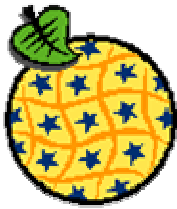


8th INSPIRE Expert group meeting Brussels 15 December 2003

Summary and conclusion – draft



The eighth INSPIRE Expert Group meeting took place in Brussels on the 15th of December. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss further developments of INSPIRE after a period of several months of uncertainty on this issue. An update on the state-of-play of GMES and on the current status and new orientation for INSPIRE was provided. The new objective is for the Commission to adopt a revised proposal in May 2004 and two task forces have been created to support this revision. Furthermore, the results of the working group contributing to the Extended Impact Assessment were presented and the activities of the JRC including a prototype of the EU geo-portal were demonstrated.

The highlights of the meeting were the following:

- A new road map for legislation of INSPIRE has been set out. This should lead to a revised INSPIRE proposal that addresses a number of key concerns related to the level of ambition and related to the costs in particular at the local level. The Commission now plans to adopt the revised proposal on INSPIRE in May 2004.
- It was decided to create two task forces to support the revision of INSPIRE: one with a mandate to re-examine scope of INSPIRE and its measures and one to strengthen the contribution to the extended impact assessment. It was proposed that the task forces would be chaired respectively by EEA and by ESTAT. ESTAT could immediately confirm that it will chair the task force on extended impact assessment. The following members indicated their willingness to contribute actively to the task forces:

Scoping	Extended impact assessment
NL, SW, UK, PL, EuroGeoSurveys, CZ, DK, NO, HU, AS, Eurogeographics	AUS, IT, GE, Eurocities, Eurogeosurveys, Eurogeographics, CZ, UK



The chairs of the task forces will verify the overall balance of membership of the task force between representatives of the GI community and of the environmental sector. They might therefore come back to the delegates to discuss the final assignments.

Both task forces will be actively supported by DG Environment. The discussions in the task forces will be steered through preparatory documents prepared by the chairs of the task forces.

- The task force on scoping will re-examine the scope of INSPIRE in the light of environmental priorities. Their output will include a revision of the 60 data components taking into account the priorities for environmental legislation and a new proposal for priority themes to be included in the scope of INSPIRE, to be set in the context of a progressive implementation of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure. Furthermore, the measures of INSPIRE will be re-examined in the light of the revised scope, with a view to reduce the investment requirements whilst retaining the overall goal and the identified benefits of INSPIRE.

- The task force on the extended impact assessment will adapt the contribution of the INSPIRE working group to the extended impact assessment. New available input needs to be examined in the light of the need to clarify what are the net additional investment costs required for the implementation of INSPIRE and the impact assessment needs to be adapted in the light of the revised scope. The contribution to the extended impact assessment needs to be presented in such a way that it better reflects the reality felt by a number of delegates that a substantial part of the investment needs identified in the impact assessment are occurring and would anyhow continue to occur in the MS even if INSPIRE would not exist, but that INSPIRE would allow to ensure that these investments are made in a cost-effective way by contributing to the ESDI.
- The task forces have a mandate to produce their final report by the end of February 2004. Some delegates considered the target date may be too ambitious. The proposed chairs of the task forces however pointed out that most of the preparatory work has already been done and that the timetable was therefore feasible and it was agreed to keep as a target the delivery of quality input by the end of February. Missing the target might result in a significant postponement of INSPIRE.
- The political support for INSPIRE is growing. Six countries expressed their support at the EPRG meeting and INSPIRE is on the agenda of the Environmental Council meeting of 22 December. Some delegates highlighted that building high-level political support and awareness for INSPIRE is a continuous task for all the members of the Expert group.
- A number of delegates pointed out that the links between GMES and INSPIRE should be made clear. Clarification should be made on the differences in final goals between the two initiatives in the sense that INSPIRE aims at building

a (general purpose) ESDI based on interoperability between existing as well as new data sources and services, and relying on international and open standards; whereas GMES aims at establishing operational services covering the chain from data capture through observation systems up until added value information services. Implementation of these end-to-end GMES services will rely upon the ESDI established through INSPIRE.

- The work in relation to implementation will continue, in particular if it can help the formulation of the revised proposal for INSPIRE and if it can continue to serve as catalyser of on going initiatives at international, national and regional level. Once the proposal for INSPIRE adopted by the Commission, there will be a renewed emphasis on the preparation of the implementation of INSPIRE that should be readjusted accordingly to the revisited scope of INSPIRE.
- The next meeting will be held in March 2004 to discuss the output of the task forces and the preparation of a new implementation strategy.
- The INSPIRE Expert group will be enlarged with members of the accession countries due to join the EU in 2004. The permanent representations of the accession countries will be contacted beginning of 2004.

Draft : Marc Vanderhaegen

Internal information for the HUNAGI community, not for publication

Notices:

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