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## Introduction

The INSPIRE Directive sets the minimum conditions for interoperable sharing and exchange of spatial data across Europe as part of a larger European Interoperability Framework and the e-Government Action Plan that contributes to the Digital Single Market Agenda. Article 21 of [INSPIRE Directive](#) defines the basic principles for monitoring and reporting. More detailed implementing rules regarding INSPIRE monitoring and reporting have been adopted as [COMMISSION DECISION regarding INSPIRE monitoring and reporting](#) on the 5th of June 2009.

This country fiche highlights the progress in the various areas of INSPIRE implementation and presents an outlook of planned actions for further improvement of the INSPIRE implementation. The country fiche includes information **until May 2019** as an update of the information acquired through:

- member states update,
- [monitoring report](#) in May 2019.

## State Of Play

A high-level view on the governance, use and impact of the INSPIRE Directive in Belgium. More detailed information is available on the [INSPIRE knowledge base](#).

### Coordination

#### National Contact Point

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#### Coordination Structure & Progress:

- National Contact point

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E-mail	<a href="mailto:Ouns.Kissiyar@kb.vlaanderen.be">Ouns.Kissiyar@kb.vlaanderen.be</a>
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- **Coordination Structure**

- Belgium's institutions are complex; most political power is organised around the need to represent the main cultural communities. Thus Belgium is characterised by a complex system of governance. Indeed Belgium's executive and legislative powers have to a substantive extent been devolved to the regions. The regions (through their parliaments and governments) have sole jurisdiction over transportation, public works, water policy, cultural matters, education, public health, environment, housing, zoning, and economic and industrial policy.
- This effectively means that four parties are responsible for the implementation of INSPIRE : Brussels Capital Region, the Federal Government, the Flemish Region and the Walloon Region. Each of these parties is responsible for the implementation of INSPIRE for those areas for which it holds jurisdiction
- The INSPIRE Coordination Committee has been set up by all 4 parties responsible for the INSPIRE implementation. This committee was set up in April 2010 through a national cooperation agreement.
- INSPIRE Coordinating Committee is responsible for the coordination between the responsible implementing parties. The Coordinating Committee among other duties, designates the reference version of spatial data sets, conducts negotiations to establish the reference data for each of the themes listed, ensures that satisfactory common arrangements for access, sharing and use are adopted regarding the sharing of spatial data sets and services.

#### Functioning and coordination of the infrastructure

- Due to Belgium's structure, coordination structures have been established at all legislative levels (Federal, and Regional).
- There are 4 Geoportals in Belgium: one for each legally responsible entity for the implementation of INSPIRE.
- Each Geoportal aims to act as a centralized point of access to the INSPIRE data under responsibility of the entity. The data offering on these geoportals however, is not limited to INSPIRE data.
- For the Brussels Capital Region, the geoportal [www.geo.brussels](http://www.geo.brussels) acts since 02/2014 as a centralised point of access to the Brussels geographic information about INSPIRE without centralisation of the metadata or the actual data. Cooperation between the parties involved in [geo.brussels](http://www.geo.brussels) is organized within the "GeoBru" Committee, appointed by the Brussels' Government.
- For the Federal Government services the geoportal [www.geo.be](http://www.geo.be) is the gateway to the geographic platform of the federal government. It is available in four languages : Dutch, English, French and German. The coordination is in the hands of the National Geographic Institute (NGI/IGN).
- [www.geopunt.be](http://www.geopunt.be) has been the gateway to Flemish INSPIRE and other geographical data since early 2013. Information Flanders (formerly AGIV) is responsible for the development and operational coordination of the different data providers. Cooperation between the data custodians is organized within a steering committee on information and ICT policy.
- The "Géoportail de la Wallonie" (<http://geoportail.wallonie.be>) is the centralized point of access to all the Walloon geographic information relating to INSPIRE with centralization of metadata and network services. Service public de Wallonie (SPW) is responsible for the development and coordination of the InfraSIG Walloon-SDI. Every 3-year, the Walloon Government draws up a strategic geomatic plan (PSGW) which provides direction to the development of the Walloon-SDI. On the basis of the PSGW 2017-2019, the Walloon Government approved in February 2017 the "Plan opérationnel géomatique pour la Wallonie" (POGW) for 2017-2019 which includes specific actions dedicated to the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation.

