



# Status of implementation of the INSPIRE Directive – 2016 Country Fiches

## COUNTRY FICHE Ireland

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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 of Ireland 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 2016** as a summary of the information acquired through:

- the 2016 [tri-annual INSPIRE implementation report](#),
- [monitoring report](#) in May 2016.

## 1. State of Play

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](#).

The content of the chapter is tagged according to 5 criteria of better regulation:

- **[Effectiveness]** How successful has the INSPIRE implementation been in achieving, progressing towards its objectives; progress made, gaps, what factors have influenced or why it has not yet been achieved regarding availability of services, data interoperability, sharing, data policy obstacles
- **[Efficiency]** Costs (numbers or difficulties to evaluate them); benefits (qualitative or quantitative) already visible.
- **[Relevance]** Is it still relevant to make data interoperable, remove obstacles of data sharing, drive collaboration between public services, necessary for National SDI, use cross-sector, requested by eGovernment, modernisation of public admin, etc.; support given by National Institutions for implementation
- **[Coherence]** Internal coherence of INSPIRE provisions proved by implementation; cross-border applications; coherence with other National and EU policies
- **[EU-added value]** Improvement of EU cross-border data management and use; use for environmental monitoring and reporting, use for and with Copernicus data; use cross-sector.

### 1.1 Coordination

- National Contact point

Name of the public authority	Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
Contact information:	
Mailing address	IRL INSPIRE, National Contact Point Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Newtown Road Wexford Ireland
Telephone number	+353 53 9117500
Telefax number	
Email address	<a href="mailto:inspire@housing.gov.ie">inspire@housing.gov.ie</a>
Organisation's website URL	<a href="http://www.housing.gov.ie">http://www.housing.gov.ie</a>
Contact person (if available)	Tony Collins
Telephone number	+353 53 9117461
Email address	<a href="mailto:tony.collins@housing.gov.ie">tony.collins@housing.gov.ie</a>
Contact person - substitute (if available)	Rob Ovington
Telephone number	+353 1 888 2802
Email address	<a href="mailto:Rob.ovington@housing.gov.ie">Rob.ovington@housing.gov.ie</a>

- Coordination Structure
  - The ISDI/INSPIRE Steering Committee is providing a structure within which various key stakeholder bodies can be represented and make input into the ISDI/INSPIRE implementation process.
  - The terms of reference of the Committee is to provide a strategic overview and appropriate guidance on the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive.
- Progress

- Following changes in Departmental configurations in Ireland since the last triennial report was submitted, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government 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 in July of 2016.
- The principal stakeholders remained the Government Departments and State Agencies identified in previous reports. The INSPIRE Steering Committee is the main vehicle for the coordination of stakeholder interests.

## 1.2 Functioning and coordination of the infrastructure

- Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSi) provides the INSPIRE geo-portal and supporting technical functions through a managed service as agreed with Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG). The roles and responsibilities of both parties with respect to that managed service are laid out in a formal Memorandum of Understanding document.
- In 2014 the Open Data portal data.gov.ie was launched. In November 2015, OSi launched GeoHive.ie to make spatial data in Ireland easier to find, share and use.
- The Public Service ICT Strategy, launched in January 2015, provides for integrated services and increased data sharing to drive significant efficiencies; facilitate insight driven decision making; increase openness and transparency between Government and the public; and provide a higher user experience and quality of service for citizens, businesses and public servants. **[Coherence]**

## 1.3 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.
- The Open Data Initiative is closely aligned with the Public Service Reform Plan, the ICT Strategy, and the Civil Service Renewal Plan.
- As of June 2017 there are over 5,200 datasets published on the Open Data portal from almost 100 discrete publishers and there were in excess of 8,000 visitors to the site in March 2017, for example. However, accessing the data.gov.ie portal is not the same as accessing or using data. It is likely that when users know the web services available, that they will go there directly and not check via the portal.
- The GeoPortal.ie portal allows end users to complete cross-border searches for INSPIRE environmental spatial data, by providing an optional search link with the Northern Ireland Spatial NI™ project catalogue. There have been meetings between Ordnance Survey Ireland and the Northern Ireland authorities in the period under review, to discuss INSPIRE issues. Discussions have also include a planned technical upgrade to the GeoPortal platform, similar to the upgrade that SpatialNI are currently undertaking. **[EU added value]**
- In the period since the last report, most of the progress made in relation to transforming spatial datasets into the INSPIRE data specifications was in respect of Administrative Units, Transport Networks and Hydrography (under Annex 1) and Ortho-imagery under Annex 2. **[Effectiveness]**
- Ordnance Survey Ireland, the EPA and the National Parks and Wildlife Service are currently collaborating on initiatives to provide INSPIRE web services for the viewing and downloading of data transformed to Annex 1 data specification in respect of natural heritage datasets (Protected Sites theme) and the river network dataset (Hydrography theme).

