

ROADMAP			
<b>TITLE OF THE INITIATIVE</b>	REFIT evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC		
<b>LEAD DG – RESPONSIBLE UNIT</b>	DG ENVIRONMENT- UNIT D4	<b>DATE OF ROADMAP</b>	09/2015
<b>This indicative roadmap is provided for information purposes only and is subject to change. It does not prejudice the final decision of the Commission on whether this initiative will be pursued or on its final content and structure.</b>			

## A. Context and problem definition

- (1) What is the political context of the initiative?
- (2) How does it relate to past and possible future initiatives, and to other EU policies?
- (3) What ex-post analysis of existing policy has been carried out? What results are relevant for this initiative?

This is an evaluation under REFIT, the European Commission's Regulatory Fitness and Performance programme. It will look at past and current performance only and will provide an assessment by five different criteria:

- **Relevance:** To what extent do the (original) objectives (still) correspond to the needs within the EU?
- **Effectiveness:** To what extent did the intervention cause the observed changes/effects? To what extent can these changes/effects be credited to the intervention? To what extent do the observed effects correspond to the objectives?
- **Efficiency:** Were the costs involved justified, given the changes/effects which have been achieved? What factors influenced the achievements observed?
- **EU-added value:** What is the additional value resulting from the EU intervention(s), compared to what could be achieved by Member States at national and/or regional levels?
- **Coherence:** To what extent is this intervention coherent with other interventions which have similar objectives? To what extent is the intervention coherent internally?

The INSPIRE Directive<sup>1</sup> establishes an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe (referred to as INSPIRE) for the purposes of EU environmental policies and policies or activities that may have an impact on the environment. The objective is to enable the sharing of environmental spatial information among public sector organisations and better facilitate public access to spatial information across Europe. This makes the infrastructure an eGovernment tool meant to render reporting, compliance promotion and enforcement of EU legislation more efficient. INSPIRE increases the usefulness of existing data by obliging Member States to share them without restrictions impeding the use of the data and by making them discoverable, viewable and downloadable via Internet.

INSPIRE supports impact assessments relating to new policy initiatives (i.e. by making some of the required data and information more efficiently available). INSPIRE is also a very important stepping stone to ensure a well-functioning shared environmental information system as envisioned by the 2008 Commission policy papers on SEIS<sup>23</sup>. INSPIRE already generates synergies with a wide range of other strategic policies, such as the Digital Single Market strategy, Maritime Knowledge 2020, the Greening of the CAP, and others in the areas of transport, energy, enlargement, space and cohesion. It does this by providing a multiple-purpose information infrastructure, both within and across Member States' borders. Knowledge-based participatory policy making, participation and transparency, efficient implementation and the monitoring of policy effectiveness consequently requires spatial data to be available and accessible without obstacles and restrictions limiting its use for policy purposes. As such, the availability and accessibility of location-based information is highly relevant for ensuring the smart regulation and implementation of existing and new EU policies, not limited to the environment. Similarly to the Digital Single Market strategy, the INSPIRE Directive is creating an online infrastructure aiming to make information more accessible and easy to use, but in a narrower sense, namely on the environment.

The implementation has been monitored through independent state-of-play reports since 2005. Since 2010, Member States report on annual indicators, and report more extensively in a 3-year reporting cycle (2010, 2013).

<sup>1</sup> DIRECTIVE 2007/2/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)

<sup>2</sup> Communication on SEIS and also by the from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions - Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) (COM/2008/0046 final)

<sup>3</sup> COMMISSION STAFF WORKING DOCUMENT on EU Shared Environmental Information System Implementation Outlook (SWD(2013) 18 final)

<p>Implementing rules adopted as Commission Regulations and Decisions have been accompanied by cost-feasibility assessments. The INSPIRE Directive calls for a (first) formal interim policy evaluation in 2015, which will underpin a Commission Report to Council and European Parliament, to be delivered by the end of the year. Most recently there was a mid-term Evaluation report<sup>4</sup> published in November 2014 and conducted by the European Environment Agency (EEA) in collaboration with the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) on request of the European Commission Directorate-General Environment (DG ENV) in 2013.</p> <p>The relevant findings can be summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- at EU level there is a need to further integrate INSPIRE into environmental policies and policies that affect environment, as well as to strengthen its links with the reporting data flows from the Member States to the Commission.</li> <li>- at national level, there is a need to strengthen the involvement of the sub-national and local levels into the INSPIRE process and to build capacity, as well as increase communication, education and training measures necessary to implement INSPIRE among local administrations, and exploit fully the investment made in interoperability across Europe.</li> <li>- cross-border coordination between countries needs to be strengthened in order to enable effective and efficient data sharing on an international level.</li> </ul>
<p>What are the main problems which this initiative will address?</p>
<p>Not applicable – the evaluation will assess the performance of the INSPIRE directive.</p>
<p>Who will be affected by it?</p>
<p>The beneficiaries of INSPIRE will be public authorities, the full range of economic operators and the public in a broad sense:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public authorities that collect, manage and disseminate spatial data covered by INSPIRE.</li> <li>- Public authorities that require spatial data held by other public authorities for their public tasks and actions related to environmental policies and policies and actions having an impact on the environment.</li> <li>- Coordination structures of INSPIRE set-up under INSPIRE (article 18).</li> <li>- Public actors with an interest to discover, view and download spatial data on the internet as part of the acquis on public access to environmental information (Directive 2003/4/EC).</li> <li>- Public actors with an interest to discover, view and download spatial data on the internet for re-use as governed through the Re-use of public sector information Directive (PSI Directive).</li> </ul>
<p>Is EU action justified on grounds of subsidiarity? Why can Member States not achieve the objectives of the proposed action sufficiently by themselves? Can the EU achieve the objectives better?</p>
<p>In line with its obligations, the Commission is evaluating the performance of the directive to assess past performance.</p>