#### Usage of the infrastructure for spatial information

- The most widely used aspect of the infrastructure are the services that are often introduced as building blocks into production processes of (private and public) partners.
- A lot of web GIS applications using INSPIRE datasets and services (but not only) exist & they are becoming very popular and appear to be the preferred way for the majority of the users to view or download datasets.
- In general, there has been a sharp and clear rise in the use of services in recent years.
- Several cross-border projects engaged all implementing parties with neighboring countries, sharing data, experiences and knowledge.

## Data sharing arrangements

- The measures adopted for sharing data and services between public authorities are converging through intensified coordination.
- In the Brussels Capital Region, data-sharing between public authorities is regulated by the ordinance on geographical information. Moreover, as a result of the PSI transposition implementation, more and more data are available through Open data licenses (CC by or CC 0).
- The federal authorities have declared 99 datasets and series, 88 of which are free of charge. The remaining 11 datasets are accessible under licensing conditions as they are part of the master data sources of the National Mapping Agency (NGI/IGN). The National Geographic Institute shares all its data and services free of charge with the other federal authorities and based on case-by-case agreements with the regional administrations. One of the next steps will be to standardize the documentation of the licensing condition (CC BY) and the mechanism for getting access to the federal datasets from the federal geoportal.
- Within the Flemish Region open data is the default. The Flemish region aims at providing at least "Three Star" open data (Tim Berners-Lee open data model). This is meant to support its aim to be an open administration fostering transparency and participation. Data sharing with Flemish public authorities is free of charge. The conditions of access and use are generic and part of the SDI-legislation. Data sharing with other public authorities in Belgium and Europe is in practice free of charge. The conditions of access and use are also generic and part of the SDI-legislation. The same access and use policy is true for non-geographical data.
- Within the Walloon Region, there are no limitations on public access to INSPIRE compliant spatial datasets and services. For the other spatial datasets, a simplification of conditions of access and use have been generalized to all SPW administration's spatial data. Public authorities have free access to most of them by subscribing to a simple license specifying the rights and the limits of use. On July 12th 2017, the Walloon government validated the "Open Data" decree in order to extend and facilitate the access and use of the Walloon administration's data to a wider end-users panel. Pending the adoption of an open data license, a simplified license model for spatial-data sharing is currently in preparation.
- A common agreement (18/04/2014) between the Brussels region, the Federal Services, the Flemish region and the Walloon region sets up a coordination structure for patrimonial information so that it can be shared freely amongst all levels of administration.

## Costs and benefits

- As most parties do not view INSPIRE as an independent infrastructure for spatial information, but rather as a component in the ongoing development of common public sector eGovernance, cost/benefit analysis of the INSPIRE directive is difficult.
- For the period up to 2015 the majority of the costs for implementing INSPIRE have been incurred by the data providers. It is expected that as the investments have been made to build up the infrastructure the next period (2016-2019) will see lower costs that will predominantly be dominated by the costs related to maintenance and management of the existing infrastructure
- It is expected that the harmonization of the datasets will incur a significant cost for the data providers in the period 2016-2020. Most often the data providers lack a clear business case for this harmonization as the benefits are situated at another (rather international) level.
- Benefit: the convergence of the efforts to maintain (or setup) the SDI's at the different administrative levels of the Belgian state assuring the same structure, quality and availability of geodata, stimulating a number of developments in the geographic information domain and contributed to the production and open distribution of high-quality geographic information.

## Key facts and figures

In addition to the above mentioned issues, the implementation of INSPIRE Directive requires Member States to take four main steps in relation to management of spatial datasets which fall under the Directive:

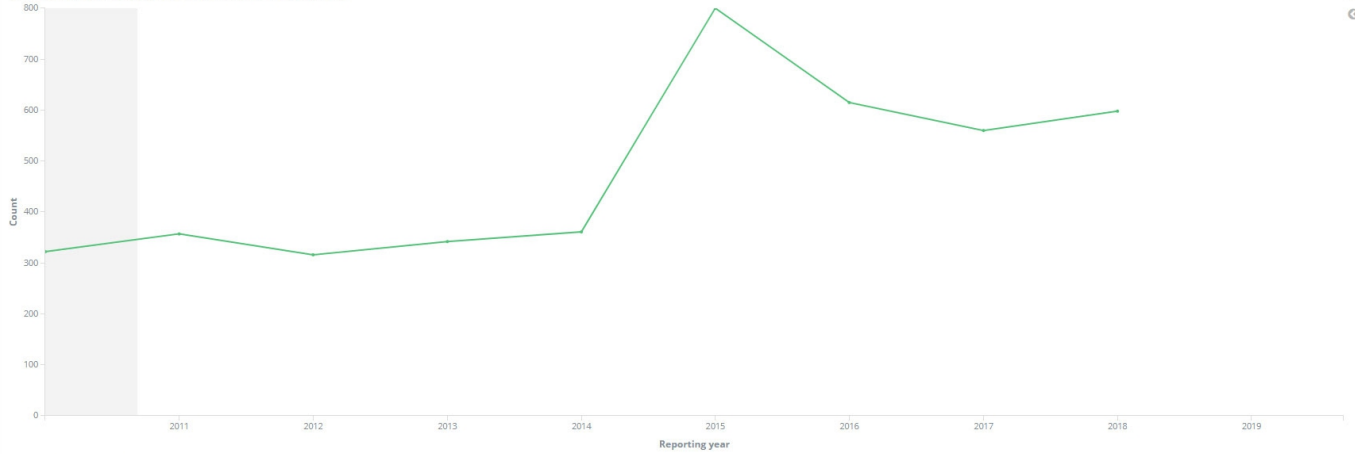
- Step 1: Identify spatial datasets
- Step 2: Document these datasets (metadata)
- Step 3: Provide services for identified spatial datasets (discovery, view, download)
- Step 4: Make spatial datasets interoperable by aligning them with the common data models.

The key facts and figures presented in this country fiche are based on the information provided by Belgium on the [INSPIRE dashboard](#). **The provided statistics is not reflecting the data available on INSPIRE geoportal.** The INSPIRE geoportal is updated on a regular and ongoing basis, whilst the INSPIRE dashboard is typically updated after every reporting round, on a yearly basis.

The conformity of the implementation is assessed against the full set of legal specifications set out by the Directive and the Implementing Rules and the commonly agreed good practices set out by the technical guidelines.

## Identification of spatial data with relevance to the environment (step 1)

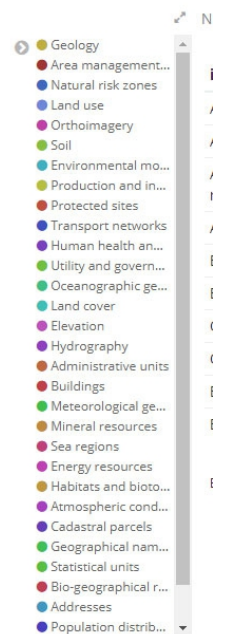
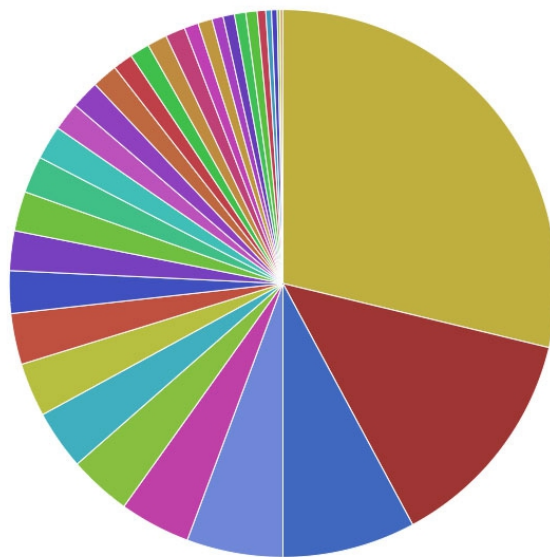
Indicator / Number of spatial data sets for all annexes (DSv\_Num)



