the MIG (see "3.3.1 c) Monitoring and Reporting 2019").

Conclusions and Actions

> *The Chair invited the MIG experts to consult their stakeholders on the draft review and provide their feedback by 15 September 2018 (mail to Joachim.D'Eugenio@ec.europa.eu, ENV-INSPIRE@ec.europa.eu in CC).*

3.3   Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme

3.3.1   MIWP Action progress, review and discussion including agreement of next steps

a) 2016.5 Priority list of EU high value data sets

Introduction

The EEA and the Commission updated the MIG on the progress of MIWP action 2016.5 - Priority list of eReporting datasets and the development of the Geoportal Thematic Viewer application. Statistics on the publication of priority data sets and their accessibility were presented. Some Member States had already made substantial efforts in tagging the metadata with the metadata keyword codes provided in the INSPIRE registry and as such demonstrated

that the approach is feasible. Overall data access through download services is lagging behind. Half of the Member States had made no efforts and still had to begin with the exercise of tagging their priority data sets.

Discussion

The MIG was very positive about the beta version of the Geoportal Thematic Viewer application but also asked the Commission to be careful with the interpretation of the current statistics. Most Member States had experienced or were still experiencing difficulties in linking their download and view services to data sets, resulting in very low numbers of accessible data sets. The MIG asked for more transparency in the validation and calculation procedures used in the Geoportal Thematic Viewer and further guidance on linking data sets to view and download services.

The Chair proposed to continue with the exercise and evaluate the progress in the next MIG meeting (November 2018). Member States that already made good progress on the implementation were invited to share their good practices. By the next meeting of the MIG it would show good progress if at least one priority data set is made available "as-is" by all Member States. It was suggested to work on the "Natura 2000 sites". The subgroup on MIWP action 2016.5 was asked to coordinate further actions on remediating remaining technical bottlenecks and facilitating the common implementation. This includes preparing (*DOC14*) for discussion in the permanent technical subgroup of the MIG to address the issue of linking data to download and view services.

Conclusions and Actions

> *The Chair invited the MIG experts to:*
>
> - *Continue/Start the work on the implementation of the list with a first focus on making the data set "Natura2000 sites" available in all Member States by mid November 2018.*
> - *Share any good implementation practices with the MIG.*
>
> *The Chair invited the subgroup on MIWP 2016.5 MIG to coordinate any further actions to resolve remaining technical issues (e.g. linking spatial data and spatial data services) and facilitate the common implementation.*

b) Procedure for proposals and adoption of INSPIRE good practices
Introduction

The Commission presented the good practice template and the first good practice on GeoDCAT-AP. This good practice provides guidance on encoding INSPIRE ISO metadata as DCAT-AP metadata, e.g. used in European Data Portal. The MIG was asked to endorse the template and the GeoDCAT-AP good practice.

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments and endorsed the presented template for INSPIRE good practices and the first good practice on GeoDCAT-AP.

Conclusions and Actions

The MIG endorsed the template for INSPIRE good practices and the GeoDCAT-AP as an INSPIRE good practice.

c) Monitoring and Reporting 2019

Introduction

The Commission presented a new action mandate (*2018.1*) for starting the development of a new, streamlined monitoring and reporting process in line with the review of the INSPIRE reporting decision (*DOC7*). The timeline for the action will be fixed if and when the review of the reporting is agreed. The MIG was asked to endorse the new action mandate.

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments and endorsed the action mandate for action 2018.1.

Conclusions and Actions

The MIG endorsed the mandate for MIWP action 2018.1 "Streamlining the monitoring and reporting for 2019".

d) INSPIRE registry management – Term of Reference

Introduction

The Commission presented the updated terms of reference (*DOC8*) for the control body and submitting organisations for the governance of the INSPIRE registry. The introduced changes were limited to a prolongation of the existing Terms of Reference. The MIG was asked to endorse the prolongation.

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments and endorsed the prolongation of the terms of reference for the governance of the INSPIRE Registry.

Conclusions and Actions

The MIG endorsed the prolongation of the terms of reference (ToR) for the governance of the INSPIRE Registry.

3.3.2   MIWP Action progress and review (without discussion) (DOC9)

e) 2016.4 Theme specific issues (I)

f) 2017.1 Master Guidance (I)

g) 2017.2 Alternative encodings (I)

h) 2017.3 Improved client support (I)

i) 2017.4 Validation & Conformity (I)

Introduction

The Commission presented an information document (*DOC9*) on the progress of several MIWP actions.

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments on the presented information document.

Conclusions and Actions

The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission on the progress of MIWP actions 2016.4, 2017.1, 2017.2, 2017.3 and 2017.4.

3.4   Spatial Data on the Web

Introduction

The Commission presented the results of a brainstorming session (*DOC10*) that took place at the 48th meeting of the permanent technical subgroup of the MIG (MIG-T) in April 2018 on the topic of "Spatial data on the web (SDW) & INSPIRE". The aim of the session was to identify and propose possible topics for future MIG-T work. The session focused on four main topics: "Datasets versus distributions", "Publishing data for download", "Making data discoverable through mainstream search engines" and "Linking data / Spatial data Identifiers". The MIG was asked to endorse the proposed follow-up activities by the MIG-T and the setup of the necessary MIG-T subgroups to coordinate the actions.

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments on the presented information document and endorsed the proposed follow-up activities suggested by the MIG-T.

The Chair used the opportunity to thank and congratulated the MIG-T and the JRC team in the lead for the excellent quality of the work on this and other actions.

Conclusions and Actions

The MIG endorsed the follow-up activities for the spatial data on the web discussion proposed by the MIG-T.

3.5   Spatial data needs at EU level – use cases (I/D)

Introduction

The Commission (DG CNECT) presented the status of the Digital Single Market Data Package and the planned Act on "High value data sets". The Data Package was adopted by the Commission end of April 2018 and is now pending with the co-legislators in ordinary legislative procedure. A proposal for a Delegated or Implementing Act on "High value data sets" that will create a mandatory framework for making core reference data available as open data will follow later. The main criteria for selecting these data sets would be its social and economic benefits. The Data Package covers:

- a proposal for a review of the Directive on the re-use of public sector information (PSI Directive);
- an update of the 2012 Recommendation on access to and preservation of scientific information;
- and guidance on sharing private sector data among companies and with public sector bodies for public interest purposes.

The MIG was reminded of the 2018 CEF Telecom Call - Public Open Data[2]. In this year's call, high value data sets are explicitly mentioned.

The Commission (DG ESTAT) presented a consensus paper (*DOC11*) prepared by ESTAT, JRC, ENV, CNECT, REGIO, GROW, AGRI and MOVE which includes a proposal and roadmap for extending the list of priority data sets to other policy domains. The paper provides a consolidated and consistent overview of geospatial information needs for different Commission policy areas and sets out cross-cutting and domain specific requirements for EU wide geospatial information and data products from Member States. Provision of high-quality data by the Member States under the INSPIRE Directive is extremely valuable for many EU level use cases. This presentation of the paper was completed by presentations from the contributing DG's on cross-cutting core spatial data and sectorial use cases (transport spatial data for multi-modal journey planning, EU Regional Policy spatial data needs, Copernicus spatial data needs).

The Commission shared a note (*DOC13*) for the attention of the INSPIRE National Contact Points with the request for national high accuracy Digital Surface Models(DSM) for a possible integration into a Copernicus programme level Digital Elevation Model (DEM) as part of a perfective maintenance activity to improve data quality. The Chair kindly asked the MIG experts to reply to this letter and demonstrate the availability of the data by replying with the location of the available data and services.

The Chair concluded by presenting a proposal for a formal procedure to request access to data on behalf of the Commission under Regulation 268/2010 on data and service sharing. The formal procedure will consist of a two stage process. First a letter will be sent out by the

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[2] *https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility/cef-telecom/apply-funding/2018-cef-telecom-call-public-open-data*

Commission on which data sets are needed and why (e.g. informal request by Commission such as letter by DG GROW to request DSM data). If the spatial data need is considered crucial for Commission operations a more formal request will be triggered by sending a letter to the Permanent Representation. The request by DG GROW for national DSM data will be a test case.

Discussion

The MIG was interested in learning more about the link between PSI and INSPIRE (Art17 on data sharing) and about the scope of the PSI Directive.

The Commission (DG Connect) explained that the PSI Directive contains a provision that says that this directive also applies to documents that the INSPIRE Directive applies on. The rules established by the PSI Directive also apply to the INSPIRE Directive. Private and semi-private undertakings open up their data. Once this data is open, it should be made available under non-discriminating measures. The PSI Directive only provides a minimum set of rules. Member States and private sectors are free to go further. Concerning opening up personal data, the GDPR main rules stay in place.

The Chair added that the MIG has an interest to discuss what the "high value data sets" mean for the priority data sets and how to add value to the process of defining these "high value data sets". The MIG will further follow up on the subject in coming meetings.

The MIG welcomed and appreciated the presentations of EU use cases and spatial information needs by the Commission services. The presented paper underpinned the need for reference data and was conceived as a valuable effort to create awareness about possible value-creation. Nevertheless use cases for creating national economic value are still missing and needed. Moreover, joining forces between UNGGIM Europe and INSPIRE MIG was considered beneficial for both communities and would allow using the scarce resources in the most effective way. Several Member State experts asked the Commission to be cautious with the data and service statistics provided by the Thematic Viewer until the existing technical problems are remediated.

The Commission services further emphasized the need for national and pan-European data sets for policy development and evaluation. Data quality and data availability are essential and depending on the intended use. Sometimes data availability is good but data lacks the necessary quality for analytical purposes. One Member State expert explained that it is not feasible to satisfy specific data needs but that the option can be explored to supply more timely quality data based on a bilateral agreement between Member States and Commission services. .

The Chair thanked the Commission services for their presentation and contributions to the paper and concluded that this is a team effort were collaboration between Member States and Commission based on a shared view is essential to succeed.

The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission on spatial data needs at EU level.

The Commission will prepare an action mandate to follow up on the cross-cutting core spatial data needs presented by the Commission for discussion in the 9th meeting of the MIG.

The proposed procedure for requesting access to data by the Commission under Regulation 268/2010 on data and service sharing will be further developed in the MIG and tested on the national DSM data requested for Copernicus.

The MIG was invited to reply to the letter with the request for national high accuracy Digital Surface Models (DSM) for Copernicus and demonstrate the availability of the data by replying with the location of the available data and services.

The MIG was invited to provide feedback on the presentations and documents by 15 September 2018 (mail to Joachim.D'Eugenio@ec.europa.eu, ENV-INSPIRE@ec.europa.eu in CC).

3.6   Data sharing and licensing

Introduction

The French MIG expert presented a good practice on data sharing and licensing that aims at free reuse of data. Possible licenses will be limited to two types of licenses: "French Open License" and "Open Database License (ODbL)". The use of ODbL is promoted as this kind of license targets the data source (database) and mandates that any product derived from it has to be made available for reuse as well. Other international standard license frameworks such as Creative Commons only target one specific data product.

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments.

3.7   News from the standardisation bodies

Introduction

The Commission presented an information document (*DOC12*) on new developments and activities relevant to INSPIRE maintenance and implementation from the following standardisation bodies: "ISO/TC 211", "Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)" and "World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)".

Discussion

The MIG had no questions or comments on the presented information document.

Conclusions and Actions

The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission on new developments and activities by relevant standardisation bodies.

3.8 Any other business

The Commission informed the MIG that the current "Redmine" collaboration platform will be migrated to the new "Confluence" collaboration platform. All existent content will be migrated to the new platform or archived. The Member State experts are invited to *test the new platform* and share any feedback by the next meeting of the MIG (mail to *Michael.Lutz@ec.europa.eu, inspire-wt@jrc.ec.europa.eu* in CC).

Conclusions and Actions

The Chair invited the MIG experts to test the new collaboration platform[3] and share any feedback by the next meeting of the MIG (mail to Michael.Lutz@ec.europa.eu, inspire-wt@jrc.ec.europa.eu in CC).

4 Conclusions/recommendations/opinions

The 8th meeting of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG) was intensive, interactive and very productive. Overall, there was support on the Commission's work on the revised INSPIRE reporting decision. As regards simplifying the INSPIRE directive, the technical work on data specifications and interoperability is now completed and had broad support from the MIG. A major part of the meeting was dedicated to the work on priority datasets. The availability of environmental spatial datasets (needed for eReporting) is increasing but further work and investment is needed in most MS. Moreover, the need for spatial datasets in other policy areas (related to the environment) is increasing and the input from many DGs (ESTAT, CNECT, DIGIT, GROW, MOVE, REGIO, AGRI and MARE as well as JRC and the EEA) was very interesting and appreciated by the MIG. It was agreed to pursue the proposed actions further to promote and facilitate the reuse of national INSPIRE data in EU policies. This will be discussed again at the next meeting of the MIG.

Furthermore the MIG:

- Approved the meeting agenda and summary of the previous meeting.
- Endorsed the template for INSPIRE good practices and the GeoDCAT-AP as an INSPIRE good practice.
- Endorsed the mandate for MIWP action 2018.1 "Streamlining the monitoring and reporting for 2019".
- Endorsed the prolongation of the terms of reference (ToR) for the governance of the INSPIRE Registry.
- Endorsed the follow-up activities for the spatial data on the web discussion proposed by the MIG-T.

The more specific conclusions per agenda item have been highlighted under 3) "List of points discussed".

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[3] *https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=268249090*

Agenda, documents and presentations are available on *the collaboration platform*[4].

5 Next steps / actions

- The MIG experts were invited, in coordination with their INSPIRE Committee counterparts, to consult their stakeholders on the draft review of the Reporting Decision and provide their feedback by 15 September 2018 (mail to Joachim.D'Eugenio@ec.europa.eu, ENV-INSPIRE@ec.europa.eu in CC).
- The MIG experts were invited to:
  - Continue/Start the work on the implementation of the list with a first focus on making the data set "Natura2000 sites" available in all Member States by mid November 2018.
  - Share any good implementation practices with the MIG.
- The MIG subgroup on MIWP action 2016.5 will coordinate any further actions to resolve remaining technical issues (e.g. linking spatial data and spatial data services) and facilitate the common implementation for the list of priority data sets.
- The Commission will prepare an action mandate to follow up on the cross-cutting core spatial data needs presented by the Commission services for discussion in the 9th meeting of the MIG.
- The proposed procedure for requesting access to data by the Commission under Regulation 268/2010 on data and service sharing will be further developed in the MIG and tested on the national DSM data requested for Copernicus.
- The MIG was invited to provide feedback on the presentations and documents under agenda item "3.5 Spatial data needs at EU level" by 15 September 2018 (mail to Joachim.D'Eugenio@ec.europa.eu, ENV-INSPIRE@ec.europa.eu in CC).
- The MIG was invited to reply to the letter with the request for national high accuracy Digital Surface Models(DSM) for Copernicus and demonstrate the availability of the data by replying with the location of the available data and services.
- The MIG experts were invited to test the new collaboration platform and share any feedback by the next meeting of the MIG (mail to Michael.Lutz@ec.europa.eu, inspire-wt@jrc.ec.europa.eu in CC).

6 Next meeting

The 9th Meeting of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation expert Group is tentatively scheduled for 26 and 27 November 2018 in Brussels.

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[4] *https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/mig-p/wiki/8th_meeting_of_the_MIG*

7 List of participants

#	Surname	Name	country
1	FAHRNER	Wolfgang	AT
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12	LEOBET	Marc	FR
13	MEINERT	Markus	DE
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15	KALNINS	Silviya	LV
16	DRONDINA	Anita	LV
17	ROZANSKAS	Evaldas	LT
18	SALIBA	Martin	MT
19	DE VISSER	Ine	NL
20	DE JONG	Christiaan	NL
21	SURMA	Ewa	PL
22	PATRICIO	Paulo	PT
23	DRAGAN	Gabriela	RO
24	TUCHYNA	Martin	SK
25	PETEK	Tomaz	SI
26	LÓPEZ-ROMERO	Emilio	ES
27	CANDA	Emilio	ES
28	WASSTRÖM	Christina	SE
29	POWER	Sheila	IE

30	DIXON	John	UK
31	INGVARSSON	Kjartan	IS
32	KYRKJEEIDE	Kåre	NO
33	HØGVARD	Dag	NO

Commission and EU services		
Service	**Surname**	**Name**
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DG ENV	LIQUETE	Camino
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DG ESTAT	REUTER	Hannes
DG MARE	SHEPHERD	Iain
DG GROW	BAMPS	Catharina
DG REGIO	POELMAN	Hugo
DG AGRI	GIANNINI	Gabriele
DG MOVE	GRILLO	Patrizio
DG DIGIT	GUASCH	Cecile