INSPIRE

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

MIWP Action 2016.5: Priority list of data sets for eReporting

Progress status

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1. INSPIRE MIG MIWP Action 2016.5

The scope of this action under "Working area 2: End user applications" of the Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme 2017-2020 is to further develop a list of data sets related to environmental reporting and support Member States with making these data sets accessible through the European Spatial Data Infrastructure. The list also reflects the data gaps identified during the evaluation of the state-of-implementation and the fitness of the Directive for its intended purpose (a so-called REFIT evaluation).
The 5th meeting of the MIG in December 2016 has endorsed a mandate for this action further detailing the scope, tasks, expected outcomes and timeline. A subgroup was set up under the MIG to execute the tasks and the further maintenance of the list in collaboration with experts from the environmental thematic and reporting communities.

The action 2016.5[1] has following main tasks:

- Task 1: Manage and update the priority list
- Task 2: Make data available as is
- Task 3: Common and interoperable European data models
- Task 4: Monitoring the availability of pan-European data sets

The Work programme 2019-2020 is focused on:

- Make all data on the priority list of data sets for e-reporting available as-is: identify data sets, document metadata, make metadata and data available on the EU geoportal by providing network services;
- Awareness of development of common and interoperable European data models for reporting obligations/data flows and potential collaboration with the thematic and reporting communities;
- Monitoring the availability of pan-European data sets and providing information and guidance on the implementation of the priority list both from a technical and an information perspective
- Further development of INSPIRE Geoportal on accessibility and usability of priority data sets through the Priority data set viewer.

[1] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/InspireMIG/Action+2016.5%3A+Priority+list+of+datasets+for+e-Reporting

2. Introduction to the list

The INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation work programme (MIWP) 2017 – 2020 continued with action MIWP 2016.5 to further develop a list of datasets related to environmental reporting and support Member States with making these datasets accessible through the European Spatial Data Infrastructure in a stepwise manner. The INSPIRE priority list of datasets for eReporting (PDS list) also reflects the data gaps identified during the evaluation of the state-of-implementation and the fitness of the Directive for its intended purpose (a so-called REFIT evaluation). The INSPIRE MIWP 2016.5 action contributes to the INSPIRE implementation in particular of the INSPIRE Directive Annex III spatial data themes. It focuses on prioritisation of datasets, metadata tagging, disseminating information on streamlining reporting obligations with INSPIRE specifications and improving user experiences and visualisations of PDS in the INSPIRE Geoportal.

This PDS list is a living inventory of environmental information needs and provides an instrument to incrementally build comparable INSPIRE maturity across MS for all INSPIRE components (metadata, services, interoperability, data sharing), promote data dissemination related to reporting obligations and monitor progress on INSPIRE implementation in general and for the reporting use case in specific. It aims to describe the identified priority datasets at general level, while detailed information, e.g. data content or formats, are defined in the corresponding reporting guidelines that are regularly updated in the reporting cycles.
The PDS list is to be considered the reference version of the list for implementation by Member States.

Comments by the Member States have been resolved and are together with the latest version of the priority list of datasets for eReporting published on the wiki[2].

[2] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/fpfis/wikis/display/InspireMIG/Action+2016.5%3A+Priority+list+of+datasets+for+e-Reporting

2.1. Restructured list "priority datasets for eReporting version 2.1"

The restructuring of the INSPIRE list of priority datasets for eReporting (PDS) establishes a list of unique datasets and references to those datasets from diverse reporting obligations, where applicable. The priority list includes the following thematic sections:

