INSPIRE Community Forum
on Statistics and Health
Phase 1 - 2020 activity report (Deliverable – D2)

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1. **State of play in the thematic domain**

   1.1. Overview / list of relevant EU Projects/technology/SW activities

   1.1.1. *European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS)* – an organization comprising experts from National Statistical Institutes who work in the field of geostatistics. EFGS bonds European efforts in presenting spatially referenced statistics and organizes projects for development of harmonized pan-European datasets as well as fosters guidelines for creation and publishing georeferenced statistical data. More information: https://www.efgs.info/

   1.1.2. *GEOSTAT projects:* The first GEOSTAT project was launched at the beginning of 2010 by Eurostat in cooperation with the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS), to promote grid-based statistics and more generally to work towards the integration of statistical and geospatial information in a common information infrastructure for the EU. Three stages of the GEOSTAT project have already been completed (GEOSTAT1 was carried out in three phases). GEOSTAT4 project is foreseen to be launched next year and its main focus is to prepare detailed guidelines for publishing statistics on grids in Europe. More information: https://www.efgs.info/geostat/

   1.1.3. *Table Joining Services* – since 2013 Statistics Netherlands is working on implementing a Table Joining Service which would enable on-the-fly connection between statistical data (related to the *population distribution [demography]* (PD) theme) with geometry from the *statistical units* (SU) theme. The effort is aimed to solve the problem of the PD theme having no geometry assigned to statistical values. So far an Impact Analysis has been prepared and it is available for download from the Thematic Clusters platform. The activity is being followed and further information / results will be posted as they appear. The Table Joining Service (TJS) will also be one of the main scopes of work for the UN:GGIM Europe working group on data integration methods in the upcoming years. More information: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/discussion/view/119218/ogc-tjs-table-joining-service ; https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/113290/impact-analysis-of-a-table-joining-service

   1.1.4. *INSPIRE Good Practice: SDMX for Human Health and Population Distribution:* a work in progress being a result of a collaboration between Eurostat, Joint Research Centre and the community (represented by the Statistics and Health cluster facilitator). It is planned to integrate the SDMX and INSPIRE data infrastructures to enable fulfilment of INSPIRE requirements by publishing data in SDMX. The upcoming population and housing census 2021 is an opportunity to test this solution. More information: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/discussion/view/261536/inspire-good-practice-sdmx-for-human-health-and-population-distribution

   1.2. Overview / list of selected good / highly visited / highly replied Forum contributions

   1.2.1. *European population grid from the GEOSTAT project* – initiated by the EFGS, the GEOSTAT project is a standout example of pan-European cooperation for purposes of creating georeferenced statistics. Various stages of the project produced datasets with population distribution data in a 1km^2 grid for a huge part of Europe's territory – data that is harmonized and uses the above mentioned ETRS89-LAEA grid. The second and final version of the dataset published in 2015

contains the harmonized population grid for 31 countries: 29 EU/EFTA countries plus Kosovo and Albania. More information: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/pages/view/5034/european-population-grid-from-the-geostat-project

1.2.2. *UN:GGIM Europe Core Spatial Data Theme Statistical Units (SU) Recommendation for Content* – a document prepared by UN:GGIM Europe and the community (represented by the Statistics and Health cluster facilitator). The Core Spatial Data Theme "Statistical Units" Recommendation for content includes a step wise approach for its adoption by the countries:

a) core recommendations, like including 1 Km Grid, NUTS and Urban Statistical units and some temporal attributes as core,

b) good practices, like recommend smaller grids and enumeration districts units

c) considerations for future, like the importance of a global grid, units harmonisation for the whole geographic Europe, better tracking of statistical units across time, correspondence between INSPIRE and Statistical classification.

More information: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/261580/core-spatial-data-theme-statistical-units-su-recommendation-for-content

1.2.3. *Discussion on the Statistical Units model implementation* – a discussion topic regarding the conceptual and technical details of the Statistical Units (SU) theme implementation. More information: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/discussion/view/224403/questions-about-uml-model-of-statistical-units

1.3. Overview / list of relevant existing applications, services

1.3.1. *Statistical Units INSPIRE compliant GML examples*:

1.3.1.1. Statistical Units GML example: NTS 1 (2014), Poland – territorial units for statistical purposes, https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/68036/statistical-units-gml-example-nts-1-2014-poland

1.3.1.2. Statistical Units GML example: Statistical Grid, Poland – INSPIRE grid encoded in the SU model, https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/68436/statistical-units-gml-example-statistical-grid-poland