Country fiche / datasets by annex

## Data sets made available per INSPIRE theme (reference year 2018)

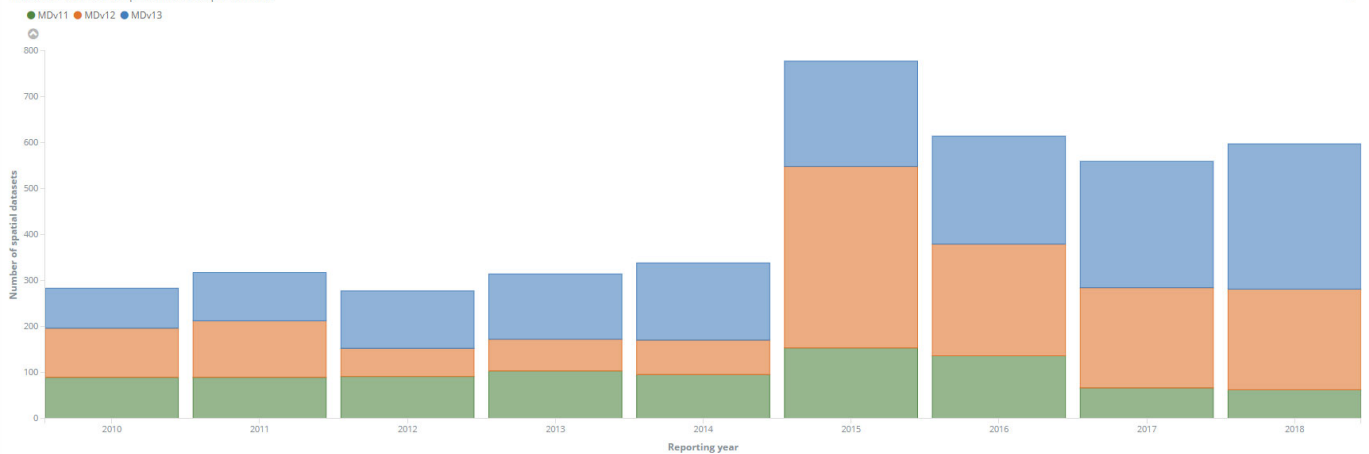
INSPIRE Raw data (datasets) by themes



Country fiche / datasets by themes

## Data sets made available per INSPIRE theme

Indicator / Number of spatial data sets per annexes



Country fiche / Documentation of the data

MDv1.1: number of spatial data sets for Annex I that have metadata

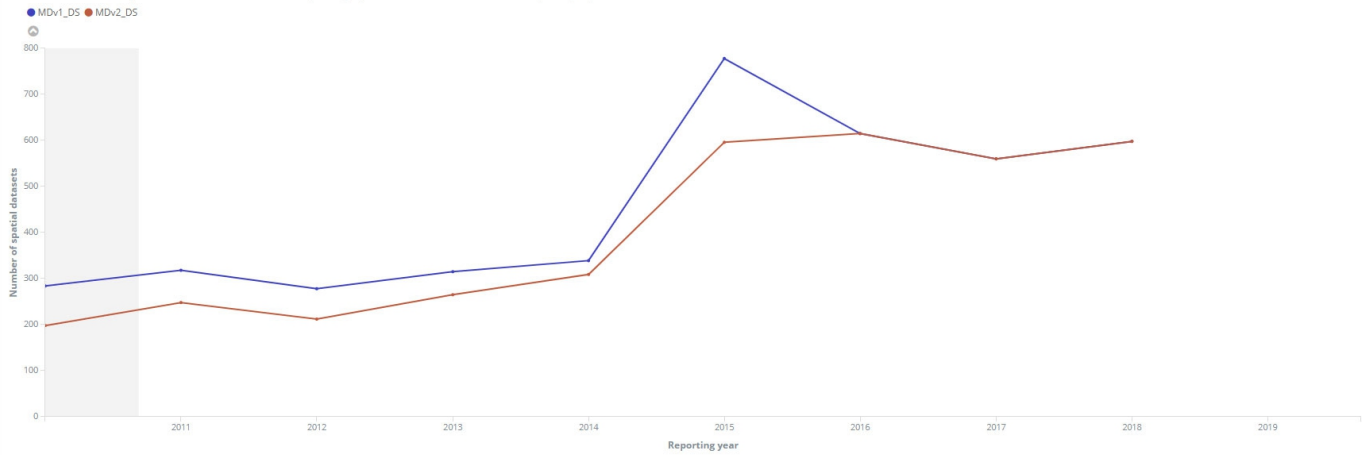
MDv1.2: number of spatial data sets for Annex II that have metadata