- **Fitness check for reporting** includes information on legal basis, summary information on reporting requirements and indication of requested datasets;
- **Relevant datasets** includes detailed information of each individual (unique) dataset;
- **Reporting information** (new in the restructured version 2.1):
    - **Reported data or reference data** category distinguishes reference geospatial data (e.g. pan-European dataset of bio-geographical regions) from datasets included in the reporting data flow (reported or optional in reporting[3]);
    - **Responsibility** indicates the main role for provision of a dataset;
    - **Expected reported form** provides general information from the reporting requirements and data flow organisation (e.g. dataset, attribute or other types; mandatory or optional dataset or attribute);
    - References to the Reporting Obligation Database (ROD[4]) and reporting guidelines connects to regularly updated reporting information, including reporting obligations, deadlines and guidelines (**ROD Legal Instrument**, **Reporting information and guidelines**);
- **References to dataset from other legislation** (new in the restructured version 2.1) includes known references from other legislation to the unique dataset in the PDS list. The PDS list version 2.1 includes eight references;
- Status and progress information provides information on the priority list development and indicates needs for a review due to the changes of legislation (**PDS status**, **PDS Progress**);
- Example of detailed information from the reporting data flows and practice provides additional support for implementation (**Support information on reporting data flow**). The initial information is updated in the version 2.1;
- **Mapping to INSPIRE themes** (updated in the version 2.1) has been completed considering three basic criteria: known INSPIRE alignment in the reporting obligation, clearly identifiable scope of spatial data themes in the INSPIRE Directive, Implementing Rules on Interoperability and technical guidelines, and expert knowledge. The mapping indicates the INSPIRE spatial data theme, and where feasible, a more detailed application schema or feature type. Additional category Mapping status distinguishes among different levels of certainty that the mapping is / is going to be implemented in a harmonised way in the reporting obligation.

The list of priority datasets for eReporting is complemented by the:

- List of referencing the PDS list from other reporting obligations including the proposed metadata keywords,

[3] 'optional in reporting' means that a dataset is not required to be reported in all reporting cycles but it is still in the INSPIRE scope, included in the PDS list and marked as PDS and statistics in Geoportal are still monitored

[4] https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/

- Proposed use of metadata keywords from the INSPIRE priority dataset[5] code list,
- History of main changes in the PDS list, including the overview of changes in the PDS list between version 2.0 and 2.1, and
- One example of country specific information.

3. Frequently asked questions

Chapter 3 summarises explanations to frequently asked questions with aim to increase understanding of the priority list of datasets for eReporting, provide information related to the reporting data flows in the scope of environmental legislation and support INSPIRE implementation for priority datasets, e.g. applying metadata keywords or mapping to INSPIRE spatial data themes.

3.1. How to use the hierarchical INSPIRE code list for priority datasets?

The INSPIRE priority dataset code list is published in the INSPIRE Registry at: http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset. It is created as a hierarchical code list where the codes indicate different levels of information – from a general to a detailed description. The highest level provides information on legislation and more detailed thematic information is provided at the lower levels.
The metadata tagging of the priority datasets should use the most appropriate code, preferably at the most detailed level of the code list hierarchy, when feasible. If this is not feasible, the best-fitted keyword of a more general description should be provided. Providing one code / keyword from the code list hierarchy will fulfil the purpose of tagging. It is also possible to apply several keywords from diverse thematic domains.

Example 1: For a spatial dataset of lakes that are provided in the scope of the Water Framework Directive reporting obligation, the following most detailed keyword is recommended to be used:

- Lakes (Water Framework Directive)
  http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset/Lakes-dir-2000-60

Example 2: Demonstrates use of multiple metadata keywords that identify different legislation where a dataset is applicable, e.g. a dataset of Natura 2000 sites (Habitats Directive) will be tagged with the metadata keywords that define this dataset. Additionally, if this dataset applies as water protected areas under the Water Framework Directive, it can be tagged with specific keywords for such protected areas as following:

- Natura 2000 (Habitats Directive)
  http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset/Natura2000Sites-dir-1992-43
- Water dependent Natura 2000 sites (Water Framework Directive)
  http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset/WaterDependentNatura2000Sites-dir-2000-60

[5] https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset

Example 3: Demonstrates use of multiple metadata keywords that identify different legislation where dataset is applicable, e.g. a dataset of Natura 2000 sites (Habitats Directive) will be tagged with the metadata keywords that define this dataset. The dataset might include also designated special protection areas in the scope of Birds Directive. Therefore, the dataset can be tagged with multiple keywords as following:

- Natura 2000 (Habitats Directive) http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset/Natura2000Sites-dir-1992-43
- Natura 2000 sites (Birds Directive) http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset/Natura2000Sites-dir-2009-147