1.3.1.3. Census tracts in GML, Italy – census tract layers encoded in the SU model, https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/73725/statistical-unit-vector-example-gml

1.3.1.4. Vector statistical unit in GML, Germany – an example of vector SU encoding: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/188352/gml-example-vectorstatisticalunit-su-vector

1.3.2. *Population Distribution (Demography) INSPIRE compliant GML examples*:

1.3.2.1. Population Distribution GML example: population in NTS level 1 (2014), Poland – population in NUTS macroregions, https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/68456/population-distribution-gml-example-population-in-nts-level-1-2014-poland

1.3.2.2. Population Distribution GML example: population in 1km x 1km grid (2011), Poland – population in the INSPIRE 1km x 1km grid: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/68483/population-distribution-gml-example-population-in-1km-x-1km-grid-2011-poland

1.3.2.3. Example of GML file with the population distribution per statistical district in Brussels Region, Belgium – population data encoded in the PD model: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/101671/example-of-gml-file-with-the-population-distribution-per-statistical-district-in-brussels-region-belgium

1.3.2.4. Population distribution in GML, Germany – population data encoded in the PD model: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/212543/gml-example-statisticaldistribution-pd

1.3.3. *Human Health and Safety INSPIRE compliant GML examples*:

1.3.3.1. Noise GML file – an example providing noise data including a proposed fix for provision of the noise source: https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/forum/file/view/69621/example-noise-gml-file

1.4. Overview and assessment of the availability of thematic domain data sets in the EU Geoportal

1.4.1. *Statistical Units*

The following table presents availability of datasets by country:

Country	Metadata records	Downloadable Data Sets	Viewable Data Sets
Austria	10	10	10
Belgium	5	4	5
Bulgaria	0	0	0
Switzerland	0	0	0
Cyprus	2	0	0
Czechia	2	0	1
Germany	127	6	87
Denmark	1	0	1
Estonia	2	0	0
Greece	0	0	0
Spain	4	0	0
Finland	2	0	0
France	0	0	0
Croatia	2	0	0
Hungary	4	0	0
Ireland	7	0	0
Iceland	4	0	0
Italy	123	0	0
Liechtenstein	2	1	1
Lithuania	1	1	1
Luxembourg	3	3	3
Latvia	3	0	1
Malta	4	4	4
Netherlands	11	11	10

Norway	3	3	0
Poland	12	12	1
Portugal	40	0	0
Romania	1	0	0
Sweden	1	0	0
Slovenia	1	1	1
Slovakia	6	0	0
TOTAL	**438**	**65**	**136**

1.4.2. Population distribution (demography)

The following table presents availability of datasets by country:

Country	Metadata records	Downloadable Data Sets	Viewable Data Sets
Austria	18	18	18
Belgium	2	2	2
Bulgaria	0	0	0
Switzerland	2	0	0
Cyprus	1	0	0
Czechia	1	0	1
Germany	88	1	1
Denmark	1	0	0
Estonia	2	0	0
Greece	0	0	0
Spain	1	0	0
Finland	2	0	0
France	0	0	0
Croatia	2	0	0
Hungary	1	0	0
Ireland	1	0	0
Iceland	2	0	0
Italy	19	0	0
Liechtenstein	0	0	0
Lithuania	2	0	0
Luxembourg	2	2	1
Latvia	0	0	0
Malta	22	15	22
Netherlands	7	7	6
Norway	3	0	0
Poland	3	2	0
Portugal	16	0	0
Romania	4	0	0
Sweden	3	1	1
Slovenia	0	0	0
Slovakia	2	0	0
TOTAL	**216**	**48**	**52**

1.4.3. Human Health and Safety

The following table presents availability of datasets by country:

Country	Metadata records	Downloadable Data Sets	Viewable Data Sets
Austria	12	12	12
Belgium	20	18	20
Bulgaria	47	45	44
Switzerland	8	0	0
Cyprus	0	0	0
Czechia	6	3	4
Germany	169	22	81
Denmark	16	12	12
Estonia	2	0	0
Greece	0	0	0
Spain	2	0	2
Finland	4	0	0
France	0	0	0
Croatia	12	1	5
Hungary	0	0	0
Ireland	13	0	0
Iceland	0	0	0
Italy	62	0	9
Liechtenstein	2	0	0
Lithuania	38	36	0
Luxembourg	5	5	0
Latvia	10	3	3
Malta	10	8	8
Netherlands	32	8	14
Norway	0	0	0
Poland	0	0	0
Portugal	20	1	0
Romania	0	0	0
Sweden	10	2	3
Slovenia	2	0	0
Slovakia	13	1	1
TOTAL	**668**	**180**	**218**

