



*European Umbrella Organisation  
for  
Geographic Information*

EUROGI  
Hofstraat 110 / P.O. Box 9046  
7300 GH Apeldoorn

The Netherlands

Tel: + 31 55 528 5532  
Fax: + 31 55 528 5032  
e-mail: [eurogi@euronet.nl](mailto:eurogi@euronet.nl)

web: <http://www.eurogi.org>

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## Report of 11<sup>th</sup> INSPIRE Expert Group Meeting

Dates December 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004  
Location The Hague, The Netherlands  
Attendants INSPIRE Expert Group

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This report has been written by Bino Marchesini (EUROGI Secretary General).

The 11<sup>th</sup> INSPIRE Expert Group met in the Hague, The Netherlands on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> 2004. The main issue discussed was the Work Programme 2005-2006. As known, the European Commission adopted the INSPIRE Draft Directive on July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2004 and sent it to the European Parliament and the Council of Ministers.

### **Opinion Council Working Group on the INSPIRE Directive**

The Council Working Group recently agreed that the general principles of the proposed Directive are good, but there were critical remarks on several aspects with proposals for change. A general remark was that the delegates of the Environment find it all very technical; it should be made really clear as to *what* is needed and *why*.

The comments concentrated of four points:

1. **Cost and benefit** should be better clarified. E.g. is the role of users and their needs clear enough. Can the Experts fulfill the quite ambitious Directive?
2. Many **implementation rules** are left to the Commission by way of Comitology. Is it possible to limit this? Also the involvement of stakeholders and others was questioned. Is there time, money, manpower to draft the implementation rules?
3. Any **relation to other Directives**, specifically the *Directive Access to Environmental Information* and the *Directive Re-use of Public Sector Information* needs attention. Is it necessary (and why) to treat GI differently within INSPIRE than environmental or PSI?
4. There are questions related to the Definitions and Annexes. E.g. which **data in the Annexes** are critical for the success of INSPIRE, is the difference between I, II and III clear?

### **Summary of Workplan discussed in the Expert Group**

INSPIRE will require the Member States to implement various measures. Some of these measures shall be transposed by the Member States, whilst others require more detail which will be formulated in '**Implementing Rules**'. In order for Member States to be able to respect the roadmap for the implementation of INSPIRE, those Implementing Rules must be available in due time.

2005 – 2006	The aim of the Work Programme document is to identify the stepwise activities necessary to draft <b>implementing rules</b> during the Preparatory Phase (2005- 2006), in parallel with the legislative co-decision process in the European Parliament and Council.
2007 – 2008	Once INSPIRE enters into force, the Member States will have 2 years (2007-08) to <b>transpose INSPIRE into their national legislation</b> .
2009 – 2013	Once INSPIRE is transposed, its measures will be implemented and monitored following a <b>roadmap</b> which is part of the proposal for a Directive (2009-13). INSPIRE shall be based on infrastructures for spatial information established and operated by spatial data sets (as described in Annexes I, II, III of the proposal for a Directive), spatial data services; network services and technologies; agreements on sharing, access and use; coordination and monitoring mechanisms, process and procedures.

As the implementation of INSPIRE can not be undertaken in isolation from global initiatives to which many EU Member State institutions participate, the organisational framework has to take into account cross-references

with initiatives such as GMES, Galileo and GEO to name but a few. Simultaneously the harmonisation efforts ongoing in several communities have to be taken on board during the Implementing Rules development process.

The design of the different technical and policy measures in the proposal for a Directive, requires intensive stakeholder participation. Therefore the concept of **Spatial Data Interest Communities (SDICs)** is introduced. An SDIC:

- bundles **expertise** and **resources** of users, producers or transformers of spatial data and services
- and can originate from and be organised according to a **specific sector** in society, a geographic extent or a thematic issue.
- can provide **expert knowledge** required for the drafting, reviewing and testing of the Implementing Rules.

A **call for interest** is foreseen to identify SDICs willing to participate in the Implementing Rules development process. This process will be set up in 3 phases:

1. drafting teams of some 5 experts in each team will be created to draft the Implementing Rules;
2. a review mechanism will be set up and public consultation will be organised, whereby Commission services will fulfil a co-ordinating role.
3. Implementing Rules will be finally submitted to the INSPIRE Committee for adoption, and will become directly applicable in Member States, as a Commission Regulation or Decision.

The action plan contains sections according to the chapters in the proposal for a Directive, and focuses per section on objectives, scope, processes, breakdown, milestones and cross references.

A condensed overview of the final goals for each section is listed below:

- The draft Implementing Rule on metadata has to describe content and structure of the metadata for spatial data.
- Data specifications and harmonisation activities have to yield a draft Implementing Rule for harmonised data specifications and exchange, differentiated according to the data groups listed in the annexes of the proposal for a Directive.
- The draft Implementing Rule on network services will deal with functionalities of upload (meaning integration in a network), discovery, view, download, and transformation services, as well as the “invoke spatial data services” services.
- The draft Implementing Rules on data and service sharing will deal with a) the access and rights of use to spatial data sets and services for Community institutions and bodies, b) the third party access to upload services (to integrate in the network) and c) the potential for re-use of spatial data sets and services by third parties.
- The monitoring and reporting draft Implementing Rules will deal with the methodology, indicators and implementation schema for a punctual 3-yearly reporting and a continuous monitoring process.
- Finally two horizontal sections were added in the action plan to deal with the organisational structures, co-ordination and necessary cross-analyses to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and coherence throughout the draft Implementing Rules development process.

### Outcome of discussion

The discussion in the Expert Group lead to the conclusion that the approach is generally seconded. There are some issues that need to be addressed more in depth and detail though. These are:

- The Terms of Reference for the Drafting teams need to be written down in detail in order to know what exactly is expected from the teams
- Regarding the management of the process the interdependency between the Drafting teams has to be made explicit; moreover funding of the teams and its experts need to be seriously considered and is needed as a very considerable amount of time is asked from the experts
- The use of existing rules was stressed; the position papers that were made and the ongoing SDI-experiences at various levels should be taken into account
- The role of the Commission should be clarified
- The benefits of INSPIRE to the Members states should be shown clearly. Awareness raising by a FAQ-list, education and training are seen as important; a check list of INSPIRE compliance is most welcome.

The Council needs to have a clear view on the process and be confident that it will work. This then will help among other things, the Comitology.

**Next steps**

- Written comments on the Work programme are welcomed and should be given within two weeks (by Dec.17<sup>th</sup>). EUROGI will give its comments.
- A call for Expression of Interest in the SDIC's (to which EUROGI showed interest) and for Experts for the Drafting teams will be launched half December and be open until the end of January
- Feedback on the Directive can be given via the permanent representatives of the Member States
- The European Parliament will finalise its first reading on the Directive in Spring 2005 (probably half March)
- The Expert Group will meet again mid March to discuss an updated Work programme, the results of the Expression of Interest and the selection of the experts for the drafting teams