More examples of metadata tagging can be found in the INSPIRE Geoportal, e.g. for Natura 2000 datasets:

- (LU) - metadata file identifier: 227ba25a-a36a-42bd-bfba-67c01d2ec016
- (CZ) – metadata file identifier: 5a004b1e-c12c-405f-9d61-30cf0a02080a

3.2. PDS - datasets related to Drinking Water Directive

The implementation of the Drinking Water Directive (DWD) recast will require the review of the correlated datasets in the INSPIRE priority list of datasets for eReporting (PDS). The text of the new Directive[6] is currently under legal/linguistic review. Once finalised, the new Directive will be adopted and enter into force (probably early 2021), replacing the old Directive, which will be repealed.

Currently, the INSPIRE PDS version 2.1 includes datasets on water supply zones and drinking water abstraction points according to the reporting obligations under the DWD 98/83/EC[7]. This type of data has been reported in different formats as spatial (direct or indirect) or non-spatial (tabular) data. The water supply zone is the water consumption area. Each supply zone should be represented as polygon or point (centroid of that area) to represent the water supply zones as precise as possible. If more precise data is available, a data provider can go beyond current reporting and provide water supply zones as areas or centroids of these areas. If not available, a centroid of a city, LAU or NUTS, or only LAU / NUTS codes can be provided following the current reporting practice. Regarding drinking water quality parameters for Water Supply Zones, although this information is currently not directly mentioned in the INSPIRE priority list of datasets (PDS), it is in scope of the INSPIRE Directive and if available, should be provided.

The new (recast) Directive maintains the obligation of Member States to provide consumers with information (Article 17 and Annex IV) but expands their obligation to setting-up and maintaining a number of data sets that would be made accessible to the Commission (Article 18)[8]. The Directive strives to implement modern principles of information management and to promote active dissemination, i.e. sharing of data in a structured and easily accessible way. This will provide more timely and fit for purpose information to citizens, businesses and public authorities at all administrative levels. Ideally, all relevant environmental data should be available via open access, and should be easy to retrieve and re-use.

[6] The latest version of the new DWD reflecting the political agreement reached is accessible at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST_6060_2020_REV_1&from=EN

[7] Council Directive 98/83/EC of 3 November 1998 on the quality of water intended for human consumption

[8] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CONSIL:ST_6060_2020_REV_1&from=EN

To implement these information management principles, the new provisions make reference to the Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information and to the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC. Member States will have to put in place a data set gathering only drinking water-relevant data under this Directive in compliance with the INSPIRE Directive. To facilitate sharing and access, it requires Member States to put in place interoperable digital spatial data services.

3.3. The list of priority datasets includes the spatial datasets related to the reporting data flow, which has not started yet

The PDS list includes the spatial datasets that are considered of high relevance for the development and evaluation of the environmental acquis. The PDS list can include also identified datasets under the reporting obligation which haven't been reported yet. Once the reporting data flow will start, the relevant spatial datasets will have to be provided according to the reporting obligation specifications and the INSPIRE Directive provisions. For example: In the PDS list version 2.0, the dataset on alien species distribution (Regulation on invasive alien species) is such example of first reporting in 2019 while the dataset has been included in the PDS list already earlier. The reporting requirements have been streamlined with the INSPIRE specifications[9].

In general, metadata, view and download services for spatial datasets which fall in the scope of the INSPIRE Directive should already be provided according to the INSPIRE Directive implementation roadmap. In accordance with Articles 6, 9 and 16 of the INSPIRE Directive, such datasets should have been made available "as is" since 2013 covering Annexes I to III. The implementation of the harmonised INSPIRE data models for the interoperability of spatial datasets and services corresponds with the deadlines in 2017 (Annex I spatial data themes) and 2020 (Annex II and III spatial data themes). This means that the relevant spatial datasets for the reporting obligation could be already anticipated, identified, and provided according to the INSPIRE Directive even before the reporting obligation data flow will start.