2. Overview of the facilitator's activity

The number of forum users as of April 17th is over **1000**. Amongst users participating in the Statistics and Health forum the strongest user group are members of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) – producers of data related to themes: Statistical Units (SU), Population Distribution [Demography] (PD) and in some cases Human Health and Safety (HH). In most Member States, the NSIs are responsible for INSPIRE implementation of SU & PD themes. Aside from NSIs, people from European Commission agencies and related organizations and communities are present as well as independent public sector experts involved in development of the European SDI in the field of statistics.

There are **84** resources in the Statistics and Health forum. **154** replies to those resources have been registered. The resources in the Statistics & Health forum generated almost **47000** views altogether.

The most popular tags are: TC-Statistics_Health, TC-PD, TC-SU, TC-Question, TC-Good-practice, TC-HH, TC-Encoding, TC-Implementation-example.

Relevant topics and activities in the field of Statistics & Health are posted regularly by the facilitator on the forum. Discussion topics created by other users are addressed by the facilitator directly or replied to by members of the community.

During the INSPIRE Helsinki 2019 technical event the Statistics & Health was only represented by delegates from Finland. The facilitator used the opportunity of being in Helsinki to organize a meeting at Statistics Finland to discuss various topics regarding geospatial aspects of statistical data, including INSPIRE implementation.

3. Facilitator's suggestions for improvements

3.1. For promotion, content generation, reaching new users etc.

The still persisting issue regarding the forum is the number of users subscribed to the controlled tags. After the platform redesign every user was automatically unsubscribed from all notifications due to the changes in the notification mechanism. The users need to manually resubscribe to tags. A popup has been put in place to alert users about the need to update notification settings but it didn't cause a significant increase in tag subscription.

There are several ways to resolve this:

- resubscribe members of the Statistical Cluster group from the previous version of the forum at least to the main cluster tag (**TC-Statistics_Health**), at best also to theme specific tags (**TC-SU, TC-PD, TC-HH**),

- send a targeted e-mail to members of the Statistical Cluster group from the previous version of the forum prepared by the facilitator,

- generate an alert type notification for every user showing subscribed tags and proposing subscriptions (based on user membership in the previously existing cluster groups).

3.2. For the SW collaboration platform used including the new functionality and better management

For users searching for domain specific discussions the 9 theme groups have been reintroduced to the Thematic Domain page. A possibility to filter the discussion topic list to a specific group would be useful (right now it is only possible to sort by these groups).

4. Challenges in the community and planned activities

4.1. Thematic data provision

The October 2020 deadline is approaching but not all Member States have published their data. Some Member States which published data are not making sure they are up to date nor are they posting new datasets. This specifically applies to the themes: population distribution (demography) and human health and safety.

Eurostat and Joint Research Centre launched an activity to verify the possibility to fulfill INSPIRE requirements by reporting data in SDMX, as it is done regularly to Eurostat by National Statistical Institutes (NSIs). The activity has been promoted to the NSIs and the research is still ongoing. No results or solutions have been published yet, so NSIs have paused their INSPIRE-related activities waiting for a conclusion and a clear answer in this matter.

4.2. Implementing rules change proposals

In 2017-2018 proposals for making changes in the INSPIRE implementing rules have been collected from National Contact Points. Some of those proposals are regarding themes in Statistics and Health. No official corrigendum has been published yet, therefore the community of implementers awaits answers in this matter.

4.3. Future activities related to implementation

Due to late publishing of implementing rules corrigenda and activities such as SDMX reporting for INSPIRE it is not certain that implementers will be able to meet the October 2020 deadline. Therefore it is worth foreseeing a network for support to implementers beyond the 2020 deadline to ensure a coherent and correctly functioning spatial data infrastructure.

4.4. Planned facilitator activities related to the forum

With the INSPIRE Conference 2020 cancelled a great opportunity to meet and discuss activities related to INSPIRE has been lost. The void can be filled by on-line meetings, e.g. webinars on topics related to Statistics and Health INSPIRE themes. A webinar on SDMX reporting for INSPIRE is planned to be organized later this year

4.5. Forum promotion activities

There is a need to increase traffic and user participation in the INSPIRE Community Forum. Therefore facilitators participate in creating and managing a cyclic newsletter highlighting discussion topics, interesting activities and projects revolving around INSPIRE.