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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 Implementing Decision \(EU\) 2019/1372](#) on the 19th August 2019.

This country fiche highlights the progress in the various areas of INSPIRE implementation. It includes information on [monitoring for 2022](#) acquired in December 2022 and Member States update.

State Of Play

This report sets out a high-level view on the governance, use and impact of the INSPIRE Directive in Ireland. More detailed information is available on the [INSPIRE knowledge base](#).

Coordination

National Contact Point

Name of Public Authority: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

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Coordination Structure & Progress:

- National Contact point

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• **Coordination Structure**

- The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage has been assigned responsibility by the Irish Government to lead the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive in Ireland. Legislation formalising this position was signed into law by regulation in 2015, and in July 2018 a confirmatory Statutory Instrument S.I. No. 280 of 2018 was signed. The development of data and service sharing agreements, and the Monitoring and Reporting function are also the responsibility of DHLGH. Irish representatives are taking an active part in working groups at European level.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH) has organised workshops with all identified data providers. The purpose of the workshops is to create a forum in which representatives from Departments and Agencies responsible for INSPIRE datasets can have an open discussion on their responsibilities and can seek guidance on managing their data. The workshops dealt with the execution of tasks needed for compliance and implementation of the Directive during 2022 and to identify any support needed. The support assignments are reviewed monthly by the DHLGH.

• **Progress**

- Ireland has worked, monitored and reported to fulfil the requirements set out in the INSPIRE Directive. As part of its Monitoring & Reporting responsibilities, the DHLGH has been working on the monitoring and reporting processes by publishing different reports, which include the status of the implementation of the directive and publishing metadata files through the geoportal of Ireland, which allows the creation of the monitoring process describing current spatial datasets, metadata, and Web services.
- During the last five years the situation in relation to Ireland's adherence to the INSPIRE Directive has improved considerably supported by contracts made with an external support provider, TRACASA, which has greatly improved the

implementation of the INSPIRE directive in all work areas. DHPLG and Tailte Éireann, with the help of TRACASA, have worked in a coordinated way, reactivating the tasks, applications and tools related to the INSPIRE directive as the implementation of an action plan and a dashboard for Ireland, improved the geoportal information, creation of metadata, data transformation, network services creation and validation. The Department and TRACASA continue to have regular meetings to update on progress towards meeting INSPIRE obligations and to set tasks for the short to medium term in relation to data management, processes and liaison with data owners.

- All these achievements were done involving those responsible data providers through training and user stories including specific tasks. At this time, organisations such as the Environmental Protection Agency, Geological Survey Ireland, Marine Institute, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Central Statistics Office, Tailte Éireann, Met Éireann, Teagasc and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine have carried out work such as creating metadata, transforming data with FME according to technical specifications and even publishing the corresponding network services. Those undertaken tasks and organizations will serve as a reference for the rest of the data providers in order to comply with the INSPIRE Directive. New objectives involve working on the coverage of as many INSPIRE themes as possible and scheduling maintenance activities.

Functioning and coordination of the infrastructure

- Tailte Éireann provides the INSPIRE Geoportal and supporting functions through a managed service as agreed with Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The INSPIRE Geoportal of Ireland is the official access point to the INSPIRE compliant information of Ireland (metadata of datasets and services).
- Ireland's INSPIRE Geoportal was upgraded with new hardware and software, and with simpler implementation to remove and reduce accessibility issues related to complex licencing and security software in previous version. The rebuilding project is a long term project that involves a full review of a system that had included data that was not relevant to INSPIRE and building, in the first instance, on relevant metadata.
- The Geoportal is available at <https://inspire.geohive.ie> and Discovery Service Endpoint is at <https://inspire.geohive.ie/geoportal/csw?SERVICE=CSW&VERSION=2.0.2&REQUEST=GetCapabilities>
- The Geoportal is an integral part of Ireland's commitment to meeting its INSPIRE obligations.
- During 2020 metadata was migrated to MD TG 2.0 as required by the INSPIRE Directive and the following years metadata files were updated when required (maintenance task).
- During 2021 and 2022 main tasks accomplished were related to services as last Monitoring and Reporting reflects: service publication and creation / update of their related metadata. Indicators related to 'Monitoring of the availability of spatial data and service' and 'Monitoring of the accessibility of spatial data sets through view and download services' have improved.
- Web services have been published with Tailte Éireann's own resources / tools and on the Amazon Web Service to comply with the INSPIRE directive regarding viewing and downloading services.
- Irish progress was highlighted as 'Good practices' identified by European Commission in last Monitoring and reporting:
 - 100% conformity of INSPIRE metadata.
 - Overall improvement of M&R indicators (2022 vs. 2021).

