



**INSPIRE**

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

## Summary report of the 14th INSPIRE MIG expert group meeting, 25 November 2021, online meeting

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

*The meeting was chaired by Joeri Robbrecht (ENV.E.4 - Compliance and Better Regulation).*

The Commission presented the meeting agenda (DOC1) and the summary of the previous meeting (DOC2). The MIG had no comments on the meeting agenda and the minutes of the 13th meeting of the MIG.

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

### Conclusions and Actions

*The meeting agenda and summary of the previous meeting were adopted.*

## 2 Nature of the meeting

The meeting was a non-public meeting and was attended by nominated experts of 27 EU Member States (MS), Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Commission Services (ENV, JRC, ESTAT, AGRI) and the European Environment Agency (EEA).

## 3 List of points discussed

### 3.1 Update on Commission initiatives (Information and discussion)

#### Introduction

The Commission informed the MIG about the following ongoing Commission initiatives:

- “Green Data 4 All” initiative encompassing the evaluation and possible revision of the INSPIRE Directive,
- Fit4Future initiative,
- INSPIRE online conference that took place end October 2021 and the outlook for the INSPIRE 2022 conference.

The Commission presented the status and the major findings of the evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive. The evaluation report (evaluation Staff Working Document) is expected to be published end of Q1 2022. In Q2 2022, the Commission will launch the impact assessment for the revision of the INSPIRE Directive and the active dissemination parts of the Public Access to Environmental Information Directive. On the amendment of the Commission Regulation on the interoperability of data and services, an INSPIRE Committee meeting took place on 21 October 2021. The Committee agreed to follow a written procedure to express their opinion on the draft amendment. The written consultation procedure started on 22 November 2021 and the deadline for Member States to express their opinion is 10 December 2021. In case of a positive opinion, the amending act will be translated in all EU languages. After translation,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/InspireMIG/MIG+meetings>

the amending act will undergo scrutiny by the co-legislators for a period of three months after which the it can go forward for adoption (end of Q2 2022).

On request of several Member State experts, the Commission explained the background and objectives of the Fit4Future initiative and presented the Fit4Future opinion issued on the INSPIRE evaluation. The Fit4Future initiative is a platform to simplify and modernise EU legislation building on lessons learnt from its REFIT predecessor and has a 5 year mandate. The Fit4Future opinion will be taken in consideration in the impact assessment of the revision of the INSPIRE Directive.

The Commission briefly reported back on the past INSPIRE Conference and presented the main takeaways. Those were also presented in the closing session of the Conference. All Conference sessions were recorded and made available on the INSPIRE knowledge base. For 2022 the Commission is still planning for a 3-day Conference in Dubrovnik in May 2022 with a hybrid setup, subject to the evolution of the sanitary condition.

### Discussion

One Member State expert inquired about the possibility to have a dedicated item on the management and use of geospatial information within the European Commission.

The Commission (Eurostat) would look into the possibility to prepare such an item and a presentation for one of the following MIG meetings.

### Conclusions and Actions

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

*The Commission would look into the possibility to prepare an information item on the management and use of geospatial information in the European Commission for one of the following MIG meetings.*

## **3.2 Monitoring and reporting 2021 (Information and discussion)**

### Introduction

The Commission presented the monitoring process, the tools (INSPIRE Geoportal and Reference Validator), the indicators and how they are calculated for the annual monitoring exercise for 2021. Moreover, the Commission also presented how the monitoring results will be displayed in the dashboard. The Member States discovery services will be harvested as of 16 December 2021. The monitoring results will be presented in the MIG-T meeting in January 2022.

### Discussion

Several experts had questions about a major system release right before the start of the monitoring exercise. The Commission explained that the referenced release is not a release

for the operational system and will not affect it. This major system release, will be a release for the future system that will be used for the monitoring cycle next year and goes hand in hand with the ongoing revamp of the geoportal tool (transition to GeoNetwork opensource) and the revision of the implementing act on interoperability.

