

Better regulation – Have your say portal – INSPIRE inception roadmap

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EuroGeographics is the Association of members that are the National Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registry Authorities in Europe. They provide a range of geospatial information which supports the environment and many more policy areas for government and business. Most of them have, through their national transposition or international framework programmes, expended significant resources in the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive over the last twenty years. Many also consider INSPIRE as being based on a great vision, one that is important but also complex to implement.

Along with our role of assisting our members in implementing INSPIRE, the Association has been involved in a range of projects, supported by funding from the European Union, aimed at developing access to European geospatial data and services from authoritative providers, many of which are based on INSPIRE specifications.

We have shared our experiences and the lessons learned widely*, and we would welcome the opportunity to continue to do so during this initiative, as set out in this roadmap, and on any other appropriate occasion. There remain a number of obstacles preventing the creation of pan European datasets and services that support a European digital data economy. We believe INSPIRE has gone a long way to address these, but more remains to be done. Fragmentation remains a challenge to full interoperability from different national approaches resulting in no representative pan-European use case to demonstrate the value of the Directive. This can be addressed by more dialogue and coordination with stakeholders.

This roadmap represents an important milestone for Eurogeographics' members. Our strategy is aligned to the newest EU political priorities particularly to Green Deal and Digital Age packages. That is why we will need to have a shared understanding of where INSPIRE fits in these policies and globally, including future trends.

Accessible and interoperable authoritative data** are at the heart of data-driven society. Reliable, comparable and verifiable information recognised as authoritative data plays an important part of the single market for data, and should be at the heart of European data spaces. Geospatial public sector data were identified as being an enabler in every single data space and used cross-sector.

We believe that as the digital data spaces are agreed and developed, a renewed and refreshed INSPIRE directive should be fit for purpose, aligned with this current data policy and governance mechanisms, which enable our members to contribute in providing and sharing their authoritative geospatial data for all authoritative public purposes including meeting environmental needs.

* For our experiences and the lessons learned see, for example, presentations made at the Helsinki INSPIRE workshop <https://tinyurl.com/yxrkdoyj>

** About authoritative data

See joint report by EuroSDR and EuroGeographics here:

<https://eurogeographics.org/news/new-report-identifies-key-components-of-authoritative-geospatial-data/>

which defines Authoritative data as “.... data that is provided by or on behalf of a public body (or authority) which has an official mandate to provide and sustain it, that is based on a set of criteria to ensure known quality, and that is required to be used and reused by the public sector and society as a whole”. The provision of authoritative data is part of our members' public task.