Usage of the infrastructure for spatial information

- The challenge of building more open, transparent and accountable public governance in Ireland is a key objective in the Irish Public Service; and progress is being achieved through a range of reform initiatives.
- In January 2019 the Government published its first Data Strategy for the public service which sets out goals and actions to

deliver more joined-up whole-of-Government approach to how data is used and managed within the public service. The INSPIRE Directive is referenced in section 5.12 under the heading of Geo-Spatial. This strategy is available to download at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/1d6bc7-public-service-data-strategy-2019-2023/>

- The Open Data Initiative is closely aligned with the Public Service Reform Plan, the ICT Strategy, and the Civil Service Renewal Plan. As of March 2023 there are almost 15,000 datasets published on the Open Data portal <https://data.gov.ie/> from 160 publishers.
- Open data is recognized by the Irish Government as having a powerful role to play in the Public Service. Open Data is an important element of a wide variety of key policy documents and action plans. Ireland's Open Data portal provides transparency through the publication of Irish Public Sector data in open, free and reusable formats.
- Some of the INSPIRE tasks may cross over to INSPIRE elements of High Value Datasets identified under the Open Data Directive. The Directive (full title is the Open Data and re-use of Public Sector Information Directive) (EU) 2019/1024 was transposed into Irish law by [SI 376/2021](#) on July 22nd 2021.

Data sharing arrangements

- The INSPIRE Data Sharing arrangements organise the publication of the declared Irish INSPIRE datasets through the Irish INSPIRE Geoportal to connect into the EU INSPIRE portal and wider INSPIRE network of re-use.
- The National Mapping Agreement is an agreement between the Irish Government and Tailte Éireann which gives Government Departments, Public Sector Bodies and Educational Institutions, including new and existing users, access to Tailte Éireann geospatial data.
- As part of the Open Data initiative, the open licence format adopted by the Irish Government is the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY 4.0) licence, which allows for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials. This policy is in line with the Commission's guidelines on recommended licences and datasets in relation to the Public Sector Information Directive.
- In March 2019 the [Data Sharing and Governance Act 2019](#) was signed into law. The Act comes in the wake of the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 in order to clarify and strengthen the data sharing rights and obligations of public bodies. The Act paves the way for more efficient and cost effective service delivery by public bodies by providing a clear legal basis for the sharing of personal data in certain circumstances. The aim is to reduce the administrative burden associated with the need for individuals to provide their personal data to numerous public bodies.

Costs and benefits

- While the total costs associated with implementing the Directive are not systematically being measured across all stakeholders, Ireland's has focused strongly on coordination among the owners of national datasets, working towards compliance with the Directive through the organisation and delivery of workshops and guidance as required. The impact of this has been a reduction in costs for stakeholders and stronger momentum towards compliance.
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage continues to make available a budget of €250,000 year on year since 2019 for INSPIRE Expertise. Data owners benefit greatly from this expertise in terms of training, education, guidance and empowerment for implementation.

Key facts and figures

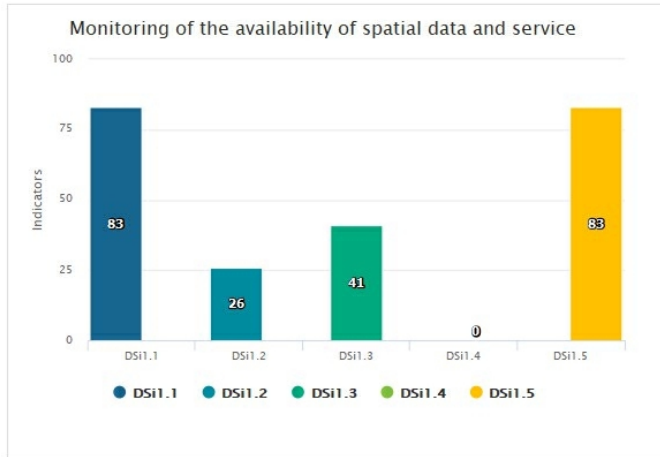
Ireland 

Indicators in support of Commission Decision (EU) 2019/1372 implementing Directive 2007/2/EC (INSPIRE) as regards to monitoring and reporting

Graphs generated with data taken from: https://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/mr2022_details.html?country=ie

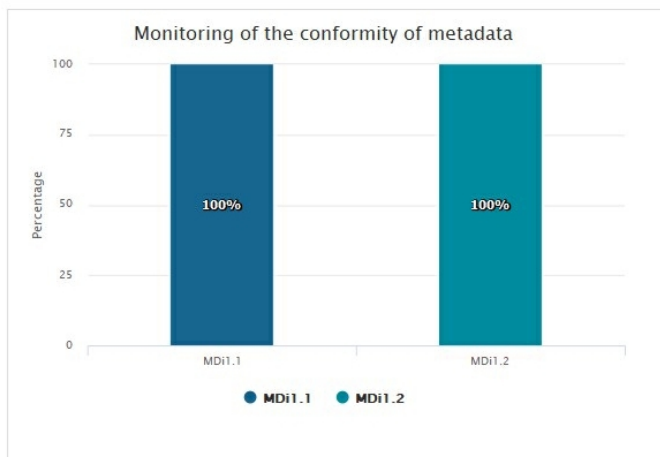
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Endpoint: 16905a12-c63f-490f-b2ad-94f064cc8ad1