## 1.4 Data Sharing Arrangements

- The INSPIRE Data Sharing arrangements organise the publication of the declared Irish INSPIRE datasets through the Irish INSPIRE Geoportals to connect into the EU INSPIRE portal and wider INSPIRE network of re-use.
- In July 2015, the Government approved the drafting of the Data-Sharing and Governance Bill along the lines of the General Scheme, subject to such drafting or technical amendments as may be agreed between the Minister and the Attorney General. The purpose of the Bill is to mandate greater data-sharing and data-linking in the public service, to provide a legal mechanism to facilitate lawful data-sharing and data-linking for all public bodies, and to define

standards for data governance and security to be followed in any data sharing-or data-linking activities. The Bill is expected to undergo pre-legislative scrutiny in the 2017 Spring/Summer Oireachtas (Parliament) term.

- The National Mapping Agreement is an agreement between the Irish Government and OSi which gives Government Departments, Public Sector Bodies and Educational Institutions, including new and existing users, access to Ordnance Survey Ireland's geospatial data. **[Effectiveness]**
- As part of the Open Data initiative, the open licence format adopted by the Irish Government is the Creative Commons Attribution (CC-BY) 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. **[Coherence]**

### 1.5 Costs and Benefits

- In summary, the total costs associated with implementing the Directive are not systematically being measured across all stakeholders, partly because it is very difficult to track the costs related specifically to INSPIRE implementation versus those incurred in efforts to open up and share GIS data under other related projects.
- In the period since the last report, there has been a growing awareness of the value of open data, including GIS data. Similarly, it is reasonable to conclude that there is a growing awareness across State bodies of the benefits of delivering services on a spatial basis. It is likely that the INSPIRE Directive has helped to inform that increased awareness although no studies have been undertaken to attempt to disaggregate the contribution of INSPIRE from the general policy shift towards open data. **[Efficiency]**

## 2 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 Ireland 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.

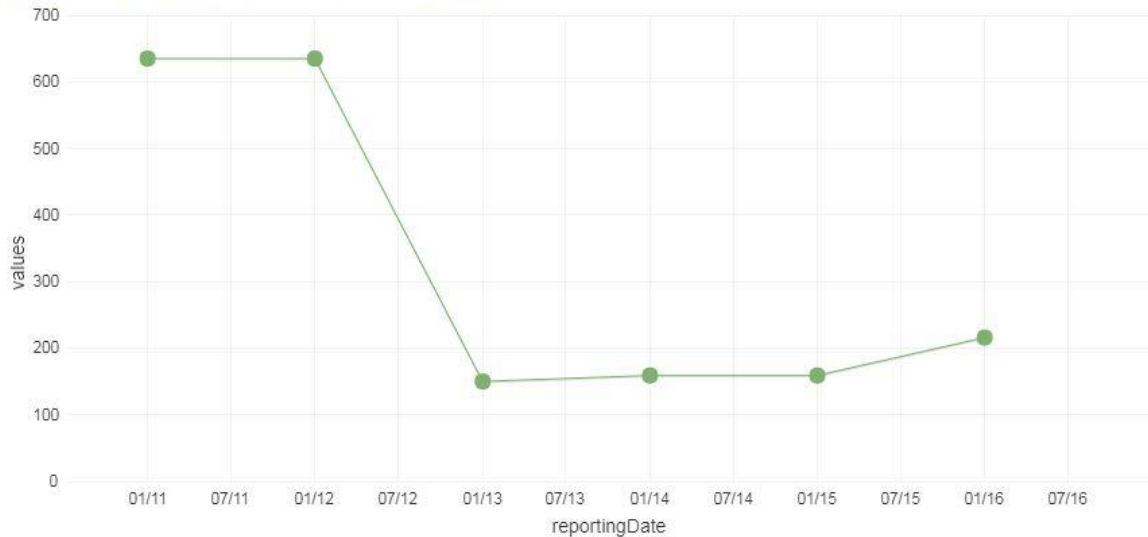
## 2.1. Identification of spatial data with relevance to the environment (step 1)