MDv1.3: number of spatial data sets for Annex III that have metadata

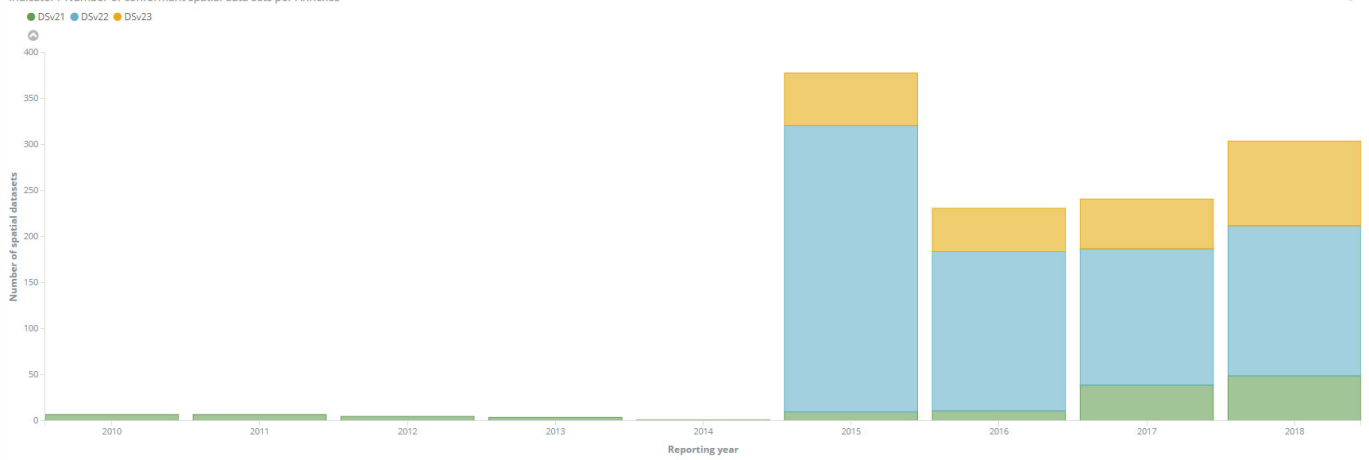
## Documentation of the data (metadata) (step 2)

### Evolution of documented data and conformity of the documentation

Indicator / Number of spatial data set that have metadata (MDv1\_DS) and have conformant metadata (MDv2\_DS)



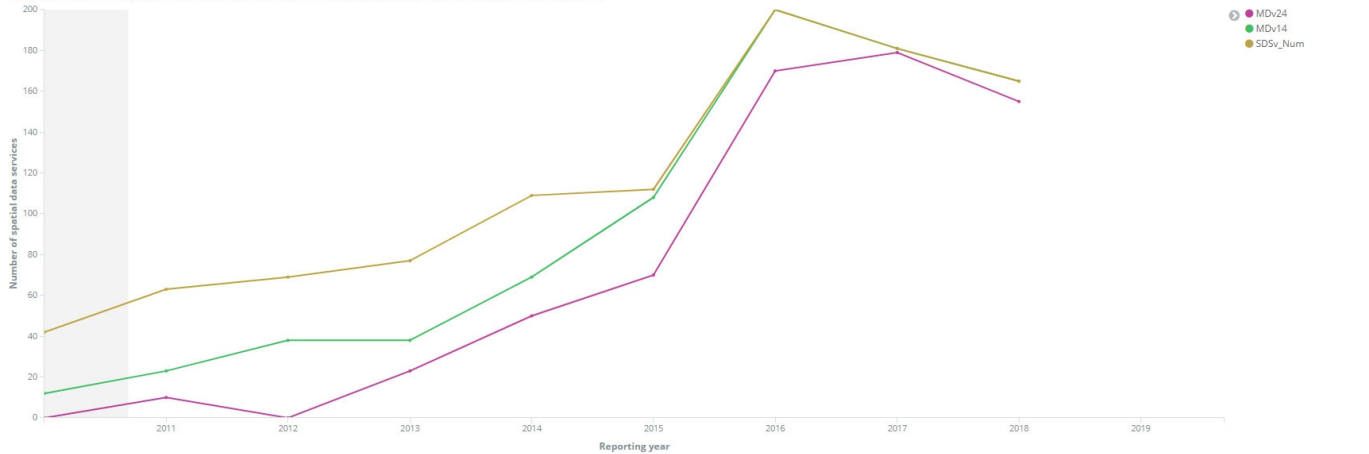
Indicator / Number of conformant spatial data sets per Annexes



