

GEO
INFORMATICS

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Introduction The INSPIRE Directive

The EU INSPIRE directive, an acronym of the phrase 'Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe' (European Spatial Information Infrastructure), sets the institutional framework for establishment and operation of the infrastructure for spatial information in Europe, not only to provide information for public services and citizens, but also to implement, coordinate and evaluate EU policies applicable to member countries at all Administrative levels. The Directive was voted on March 14, 2007 and can be accessed at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=CELEX:32007L0002:EN:NOT>

Necessity of the Proposal

The use of Geographic Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is one of the key pillars of innovation for providing advanced services to citizens and businesses. Interoperability and respective geographical data services represents a significant challenge in achieving this goal.

Proposal Objectives

The development of a Spatial Data Infrastructure utilizing the Inspire Directive is proposed. This can be accomplished by following three steps as outlined below.

1. Recording of the Existing Situation

Recording of the existing situation has objectives of:

- The classification of geoinformation made available and managed by various bodies at contextual levels as determined by the INSPIRE Directive (Appendices I, II and III) and
- Recording of the undetermined quality of all this data (scale, last update, coverage etc.).

The recording of the current situation will be done through a special questionnaire drawn up for this purpose. Site visits shall take place as needed. In addition to this questionnaire, the researcher shall record opinions of persons responsible regarding the policy of availability and intellectual property rights for geographical data. The data resulting from collection of these questionnaires will provide important data for the production, dissemination and use of spatial data.

2. Supplementary operations

These inventory results for the current situation will be exploited at this stage so as to determine operations of organization, completion and homogenization of spatial information.

More specifically, at this stage the layers which should be made available so as to meet directive requirements shall be defined. Their metadata will also be supplemented, i.e. information describing and documenting spatial information. Needed network services and technologies, such as agreements regarding

sharing, access and use of spatial data shall also be examined. Finally, the mechanisms, methods and coordination and monitoring procedures for Infrastructures will be defined.

3a. Coordinating Organization

Various scenarios will be examined under which the Coordinating Organization could operate in support of Authorities having an available geographic infrastructure.

3b Data policy

Several organizations in the European Union distribute their data at a marginal cost corresponding to the cost of reproduction, e.g. value of the media (cd, dvd, etc.). Other organizations distribute their data at a cost corresponding to that of products produced. The model which seems to dominate is a compliance cost, according to which the largest percentage of data is financed by users with their purchase. A specific scenario will be proposed, after the consideration of all alternative scenarios.