INSPIRE "Find your Scope" can help in identifying the relevant INSPIRE spatial data themes or spatial object types. Additionally, the PDS list includes information on mapping to the INSPIRE spatial data themes, including more exact information on the INSPIRE application schemas which usually becomes known after the streamlining of reporting and INSPIRE is completed.

3.4. The reporting obligation includes optional data. Why are the spatial datasets still included in the list of priority datasets?

The spatial datasets included in the INSPIRE PDS are identified according to the current reporting obligations which are dynamic and can change between the reporting cycles to address user needs or technical and technological advances. The details are defined in legislation and reporting guidelines. When the reporting obligation changes, terminates or it includes optional data, the PDS list will be updated to reflect those conditions. Keeping datasets in the PDS list and in the broader INSPIRE scope has several reasons:

- The spatial datasets that were provided in the past and will become obsolete or optional at certain point in the reporting cycle might still have a benefit for specific policy evaluations, e.g.

[9] http://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/help/ias_regulation/

trends, spatial-time based assessments. For example: initially reported habitat types and species range (Habitats Directive) or birds range (Birds Directive) are not included in the next reporting cycle, but related datasets have been reported in the past.

- A reporting obligation may also require dissemination or publication of environmental data for datasets that are not required to be reported directly but can contribute to active data dissemination through the INSPIRE infrastructure. For example: detailed strategic noise maps - noise contours in agglomerations according to the Noise Directive or detailed flood hazard maps in the scope of the Floods Directive. In some cases, the optional datasets according to the reporting obligation may still be reported in the reporting cycle based on a data provider's decision.

The PDS list includes general information on the role of the dataset in the type "Reported data or reference data" and additional details on optional datasets or attributes according to the reporting guidelines under the type "Expected reported form".

3.5. The spatial dataset that is included in the list of priority datasets does not exist or is neither reported nor required by a reporting obligation

In a few reporting data flows, some commonly agreed and accepted spatial datasets are used by reporting countries, which usually cover the wider geographical coverage of all reporting countries, e.g. European Union Member States or EEA Eionet member and cooperating countries[10] (for example: bio-geographical regions in Europe). Those agreed spatial datasets are available to all reporting countries and are not required to be reported again. However, where the same or similar spatial datasets, e.g. in a more precise resolution, exist at national (or sub-national) level that could be used in the preparation of the national reporting data, such spatial datasets are also included in the priority dataset list (for example: national datasets of bio-geographical regions). The INSPIRE Directive (Article 4) does not require collection of new spatial data. If such spatial datasets do not exist in the reporting country, there is no need to provide the dataset in the context of the priority dataset list.

Furthermore, the INSPIRE Directive covers a wider scope beyond the requirements of the reporting obligations. That is why it is important to look into the spatial datasets that have a potential to be re-used in diverse reporting obligations and other policy evaluations. Therefore, spatial datasets that might not be directly reported or are only used for the preparation of reported data but fall within INSPIRE scope are also included in the priority dataset list and shall be made available according to INSPIRE Directive.

Some of the reporting obligation specifications might only indirectly refer to spatial data by requesting information about location, places or addresses. The INSPIRE Directive Article 3(2) defines that spatial data means any data with a direct or indirect reference to a specific location or geographical area. This means that several reported data actually include spatial data that is going to be provided according to the INSPIRE Directive.

3.6. The dataset or a part of the dataset is not public data

[10] https://www.eea.europa.eu/about-us/countries-and-eionet

The reporting data flow may include sensitive or restricted data that are not available for public dissemination or use. This restriction may apply to a complete spatial dataset or to a part of the content within the spatial dataset (related to spatial objects and/or attributes). The INSPIRE Directive defines a way to describe the restriction on public use within the INSPIRE metadata element *Limitations on public access*. This metadata element shall provide information on the limitations and the reasons for them, when the Member States limit public access to spatial datasets and spatial data services under Article 13 of INSPIRE Directive.
Therefore, when such datasets exist, the metadata for spatial datasets and services should include the information about the restriction on public use. One example is the Habitats and Birds Directive which limits sensitive information on the location of endangered species.