Country fiche / Evolution of documented services and conformity of the documentation

### Evolution of documented services and conformity of the documentation

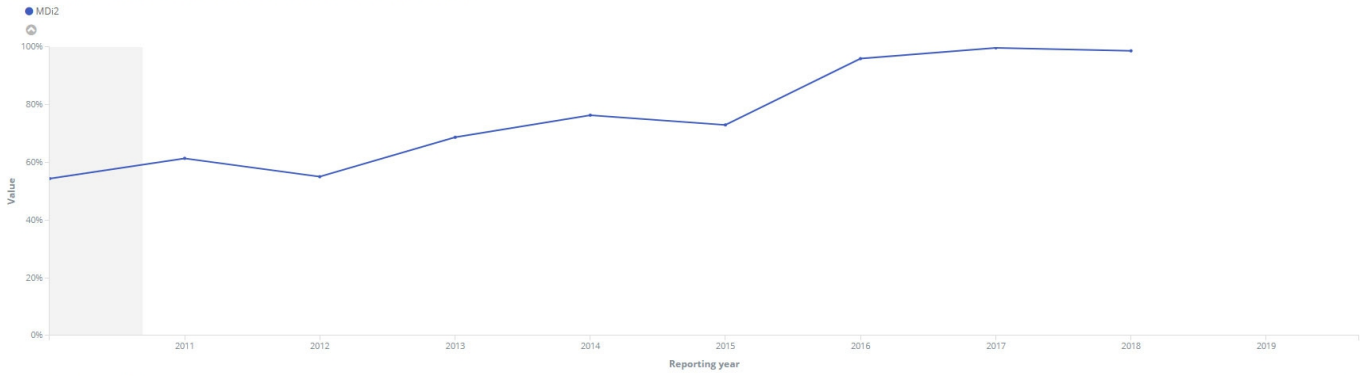
Indicator / Number of spatial data services (SDSv\_Num) with metadata (MDv14) and conformant metadata (MDv24)



Country fiche / Evolution of the overall conformity of the documented metadata

## Evolution of the overall conformity of the documented metadata

Indicator / Percentage of spatial data sets and services with conformant metadata (MDI2)