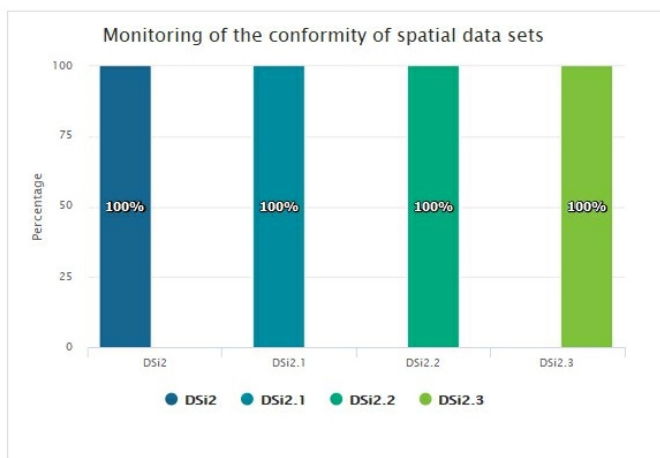
Legend

Indicator	Definition
DSi1.1	The number of spatial data sets for which metadata exist
DSi1.2	The number of spatial data services for which metadata exist
DSi1.3	The number of spatial data sets for which the metadata contains one or more keywords from a register provided by the Commission indicating that the spatial data set is used for reporting under the environmental legislation
DSi1.4	The number of spatial data sets for which the metadata contains a keyword from a register provided by the Commission indicating that the spatial data set covers regional territory
DSi1.5	The number of spatial data sets for which the metadata contains a keyword from a register provided by the Commission indicating that the spatial data set covers national territory



Legend

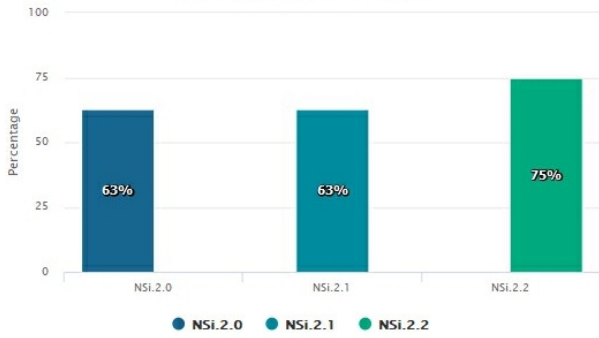
Indicator	Definition
MDi1.1	Percentage of metadata for spatial data sets conformant with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1205/2008 as regards metadata
MDi1.2	Percentage of metadata for spatial data services conformant with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1205/2008 as regards metadata



Legend

Indicator	Definition
DSi2	Percentage of spatial data sets that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 as regards interoperability of spatial data sets
DSi2.1	Percentage of spatial data sets, corresponding to the themes listed in Annex I, that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 as regards interoperability of spatial data sets
DSi2.2	Percentage of spatial data sets, corresponding to the themes listed in Annex II, that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 as regards interoperability of spatial data sets
DSi2.3	Percentage of spatial data sets, corresponding to the themes listed in Annex III, that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 as regards interoperability of spatial data sets

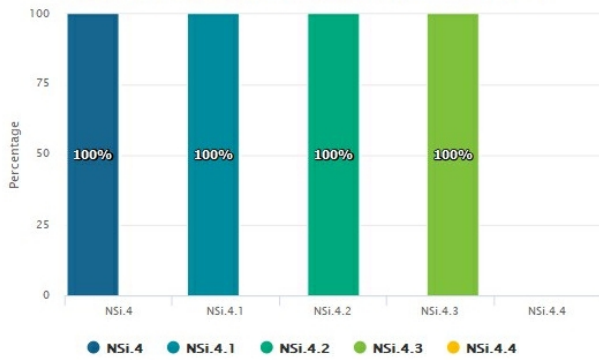
Monitoring of the accessibility of spatial data sets through view and download services



Legend

Indicator	Definition
● NSi.2.0	The Percentage of spatial data sets that are accessible through view and the download services
● NSi.2.1	The Percentage of spatial data sets that are accessible through view services
● NSi.2.2	The Percentage of spatial data sets that are accessible through download services

Monitoring of the conformity of the network services



Legend

Indicator	Definition
● NSi.4	Percentage of the network services that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 as regards the Network Services
● NSi.4.1	Percentage of the discovery services that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 as regards the Network Services
● NSi.4.2	Percentage of the view services that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 as regards the Network Services
● NSi.4.3	Percentage of the download services that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 as regards the Network Services
● NSi.4.4	Percentage of the transformation services that are in conformity with Commission Regulation (EC) No 976/2009 as regards the Network Services