



GreenData4All

Commission initiatives

67th meeting of the INSPIRE MIG-T expert group

Commission initiatives

- GreenData4All
 - Evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive
 - Revision of the INSPIRE Directive
- Status on amending Commission Regulation 1089/2010

Evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive

- The INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC was amended by way of [Regulation \(2019/1010\)](#) on the alignment of reporting obligations in the field of legislation related to the environment, pursuant to which the Commission shall, no later than 1 January 2022 carry out an evaluation of the Directive, and of its implementation, and make it publicly available.
- The INSPIRE Directive was already subject to an evaluation in 2016, see Commission Report (COM(2016)478/2) and Staff Working Document on the REFIT evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive (SWD(2016)273). The previous evaluation was taken as the baseline for the new evaluation. The new evaluation will identify and where possible quantify progress since 2014.

Preliminary findings of the evaluation

- Overall, the **implementation** of the INSPIRE Directive **has matured** compared to 2014 and has led to an increased availability and better access to spatial data and services. **However, still the implementation is incomplete.**
- While the INSPIRE Directive is **still largely fit for purpose**, the objective of harmonisation and interoperability within the INSPIRE framework entails **technical specificities for standards that are too rigid to be fit-for-the-future** in the context of evolving standards and technologies.
- INSPIRE has **facilitated the work of the stakeholders** in the area of spatial data provision through improved discoverability, availability and accessibility to spatial data. There is a **simplification potential** of the implementation by addressing the requirement for interoperability.

Preliminary findings of the evaluation

- INSPIRE is **legally coherent** with environmental legislation with geospatial reporting obligations and with other relevant areas of EU policy. The INSPIRE Directive has been **designed to be consistent with the EU legal framework on data/information sharing and dissemination** and can **support implementation of Public Access to Environmental Information Directive** (managed by unit E4) and the Open Data Directive. Synergies between the three Directives could however be better exploited.
- The **added value** of the Directive mainly consisted of promoting data sharing as a common principle, the establishment of governance structures, achieving interoperability in a broader scope (EU-wide), unlocking public data, improving transparency and creating a pool of EU level expertise. Important EU added value of the Directive can be maintained and further enhanced through its effective positioning in the emerging European data governance landscape and to become one of the key drivers of the upcoming Green Deal data space.

Recommendations

- A number of issues that hamper the full implementation of the Directive have been identified and 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, citizen science ...) beyond the current spatial data scope to better address information needs of a larger stakeholder community and to better help meeting the objectives of the European Green Deal.
- The further implementation (data and services availability, accessibility and interoperability) of the INSPIRE Directive should be **user-driven** by a common demand across administrative levels and use cases to improve the EU added value of the infrastructure and its cost-benefit balance.

Lessons learned

- The **legal framework should be technology neutral**. Implementers should have the option and the freedom to deploy cost-effective off-the-shelf tools that apply state of the art technology to share data in a user-friendly way.
- **More work is needed**
 - on standardising data reuse conditions and licensing
 - on increased flexibility of the legal framework to make it future and technology proof
 - on further simplification of the minimal interoperability mechanisms to strike a cost-effectiveness balance.

Next Steps

- Adoption/publication of the evaluation Staff Working Document in February 2022
- When politically validated the findings of the evaluation may lead to further EU action. Possible actions are subject to the results of a possible impact assessment
 - Align the legal framework 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](#));
 - Modernise the data regime in line with technological and innovation opportunities - principle of technology neutrality
 - Extending the data scope of the INSPIRE Directive to also include non-spatial, citizen science and business data building on the mechanisms of data altruism foreseen in the proposal for a Data Governance Act.
 - ...

Revision of the INSPIRE Directive (indicative)

- Politically validated by ENV Director-General Fink-Hooijer / CAB Commissioner Sinkevičius / CAB Vice-President Timmermans
- November 2021 – Publication of the Inception Impact Assessment roadmap for public consultation
- January 2022 – Start Impact Assessment study
- March 2022 – Public consultation
- ...

Amending Commission Regulation 1089/2010

- Commission Inter-service Consultation (ISC) in Summer 2021
- Online publication on Have your say website in September 2021
- INSPIRE Committee meeting on 21 October 2021 to discuss and kick off written procedure
- Translation in all EU languages (October/November 2021)
- Scrutiny by co-legislators (3 months, starting when all language versions are available in the comitology register, ends earliest in February 2022)
- Adoption by the College. (earliest February/March 2022)