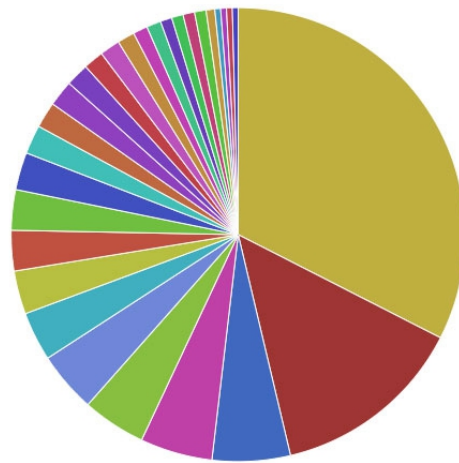


Country fiche / accessibility

## Accessibility of the data through digital services (step 3)

### Digitally accessible spatial data per INSPIRE theme (reference year 2018)

INSPIRE Raw data (datasets available through services) by themes

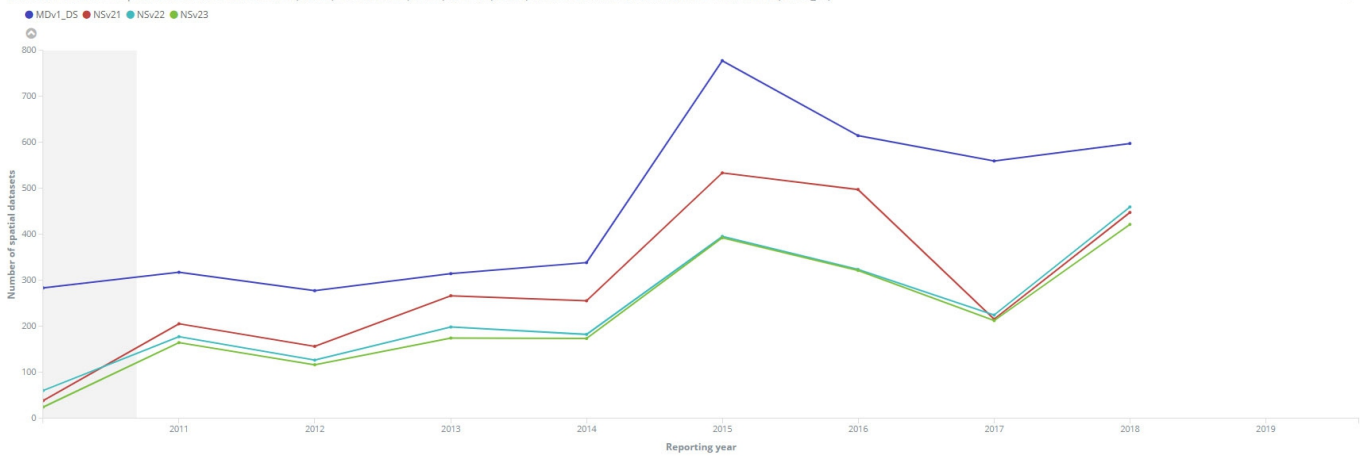


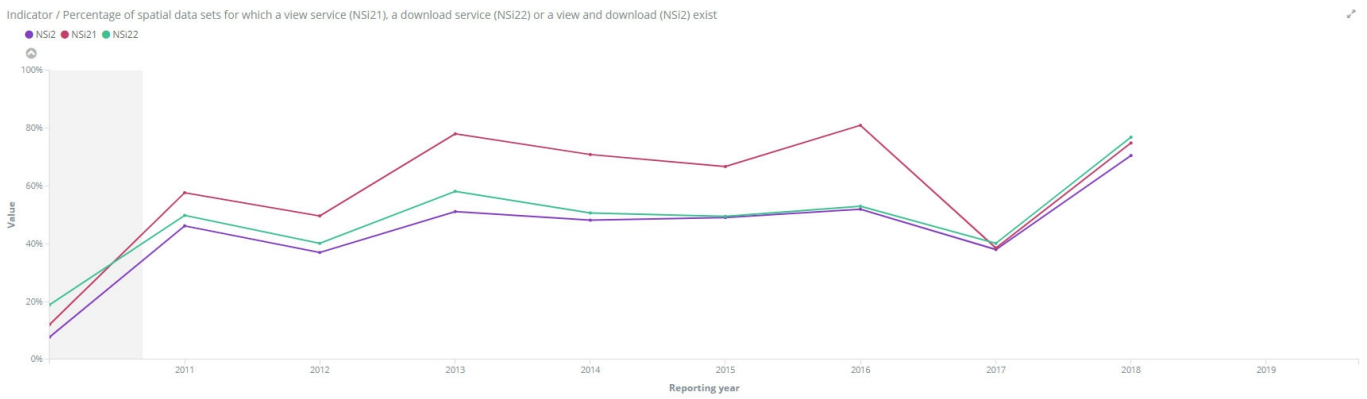
- Geology
- Area management...
- Natural risk zones
- Orthoimagery
- Soil
- Land use
- Environmental mo...
- Production and in...
- Protected sites
- Utility and govern...
- Transport networks
- Land cover
- Administrative units
- Hydrography
- Human health an...
- Buildings
- Elevation
- Mineral resources
- Energy resources
- Oceanographic ge...
- Cadastral parcels
- Geographical nam...
- Sea regions
- Statistical units
- Habitats and bioto...