### Conclusions and Actions

*The MIG was invited to report any remaining Monitoring and Reporting issues on the INSPIRE helpdesk<sup>2</sup>.*

### **3.3 Good implementation practices (Information and discussion)**

#### Introduction

*Note: Good practices cannot amend, change or interpret legislation in any form. They can only refer to technical implementations that satisfy the existing legal requirements using the flexibility of the legal framework. To guarantee legal compliance every good practice shall be scrutinized on its legal conformity.*

The Commission presented an update of the status of the good practices:

- A test for the “OGC API features” good practice is now available in the staging instance of the reference validator and allows for validation of API instances.
- On 18 November 2021, a webinar was organised to demonstrate the use and proof of concept of the “INSPIRE coverage” good practice.
- Two good practices have been proposed and are being developed by Polish experts. A webinar on these proposed good practices will be organised on 8 February 2022:
  - Building one access point to dispersed data sources
  - Making spatial data downloadable via WMS services
- For the “GeoPackage” good practice the formal process has not been started yet. There is an increasing amount of implementation evidence from Denmark, Finland and recently the EEA. Further development of the good practice is expected for early 2022.
- For the data encoding good practice, it will not be feasible to provide good practices for all encodings for each data model. A possible way forward was proposed. It is a 3-step approach (Data encoding, Describe the mapping to the default encoding, Data Validation) that is documented in detail on the INSPIRE GitHub.

Overall, the INSPIRE good practice procedure is now well established.

### Conclusions and Actions

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<sup>2</sup> <https://github.com/INSPIRE-MIF/>

*The MIG was invited to have a look at the proposed approach for the data encoding good practice and share their views and possible comments.*

### **3.4 Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme 2021-2024 (I/D)**

The colleagues from EEA, JRC and ENV have provided us with a full update on the ongoing actions under the current Work Programme.

#### *3.4.1 Action 1.1 - Towards a digital ecosystem for the environment and sustainability*

##### Introduction

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) updated the MIG on the progress of MIWP action 1.1.

The 10 experts in the Elise pool of experts on data-driven innovation are working on pilots in the field of event-driven architectures for data exchange, combined use of public sector and citizen-generated data, deployment of web services using GitOps and using binary data serialization for data storage and sharing. The findings of their work will be documented in a report.

On the conceptual integration of INSPIRE datasets and services with GAIA-X, JRC is working together with Fraunhofer Institute on an evaluation of the possible use of GAIA-X to implement INSPIRE use cases. MIG experts were invited to share their interest to participate in this exercise.

The Minimal Interoperability Mechanisms (MIMs) managed by the Open and Agile Smart Cities Association also defines minimal interoperability specifications for location information under the “MIM7”. The Commission is part of this workgroup and is promoting the reuse of INSPIRE for smart cities.

JRC has released a new science for policy report on INSPIRE as the public sector contribution to the European Green Deal data space. Please contact JRC (Alex.Kotsev@ec.europa.eu or Marco.Mingini@ec.europa.eu) if you want to receive paper copies for distribution in your network.

##### Conclusions and Actions

*The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission.*

*The MIG experts were invited to participate in the GAIA-X and MIMs initiatives (contact JRC).*

#### *3.4.2 b) Action 2.1 - Need-driven data prioritisation*

##### Introduction

The European Environment Agency (EEA) updated the MIG on the progress of the action on need-driven data prioritisation.

Activities in the subgroup were temporarily set on hold in anticipation of a possible publication of the Open Data Directive implementing act on High Value Data sets that might have a meaningful impact on the activities of the subgroup.

Subgroup members (DK, NL, MT, FR, IT, SK) have run a Member State driven session on the need-driven prioritisation at the INSPIRE 2021 Conference.

Regarding the progress of making priority data sets available, there is slow and only minor improvement of the availability of priority data sets in the INSPIRE geoportal. There are several countries still clearly underperforming on the effort. SI, RO, CY, HU, HR, IE are really not living up to the requirement to make key data sets in the environmental domain available and accessible under INSPIRE.

On the data model blueprints, work is being done on the development of data sets to be reported under the Environmental Noise Directive.

#### Conclusions and Actions

*The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission.*

#### 3.4.3 c) Action 2.2 - Roadmap for priority-driven implementation

##### Introduction

DG Environment informed the MIG that the kick-off meeting of action 2.2 is scheduled for 13 December 2021.

#### Conclusions and Actions

*A first meeting of the subgroup working on the roadmap for priority-driven implementation is scheduled for 13 December 2021.*

*The MIG experts were kindly reminded that they could still delegate experts for this subgroup (mail to Joeri.Robbrecht@ec.europa.eu, ENV-INSPIRE@ec.europa.eu in CC).*

#### 3.4.4 d) Action 2.3 - Simplification of INSPIRE implementation

##### Introduction

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented:

- **The state of sub-action 2.3.1 - The governance of INSPIRE artefacts**

All schemas and Technical guidelines have been moved to GitHub repositories, where also the release process is documented (<https://github.com/INSPIRE-MIF/application-schemas/blob/main/governance-release-process/process.md>). It was decided by the IG that the current criteria for versioning schema releases are maintained and it was agreed to restructure the repository to have separate folders (repositories) for each schema release. Moreover, on 15 November we had the first schema release (v.2021.2). The next release (v2022.1) which will be focused on the TG Metadata 2.0 is scheduled for 31 January 2022. A next subgroup meeting will be scheduled in December 2021.