## B. Objectives of the initiative

<p>What are the main policy objectives?</p>
<p>The goal is to enable the sharing of environmental spatial information among public sector organisations and better facilitate public access to spatial information across Europe.</p> <p>The purpose of the Directive is to establish an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community INSPIRE for the purposes of Community environmental policies and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment (Article 1).</p>
<p>Do the objectives imply developing EU policy in new areas?</p>
<p>Not at this stage.</p>

## C. Options

<p>(1) What are the policy options (including exemptions/adapted regimes e.g. for SMEs) being considered?</p> <p>(2) What legislative or 'soft law' instruments could be considered?</p>
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<sup>4</sup> EEA Report Technical report No 17/2014: Mid-term evaluation report on INSPIRE implementation: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/midterm-evaluation-report-on-inspire-implementation>

(3) How do the options respect the proportionality principle?
Not applicable.

### D. Initial assessment of impacts

What are the benefits and costs of each of the policy options?
Not applicable.
Could any or all of the options have significant impacts on (i) simplification, (ii) administrative burden and (iii) on relations with other countries, (iv) implementation arrangements? And (v) could any be difficult to transpose for certain Member States?
Not applicable.
(1) Will an IA be carried out for this initiative and/or possible follow-up initiatives? (2) When will the IA work start? (3) When will you set up the IA Steering Group and how often will it meet? (4) What DGs will be invited?
Not applicable.
(1) Is any option likely to have impacts on the EU budget above € 5m? (2) If so, will this IA serve also as an ex-ante evaluation, as required by the Financial Regulation? If not, provide information about the timing of the ex-ante evaluation.
Not applicable.

### E. Evidence base, planning of further work and consultation

(1) What information and data are already available? Will existing IA and evaluation work be used? (2) What further information needs to be gathered, how will this be done (e.g. internally or by an external contractor), and by when? (3) What is the timing for the procurement process & the contract for any external contracts that you are planning (e.g. for analytical studies, information gathering, etc.)? (4) Is any particular communication or information activity foreseen? If so, what, and by when?
<p>First of all, the evaluation report benefits already from the ex-post analysis of existing policy indicated in section A of this roadmap.</p> <p>Furthermore, as part of the fact finding leading to the INSPIRE proposal for a directive, the Commission has organized since 2002 European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI) conferences and, since the adoption of the Directive in 2007, INSPIRE conferences<sup>5</sup> and conducted between 2004 and 2010 independent state-of play studies covering the EU, EEA/EFTA and Candidate Accession Countries. The INSPIRE website provides access to all the material presented by the Commission and stakeholders at these conferences, including efforts and achievements in various thematic and geographical areas and the outcome of research and/or interregional projects, often with EU funding, related to INSPIRE.</p> <p>The reports of research and region/inter-regional projects (for example, the INSPIRATION project<sup>6</sup> and HELM project<sup>7</sup>) identify issues and assess implementation progress.</p> <p>Extensive information and data on the implementation and impact of INSPIRE was provided by the national reports and by the mid-term evaluation report published in 2014 jointly by the Joint Research Centre and the European Environment Agency. A public consultation was organised in 2014 and its results will also be taken on board<sup>8</sup>.</p>
Which stakeholders & experts have been or will be consulted, how, and at what stage?
The evaluation of INSPIRE entails a broad consultation of all stakeholders involved in the production,

<sup>5</sup> INSPIRE conferences: <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/501>

<sup>6</sup> INSPIRATION project: <http://www.inspiration-westernbalkans.eu/>

<sup>7</sup> HELM - Harmonised European Land Monitoring project: <http://www.fp7helm.eu/>

<sup>8</sup> [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/inspire\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/consultations/inspire_en.htm)

management and use of spatial data and information falling within its scope. The report on the public consultation<sup>9</sup> reports 700 valid replies received, of which 70% from the public sector, and 30 % from the private sector, academia, and the general public. The Commission, in agreement with the Member States, has also set up at the end of 2013 the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Framework (MIF)<sup>10</sup>, including the Maintenance and Implementation Expert group (MIG)<sup>11</sup>. MIG consists of a policy sub-group and a technical sub-group, aiming to further coordinate and support the implementation and maintenance of INSPIRE in liaison with countries official national contact points. The basis of the work of the MIG and its sub-groups is a common rolling work programme (MIWP)<sup>12</sup>, based on political and technical issues and change requests submitted by INSPIRE stakeholders. The MIG is complemented by a pool of experts. The three bodies will be consulted in the evaluation process in 2015.

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<sup>9</sup> INSPIRE Public consultation report: [http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/consultations/INSPIRE\\_Public\\_Consultation\\_Report\\_final.pdf](http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/reports/consultations/INSPIRE_Public_Consultation_Report_final.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Framework (MIF) : <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/5160>

<sup>11</sup> EC Register of Expert Groups and Other Similar Entities - Maintenance and Implementation Expert group, MIG: <http://ec.europa.eu/transparency/regexpert/index.cfm?do=search.resultNew>

<sup>12</sup> MIG work program, <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/index.cfm/pageid/5160/list/wp>