



# INSPIRE

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

## The future of INSPIRE (revisited): EU common data spaces, high-value data sets, evidence-based policy development

MIG mini-Workshop

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<b>Type</b>	Workshop background document
<b>Creator</b>	DG ENV
<b>Date/status/version</b>	14/06/2021 / FINAL / version 1.0
<b>Addressee</b>	MIG
<b>Identifier</b>	<b>[DOC5]</b>
<b>Description</b>	Context-setter for MIG mini-workshop on the future of the INSPIRE Directive.

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**Requested actions:** The members of the MIG are invited to:

- Take note of the document and discuss it at the meeting;
  - Take the preparatory survey
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## 1 Context

The GreenData4All initiative, that was announced in the European Data Strategy in February 2020, involves the evaluation and the possible revision of the INSPIRE Directive and selected provisions of the public access to environmental information Directive. The objective is to bring the legal framework into the 21<sup>st</sup> century and up to speed with contemporary and cutting-edge technology. GreenData4All will contribute to the development of the Green Deal data space and to populating the data space with the necessary data to reach the ambitious Green Deal objectives and support better implementation of the existing environmental acquis.

The evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive is ongoing with the objective to publish the evaluation Staff Working Document end of 2021. The process to seek political support for a review of the INSPIRE Directive and the Public Access to Environmental Information Directive has been initiated.

## 2 Problem statement

The 2016 evaluation of the Directive 2007/02/EC (INSPIRE Directive) confirmed that the overarching vision for a European spatial data infrastructure for the purposes of EU's environmental policies and policies or activities which have an impact on the environment is still very relevant in view of the European Green Deal and Digital strategies. The ambition to promote data sharing and put in place easy-to-use, transparent, interoperable spatial data services which are used in the daily work of environmental and other policy makers and policy implementers across the EU at all levels of governance as well as businesses, science and citizens is well aligned with the objectives of the European Strategy for data. The next evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive is expected in Q4 2021 and indications are that similar conclusions will be reached about the relevance of the INSPIRE Directive.

The evaluations also identified some issues that hamper the full implementation of the Directive and that show the need for a revision to make the INSPIRE Directive fully coherent and complementary in support of more recent digital and data legislation:

- Remaining implementation gaps in Member States need to be closed to optimise the reuse of spatial data and facilitate its pan-European use.
- New data sources should be included (3D, linked data, sensor data ...) beyond the current spatial data scope.
- The further implementation (data and services availability, accessibility and interoperability) of the INSPIRE Directive should be driven by a common demand across administrative levels and use cases.
- The legal implementation framework should be technology neutral. Implementers should have the option to deploy off-the-shelf tools.

There is need for more work on data sharing, continued work on increased flexibility of the legal framework and further simplification of the minimal interoperability mechanisms. Implementation in Member States still happens at different speeds and levels of engagements. As a result, this artificially limits the practical benefits of the INSPIRE rules (e.g. for impact assessments or environmental inspections and controls).

The INSPIRE Directive is also an important instrument for bringing data from public administrations into the Green Deal data space, which is the larger objective of the 'GreenData4All' initiative. Furthermore, the INSPIRE Directive is also envisaged to play a key role in the implementation of the legal framework for the definition of High Value Data sets under the Open Data Directive for the data categories "Geospatial" and "Environmental and Earth Observation". The adoption of the legal

act on High Value Data sets under the Open Data Directive is expected Q2/Q3 2021. This alignment will directly impact Article 17 of the INSPIRE Directive. INSPIRE data sharing and reuse provisions will have to be streamlined with the Open Data Directive and its implementing act.

Not addressing the above issues will undermine the effectiveness of the INSPIRE Directive and the Public Access to Environmental Information Directive as enabling instruments for implementing data sharing in Europe. Moreover, not addressing coherence issues with more recent and emerging European data legislation will show counterproductive and might result in additional implementation burden on the Member States.

### 3 Objectives of the workshop

This MIG mini-workshop is organized to have an exchange of views on the possible evolution of the INSPIRE Directive building on the conclusions of previous “what-if” and “future of inspire” workshops at INSPIRE conferences and in the INSPIRE MIG. The input gathered from the MIG will contribute to the formulation of policy options for the inception impact assessment when political approval is given.

### 4 Workshop survey

1. Would you agree that a revision of the INSPIRE Directive and/or its implementing acts is needed?
  - a) Yes, both the Directive and the implementing acts need to be revised.
  - b) Only the implementing acts need to be revised, the Directive is still fit for purpose.
  - c) No revision is needed, the full legal framework is still fit for purpose. (You can skip all other questions)
2. The recommendations below were gathered over the past 4 years in “what if ...” and “future of INSPIRE” workshops. Could you indicate how important it is for you to take these recommendations into account in a possible revision of the INSPIRE Directive. (1 star = no importance – 5 stars = high importance)
  - a. Remaining implementation gaps in Member States need to be closed to optimise the reuse of spatial data and facilitate its pan-European use.
  - b. New data sources should be included (3D, linked data, sensor data ...) beyond the current spatial data scope.
  - c. The further implementation (data and services availability, accessibility and interoperability) of the INSPIRE Directive should be driven by a common demand across administrative levels and use cases.
  - d. The legal implementation framework should be technology neutral. Implementers should have the option to deploy off-the-shelf tools.
3. To what degree would you agree to the following statements: (1 star = I do not agree – 5 stars = I fully agree)
  - a. “The overall objective of the revision of the INSPIRE Directive is to unlock its full potential in the context of the European Strategy for data as an enabler for the European Green Deal. The full benefits of data sharing should support data-driven innovation and evidence-based decisions by the citizens, public and private sector in support of the transition to a more sustainable society”.

- b. “The revision of the INSPIRE Directive is an important initiative for strengthening the legal and technical interoperability of data across the [Common European Data Spaces](#), including the European Green Deal data space.”
- c. “The legal framework should be aligned with more recent and emerging data legislation under the European strategy for data, such as the data reuse provisions of the Open Data Directive, the related [initiative for an Implementing Act on High Value Datasets](#) and the Proposal for a regulation on European data governance ([Data Governance Act](#)).”
- d. “A revision of the INSPIRE Directive should modernise the data regime in line with technological and innovation opportunities, making it easier for EU public authorities, businesses and citizens to share, access and use data to develop data-based solutions that support the transition to a greener and carbon-neutral economy, and reducing administrative burden.”
- e. “The INSPIRE Directive should be strengthened by extending the current data scope of the INSPIRE Directive to also include non-spatial data and applying a linked data approach to associate spatial and non-spatial data.”

This survey is accessible on EUSurvey:

[https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/13MIG\\_Workshop\\_Future\\_of\\_INSPIRE](https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/13MIG_Workshop_Future_of_INSPIRE)

***You are kindly requested to take the survey in preparation of this MIG mini-workshop. To give the Commission the opportunity to process the survey results as input for the workshop, we would ask you to complete the survey by Wednesday 16 June 12:00.***

## 5 Workshop organisation

5' Introduction and presentation of survey results

25' Split into 3 breakout groups to discuss the survey results and share views on the possible evolution of the INSPIRE Directive.

10' Report back from break-out groups

5' Conclusions and way ahead