- **The state of play of the work on action 2.3.2 - The simplification of data-service linking.**

A 5<sup>th</sup> subgroup meeting took place on 11 November 2021, where a consolidated proposal was agreed. The JRC presented briefly the agreed way forward. Work will now start on the re-mapping of the extended capabilities with the objective to remove these extended capabilities from the INSPIRE services and facilitate use of out of the box software solutions.

#### Conclusions and Actions

*The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission.*

#### 3.4.5 e) Action2.4 - Central INSPIRE infrastructure components

##### Introduction

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) presented the work on the central INSPIRE infrastructure components.

The **INSPIRE Geoportal** is being revamped. The Geoportal back-end is being re-engineered based on the open source GeoNetwork catalogue application. The redesigned frontend was already presented in the last MIG meeting and will also include additional filtering options (e.g. for the upcoming High Value Data sets). As soon as the prototype is stable, it will be made publicly available for testing and review.

A hotfix version (v.2021.3.1) of the **Reference Validator** was released on 4 October 2021 to fix an issue related to testing of Web Feature Services. All documentation is available on GitHub (<https://github.com/opegeospatial/teamengine/issues/469>). Furthermore, the list of test for Annex II and Annex III data specifications have been completed and are all available now in production. The MIG was kindly requested to test these new tests. Finally, an API gateway to access the validator was introduced to limit massive use of the production instance and prevent downtime.

The **Re3gistry open software** was included for the first time in the OSGeoLive distribution (v.14; <https://live.osgeo.org>). A bug fix version (v.2.2.4) will be released in July under the EUPL license v1.2. The INSPIRE Registry will be migrated to the current version v.2 in early 2022.

All Helpdesks for the 3 central components presented above have been centralised and moved to GitHub (<https://github.com/INSPIRE-MIF/>).

#### Conclusions and Actions

*The MIG took note of the information shared by the Commission.*

*The MIG was kindly requested to test the new Annex II and III tests in the Reference Validator.*

#### 3.5 News from the standardisation bodies (Information)

##### Introduction

The Commission shared an information document (*DOC6*) and presented 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)”. The MIG members were invited to distribute this information among their networks and share any feedback or questions on the presented topics with the EC INSPIRE team.

### Discussion

### Conclusions and Actions

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

*MIG experts were invited to share this information in their networks and discuss possible coordinated actions related to the presented standardisation activities.*

## **4 Conclusions/recommendations/opinions**

These are the highlights of the 14th meeting of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG) that took place on 25 November 2021.

The MIG adopted the meeting agenda and the draft meeting minutes of the 13th meeting of the MIG.

The 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MIG was a short meeting focused on information sharing. The MIG experts were informed of ongoing and planned Commission initiatives, the status of the different actions under the Maintenance and Implementation multi-annual Work Programme 2021-2024 (MIWP2021-2024) and of new developments in the main standardisation bodies.

## **5 Next steps / actions**

### ***The MIG was invited:***

- to report any remaining Monitoring and Reporting issues on the INSPIRE helpdesk<sup>3</sup>.
- to have a look at the proposed approach for the data encoding good practice and share their views and possible comments on GitHub.
- to participate in the GAIA-X and MIMs initiatives (contact JRC).
- to test the new Annex II and III tests in the Reference Validator
- to share the news from the standardisation bodies in their networks and discuss possible coordinated actions related to the presented standardisation activities.

### ***The Commission will:***

- Keep the MIG informed on any progress made on the presented Commission initiatives.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://github.com/INSPIRE-MIF/>

- Look into the possibility to prepare an information item on the management and use of geospatial information in the European Commission for one of the following MIG meetings.

## **6 Next meeting**

The Commission thanked all MIG experts and Commission services for their participation in this online meeting.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation expert Group was tentatively scheduled as a hybrid meeting, back-to-back with the meeting of the permanent technical MIG subgroup (MIG-T) for Thursday 31 March & Friday 1 April 2022. Taking into account the sanitary situation, it was decided shortly afterwards to revert to an online only meeting.