The authorised access and secure data exchange can be implemented using different approaches, which falls under the remit of the data providers and ultimately the corresponding Member State. Particularly for the reporting data flows, existing technical solutions already providing a secure exchange or reporting of data could still be used.

3.7. Other European Commission programmes might help in setting secure environments.

For example, the European Commission ISA² - Interoperability solutions for public administrations, businesses and citizens programme includes action Enabling Digital Government through Geospatial and Location Intelligence (**ELISE**) that further promotes the action A Reusable INSPIRE Reference Platform (**ARE3NA**). The platform includes several studies on authentication, authorization and accounting (**AAA**) for data and services in the EU public administrations, and an access control test-bed which includes testing tools and standards in practice so that new barriers and burdens are avoided and existing ISA experience is reused.[11]

3.8. Spatial datasets with different geometries of the same spatial objects might be required

Each reporting obligation provides specific requirements how to report spatial data or re-use spatial datasets that have been already reported under other reporting obligations. In principle, if the spatial datasets have been already reported, they should not be reported again. However, if the reporting obligation specifications require adaptation of spatial data to their requirements, this might lead to providing different (slightly modified) geometries of the same spatial objects. This will need to be decided on a case-by-case basis at this stage.
Ultimately, and within the context of the overall EU process of streamlining monitoring and reporting[12], the priority dataset exercise will contribute to improve the coherence between different reporting obligations.

[11] https://ec.europa.eu/isa2/actions/elise_en
[12] http://ec.europa.eu/environment/legal/reporting/fc_overview_en.htm

4. Availability of the data sets for eReporting through the INSPIRE Geoportal

The overviews of downloadable spatial data sets that have been identified as data sets for eReporting are available from the INSPIRE Geoportal Priority Data sets Viewer by:

- Countries
- Environmental domains or
- Environmental legislation.

In addition to this pre-selection functionalities, the INSPIRE Geoportal includes the possibility to search in the Resource Browser on all metadata available through the discovery services.

4.1. Status and progress

The list of data sets that are a priority under environmental legislation was communicated to Member States by two letters and was also made available on the WIKI. The first letter was sent to all Member States on 21 December 2017 (ARES(2017)6316317) requesting them to allow access and download of priority data sets by 15 May 2018. The second letter was sent to all Member States on 25 July 2018 (Ares(2018)3946754) requesting them to inform the Commission of their priority data sets and where these data sets are accessible (i.e. a link to the respective view and download services) by 15 October 2018. The Commission based its assessment of the fulfilment of the requirements of data accessibility by using the INSPIRE Dashboard and the INSPIRE EU-geoportal (established under Article 15(2) of the INSPIRE Directive). Those tools ensure a precise and clear overview of the status of implementation on the main obligations under the Directive and related Regulations by each Member State. The available information on INSPIRE EU-geoportal showed that in begin of 2019 many Member States where still lagging behind with the implementation of the priority list of data sets and that some Member States showed no progress at all. Therefore, the Commission decided to issue letters of formal notice for those Member States that have shown no progress at all, in which it takes the view that the concerned Member States have failed to implement several provisions of the INSPIRE Directive and of the Metadata and Network Services Regulations in relation to the priority list of data sets for eReporting. The Commission will continue compliance enforcement actions in 2020 to promote a minimal coherence between data offerings across Member States based on the list of priority data sets.

4.2. Country overview of downloadable priority data sets

Comparing the available downloadable priority datasets through the INSPIRE Geoportal between March 2020 and November 2020 shows a small increase in the amount of metadata (8%) and download services (12%). This continues the growth trend compared to earlier statistics. Since March 2020, many Member States have increased their number of deliveries.

Cyprus, France and Portugal have significantly enhanced their amount of data downloadable. Spain has fixed the access issues existing in March. The amount of download services provided by Bulgaria, Malta, Netherlands, Slovenia and Sweden have dropped out of reasons which need to be further explored. Ireland is still the only EU member country providing no download for their INSPIRE data.

Still, a significant number of EU Member States (11) are not providing sufficient numbers of priority data sets. Most of the EFTA countries do not participate with the exception of Norway sharing a minor amount of data.

	16/03/2020		**Trends since 16/03/2020***	**17/11/2020**	
Country	**Metadata**	**Download services**	**Download services**	**Metadata**	**Download services**
Austria	92	87	↑	138	126
Belgium	164	99	–	161	91
Bulgaria	121	84	**	117	23
Croatia	15	1	–	16	1
Cyprus	5	0	↑	11	9
Czech Republic	41	25	–	29	26
Denmark	50	47	–	48	45
Estonia	21	3	↑	24	7
Finland	18	16	–	17	16
France	99	7	↑↑	127	45
Germany	103	24	↑	118	60
Greece	54	54	–	54	54
Hungary	20	2	–	20	2
Iceland	2	2	–	2	2
Ireland	39	0	–	42	0
Italy	43	3	↑	93	8
Latvia	34	11	↑	57	14
Liechtenstein	0	0	–	0	0
Lithuania	75	66	↑	93	80
Luxembourg	77	77	↑	90	77
Malta	54	54	**	57	37
Netherlands	68	39	**	36	24
Norway	14	1	–	14	1
Poland	46	6	–	46	6
Portugal	135	26	↑↑	135	77
Romania	27	9	–	27	10

	16/03/2020		Trends since 16/03/2020*	17/11/2020	
Country	**Metadata**	**Download services**	**Download services**	**Metadata**	**Download services**
Slovakia	52	20	–	55	19
Slovenia	9	6	**	9	4
Spain	85	0	↑↑	85	84
Sweden	75	55	**	62	42
Switzerland	0	0	–	0	0
Total	*1638*	*824*		*1786*	*991*

Table 3: Progress in metadata and download service delivery
Legend:

- Metadata – number of metadata
- Download services – number of download services with proper service-data linking
- *trend: ↑↑ strong increase ↑ increase – stable (or small difference) ** figures show decreasing result which need further verification since they may be due to technical issues in harvesting national catalogues
- Member States marked in grey are only providing a very low amount of PDSs for download.

4.3. Overview of priority data sets by legislation

The overview of provided metadata for the priority datasets according to the EU environmental legislation shows progress on the majority of legislations like in the past period.

Legislation	#Metadata 16.3.2020	**#Metadata 17.11.2020**	#Download services 16.3.2020	**#Download services 17.11.2020**	Key directive popular name
directive 1999/31/ec	12	**14**	4	**7**	
directive 2000/60/ec	433	**449**	192	**253**	Water Framework Directive
directive 2002/49/ec	314	**380**	214	**257**	Noise Directive
directive 2006/21/ec	1	**7**	4	**5**	
directive 2006/7/ec	12	**23**	12	**14**	
directive 2007/60/ec	265	**312**	75	**116**	Floods Directive
directive 2008/50/ec	96	**106**	31	**41**	Ambient Air Quality Directive
directive 2008/56/ec	59	**60**	37	**29**	
directive 2009/147/ec	77	**82**	47	**57**	Birds Directive
directive 2010/75/eu	31	**35**	12	**14**	
directive 2012/18/eu	17	**24**	9	**12**	

Legislation	#Metadata 16.3.2020	**#Metadata 17.11.2020**	#Download services 16.3.2020	**#Download services 17.11.2020**	Key directive popular name
directive 86/278/eec	10	**9**	2	**1**	
directive 91/271/eec	91	**85**	50	**51**	Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive
directive 91/676/eec	38	**41**	20	**29**	
directive 92/43/eec	125	**137**	77	**90**	Habitats Directive
directive 98/83/ec	16	**17**	9	**9**	
EEA annual work programme	46	**47**	30	**34**	Largely Nationally Designated Areas CDDA
national legislation	17	**15**	10	**10**	
recommendation 2014/70/EU	5	**4**	1	**1**	
regulation (EC) 166/2006	52	**42**	28	**18**	
regulation (EU) 1143/2014	20	**24**	15	**21**	
regulation (EU) 2017/852	3	**2**	1	**0**	

Table 4: Metadata and download services per Member State and by legislation

The majority of the data is provided based on the legislation on nature and biodiversity, water, air and noise. There is a moderate overall increase on metadata and download services with a special dynamic in the Water Framework, Noise and Floods legislation.

4.4. Example: Priority data sets related to the Habitats and Birds Directives

The MIG had agreed to focus the initial provision of (as-is) data on nature and biodiversity related reporting – in particular data that is needed to describe the Natura 2000 situation.
The downloadable priority datasets established according to the Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) and Directive 209/147/EC (Birds Directive) are listed below. The status from May 2019 is compared to March 2020. Overall there is a ca. 25% increase.

Country	Habitats Directive 16.3.2020	**Habitats Directive 17.11.2020**	Birds Directive 16.3.2020	**Birds Directive 17.11.2020**
Austria	14	**13**	10	**10**
Belgium	8	**7**	2	**2**
Bulgaria	6	**1**	1	**1**

Country	Habitats Directive 16.3.2020	**Habitats Directive 17.11.2020**	Birds Directive 16.3.2020	**Birds Directive 17.11.2020**
Croatia		**1**		**1**
Cyprus	*	**3**		
Czech Republic	4	**5**	3	**3**
Denmark	3	**3**	4	**4**
Estonia	2	**4**	3	**3**
Finland	3	**3**	2	**2**
France	4	**4**	1	**1**
Germany	*	**3**	3	**3**
Greece	3	**4**	4	**4**
Hungary				
Iceland	*1*	***1***		
Ireland				
Italy				
Latvia	2	**2**	1	**1**
Lithuania	2	**3**	1	**2**
Luxembourg	8	**9**	5	**5**
Malta	5	**2**	3	**3**
Netherlands	4	**5**	2	**3**
Poland	1	**1**		
Portugal	2	**8**	2	**4**
Romania		**1**		**1**
Slovakia				
Slovenia	1	**1**	1	**1**
Spain	*	**4**	*	**2**
Sweden	4	**2**	3	**1**
Total	77	**90**	51	**57**

Table 5: Natura 2000 related datasets for download (excluding WfD reporting on habitats and with a drop in number in March for 3 Member States (*) which could be due to data harvesting issues)

Technical recommendation: In providing this analysis, we discovered that further spatial datasets of Natura 2000 sites (part of datasets related to Habitats and Birds Directives) may be already available in the INSPIRE infrastructure but are not easily discoverable due to the quality of the applied metadata keywords from the INSPIRE Priority data set code list.
Therefore, we strongly recommend that:

- The most precise metadata keyword(s), indicating the content and purpose of the dataset, is applied, instead of more general keywords, e.g. legislation, and
- The identified priority datasets are indeed those that include authoritative data for the reporting obligation used in the reporting data flow.

In summary, by mid November 2020 23 (+4) Member States have provided download services for the Habitats Directive and 21 (+3) for the Birds Directive.

5. Actions taken by the Commission to support the implementation

The Commission is supporting MS with implementation in several ways:

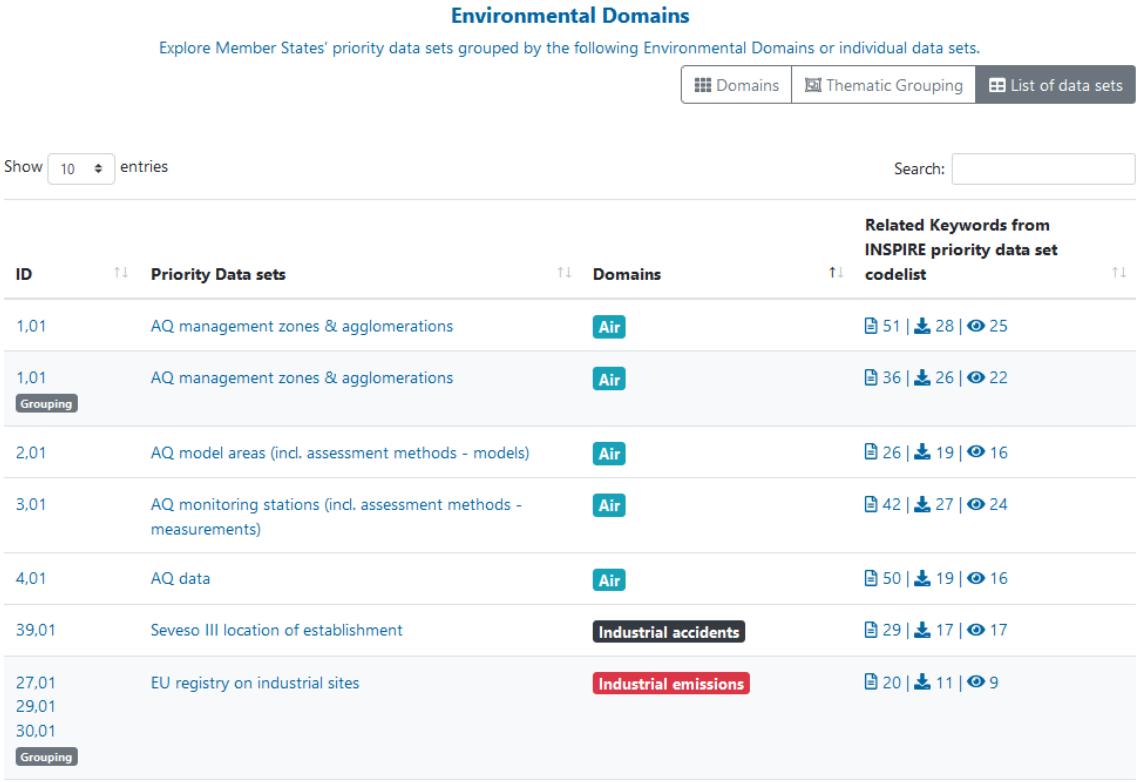
1) Maintaining and developing the **Geoportal Priority Data Sets Viewer** – the single access point to PDS data sets - http://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/

   - Provision of MD of data sets not limited to individual countries, but the whole Europe (e.g. all data sets for individual env. legislation or env. Domain)
   - Deployment of the EU translation service (English) for titles and abstracts of MD of MS data sets
   - Including spatial scope coverage (national or regional territory) at country information level
   - Improved pre-defined grouping by:
     - Environmental domains, including European or country view, and regional or national spatial scope
     - Thematic areas (thematic grouping), e.g. WFD water bodies, and
     - List of priority data sets with detailed information, e.g. data set number, environmental domain, thematic grouping or keywords.

FIGURE 1: INSPIRE GEOPORTAL PRIORITY DATA SETS VIEWER OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOMAINS

FIGURE 2: INSPIRE GEOPORTAL PRIORITY DATA SETS VIEWER OF THEMATIC AREAS

FIGURE 3: INSPIRE GEOPORTAL PRIORITY DATA SETS VIEWER WITH DATASET DETAILS



2) Maintaining and developing **the controlled vocabulary** (multilingual) for identifying the PDS data sets – https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/metadata-codelist/PriorityDataset/

3) Providing and **on-line Help to MS via Geoportal Helpdesk** – https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/geoportal/issues or general **help on the use of INSPIRE Registry** – jrc-inspire-support@ec.europa.eu

4) Technical Guidance – documentation: How to tag PDS data sets https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/2016-5/wiki/Implementation

6. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Name	Reference
AM	Area management/restriction/regulation zones and reporting units	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/139/2892
BR	Bio-geographical regions	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/145/2892
CDR	Central Data Repository	https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/
EF	Environmental monitoring facilities	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/120/2892
GCM	Generic Conceptual Model	
HH	Human health and safety	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/119/2892
HY	Hydrography	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/116/2892
IR	Implementing rules	
MIG	Maintenance and Implementation Group	
MIWP	Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme	
MS	Member State of the EU	
PDS	Priority dataset for eReporting	
PF	Production and industrial facilities	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/121/2892
PS	Protected sites	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/117/2892
REFIT	Regulatory fitness and performance (programme)	https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-making-process/evaluating-and-improving-existing-laws/refit-making-eu-law-simpler-and-less-costly_en
ROD	Reporting Obligations Database	https://rod.eionet.europa.eu/
TG	Technical guidelines	
TN	Transport networks	https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/Themes/115/2892
XML	Extensible Markup Language	