Country fiche / Evolution of spatial data accessible through services

## Evolution of spatial data made accessible through digital services

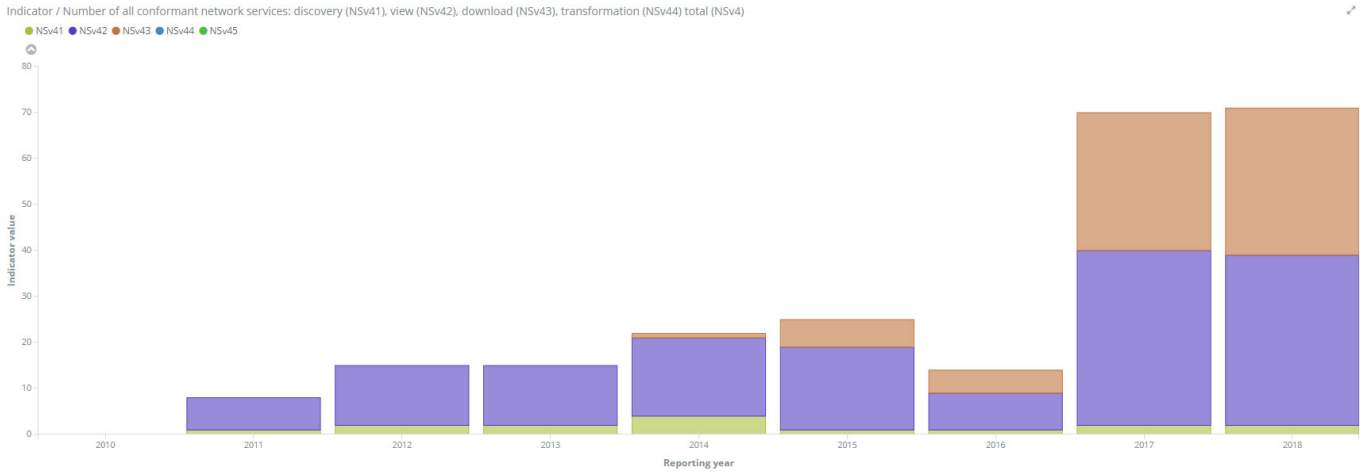
Indicator / Number of spatial data sets for which a view (NSv21) or download (NSv22) or both (NSv23) service exist and the total number of metadata (MDv1\_ds)





Country fiche / Evolution of the conformity of the digital services

### Evolution of the conformity of the digital services

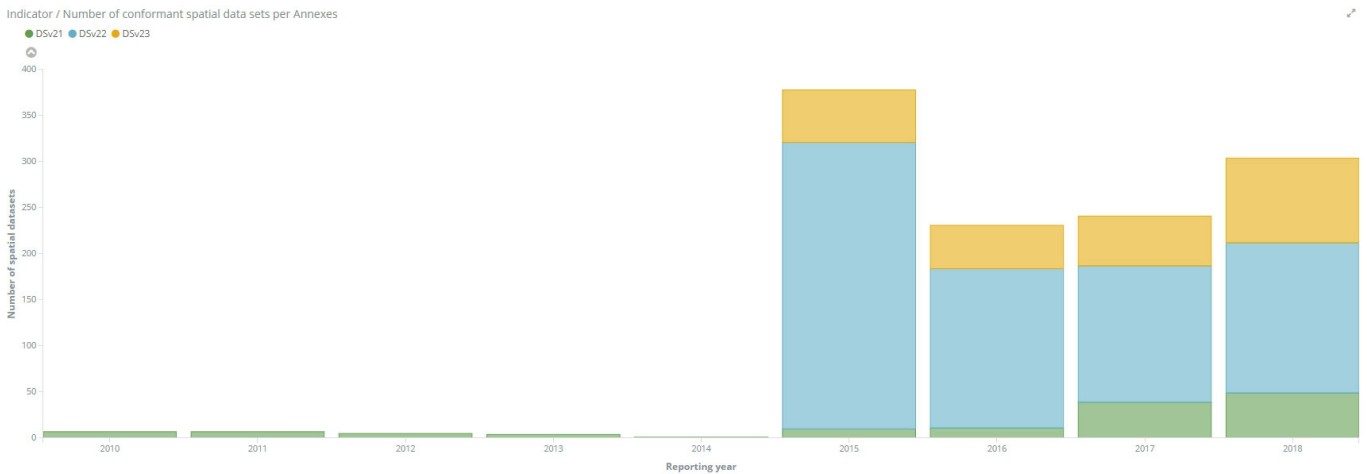


Country fiche / Interoperability

### Interoperability of spatial data sets (step 4)

The interoperability of spatial data sets is an outlook on the readiness of Member States to make their spatial data interoperable according to the interoperability specifications laid down in the INSPIRE interoperability implementing regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:02010R1089-20131230&qid=1400675738563>). The deadlines for implementation of the spatial data interoperability are 23/11/2017 for Annex I data and 21/10/2020 for Annex II and III data.

### Evolution of the conformity with INSPIRE interoperability specifications for spatial data



- DSv2.1: number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex I
- DSv2.2: number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex II
- DSv2.3: number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex III