INSPIRE
Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG)

Update on Commission initiatives

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	MIG members are invited to take note of this information and to share it with relevant colleagues and communities, as appropriate.

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1. The European Green Deal (EGD) and Shaping Europe's digital future

Commission President von der Leyen stressed the need for Europe to lead the transition to a healthy planet and a new digital world in her **political guidelines**. This twin challenge of a green and digital transformation has to go hand-in-hand and direct us towards more sustainable solutions which are resource-efficient, circular and climate-neutral. Data is at the centre of this transformation and data-driven innovation will contribute to the implementation of the objectives of the **European Green Deal**. To use the major potential of data in support of the Green Deal priority actions on climate change, circular economy, zero pollution, biodiversity, deforestation and compliance assurance, **a Common European Green Deal data space** will be developed. The **"GreenData4All"** initiative in the European **data strategy** will support the development this **Green Deal data space** and will (following an evaluation/impact assessment) aim to review and possibly revise two pieces of existing legislation:

- The Access to Environment Information Directive (2003/4/EC);
- The INSPIRE Directive (2007/2/EC) dealing with geospatial data for the environment;

The overall objective is to ensure that the most modern and innovative technologies are used to deliver on our basic European values of transparency and democracy, help channel the energy from EU citizens to contribute to European Green Deal solutions and minimize administrative burden by using less paper and more digital solutions.

The text of the European Green Deal Communication and its Annex can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal_en#documents

The main principles of the **Green Deal Communication (COM(2019)640):**

- The Green Deal Communication COM(2019)640 sets the path for action in the months and years ahead. It is the EU's new growth strategy.

- It is a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all.

- Its objective is to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050, boosting the economy, improving people's health and quality of life, caring for nature, and leaving no one behind.

Within the context of the EGD communication, we also want to mention the main conclusions of the **European Environment Agency's State of the Environment Report 2020** (4.12.2019, https://www.eea.europa.eu/soer-2020/intro). These are:

- "Europe faces environmental challenges of unprecedented scale and urgency."

- "Europe will not achieve its 2030 goals without urgent action during the next 10 years to address the alarming rate of biodiversity loss, increasing impacts of climate change and the overconsumption of natural resources."
- "Full implementation of existing policies would take Europe a long way to achieving its environmental goals up to 2030."

On 19 February 2020, the Commission published its Digital Package and unveiled its ideas and actions for a digital transformation that works for all, reflecting the best of Europe: open, fair, diverse, democratic and confident. It presents a European society powered by digital solutions that put people first, opens up new opportunities for businesses, and boosts the development of **trustworthy technology** to foster an open and democratic society and a vibrant and sustainable economy. Digital is a key enabler to fighting climate change and achieving the green transition. The European **data strategy** and the policy options to ensure the **human-centric development of Artificial Intelligence** (AI) are the first steps towards achieving these goals.

2. Modernised e-Reporting with Reportnet 3.0

To promote and modernise eReporting with the latest IT solutions, EEA is working since 2018 to develop Reportnet 3.0. This modern reporting infrastructure will stepwise replace the current reporting system, integrate data flows under the EU environmental legislation, take into account national capabilities and provide a platform that supports new types of data (e.g. Copernicus, citizen science) and data from an extended group of stakeholders. Reportnet 3.0 is designed to deliver the ambition and the strategic goals as set out by the Commission's Digital Strategy. It is the EEA's contribution to deliver on this long-term objective.

Since June 2019, Reportnet 3.0 platform is continually being developed with an agile data flow implementation process which allows for quicker design, test and assessment cycles of new data flows or updates on existing ones. The system is built using a micro service based architecture, moving from a file-centric to a database-centric approach. Microservices offer extensibility, scalability and the ability to deploy in any environment. They are easy to modify, which is a good fit for developing an application serving use cases like the ones in Reportnet.

As one of several flexible data delivery modes, data harvesting will be supported in version 3.0 by early 2021. This will meet INSPRIE network services requirements. The new collaborative workflows are key to deeper integrate the reporting communities e.g. visual schema design with reusable validations and data visualisation possibilities is supported. Dashboards will be provided to monitor reporting process and quality assessment.

Currently, key functionalities required for data providers (reporters) and data requesters are covered by the system. Reporters can complete a tabular reporting workflow (import, quality control and deliver the data) and the data requesters will be able to create and design a dataset without any external support.

The progress achieved under the development is demonstrated in a demo version (27/06/2019), a beta version (24/09/2019) and a first release candidate (05/02/2020). The stable, demonstrable output of the releases allows tangible progress and incremental feedback from the stakeholders. After every release, an acceptance testing period is being held and feedback gathered supports the further improvement of the modernised platform.

The final deliverables and the communication material produced under the project are publicly available from this link: https://www.eionet.europa.eu/reportnet/reportnet-3.0

3. Overview and main conclusion from the 2019 Monitoring & Reporting exercise

Following the COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING DECISION (EU) 2019/1372 of 19 August 2019, new Monitoring and Reporting systems and workflows have been developed and executed for the official Monitoring & Reporting 2019 exercise. The new indicators are calculated directly from the MS registered Metadata discovery services used for harvesting MS data to the EU Geoportal. Also for the first time two indicators (MDi1.1 and MDi1.2) were automatically calculated based on the validation results provided by the INSPIRE Reference Validator.

Due to a very short preparatory phase for developing the new monitoring systems and integrating it with the Geoportal harvesting, processing and publication workflow, the year 2020 (with data snapshot taken in December 2019) is considered as a transitional year. During the execution of the Monitoring 2019 exercise, several bugs have been reported by MS to the Commission (JRC). This feedback is much appreciated since it helps to improve the system for the coming years. The system for on-line update of country fiches seems to work fine and is open for MS for eventual updates.

The Commission (JRC) has started to work on a comprehensive technical report to publish the aggregated results of Monitoring 2019 exercise as well as lessons learned. The report will be shared with the MIG before the June meeting.