### a. Evolution of the data offering

DSv\_Num: number of spatial data sets for all Annexes

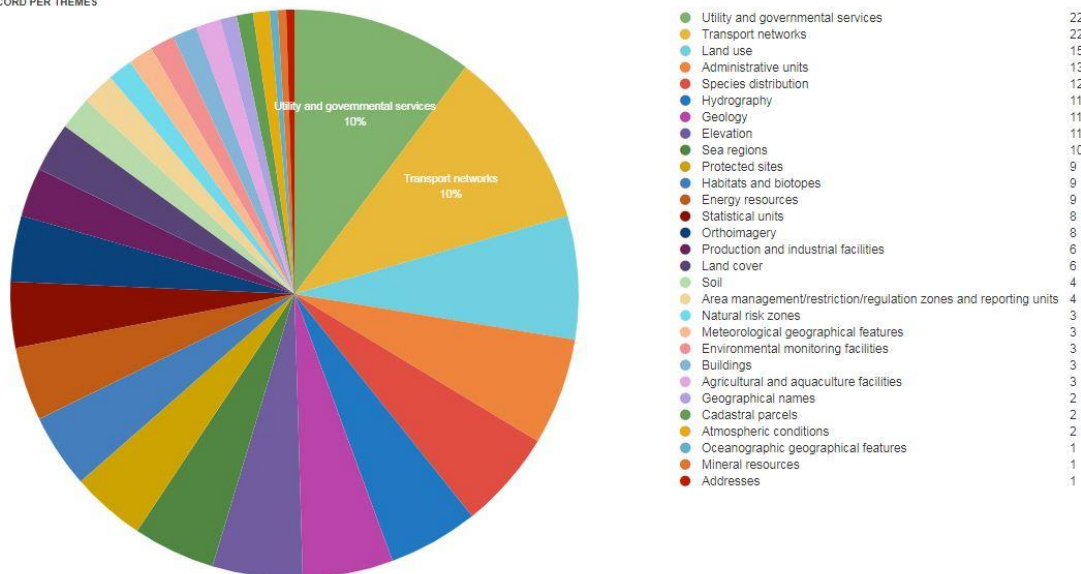
NUMBER OF SPATIAL DATA SETS FOR ALL ANNEXES (DSV\_NUM)

(6) indicator/Value values per 1y | (6 Hits) | Time correction: browser



### b. Data sets made available per INSPIRE theme in 2015

NUMBER OF RECORD PER THEMES

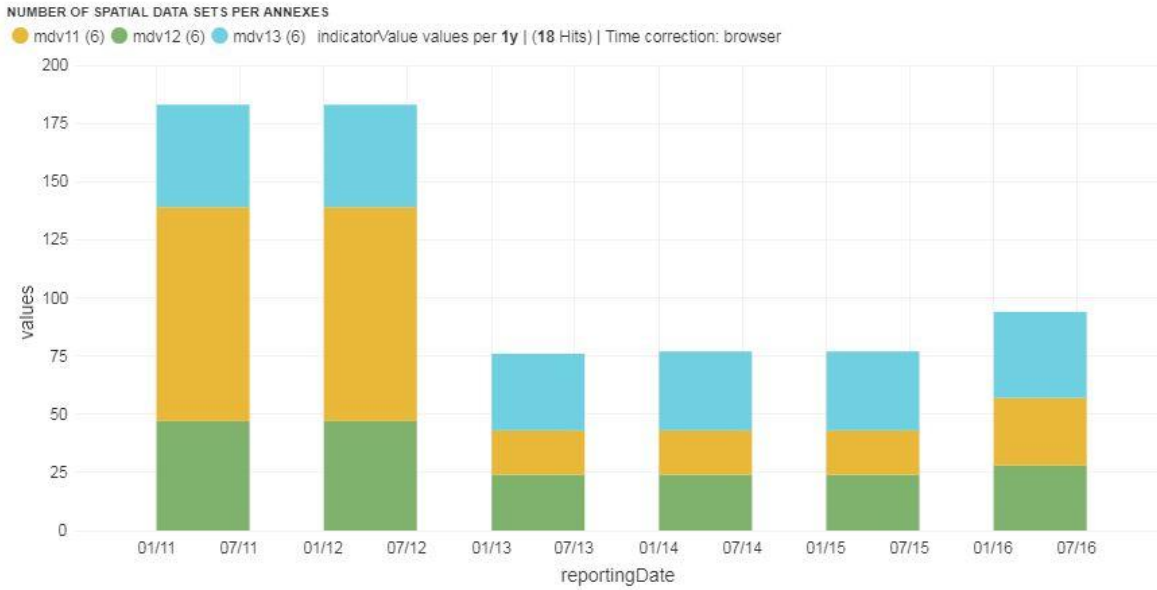


### c. Data sets per annex (Annex 1 & 2: spatial reference data; Annex 3: environmental spatial data)

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

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

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



### Evaluation of progress for step 1:

Ireland has identified a total of 216 spatial data sets with relation to the themes listed in the INSPIRE annexes.

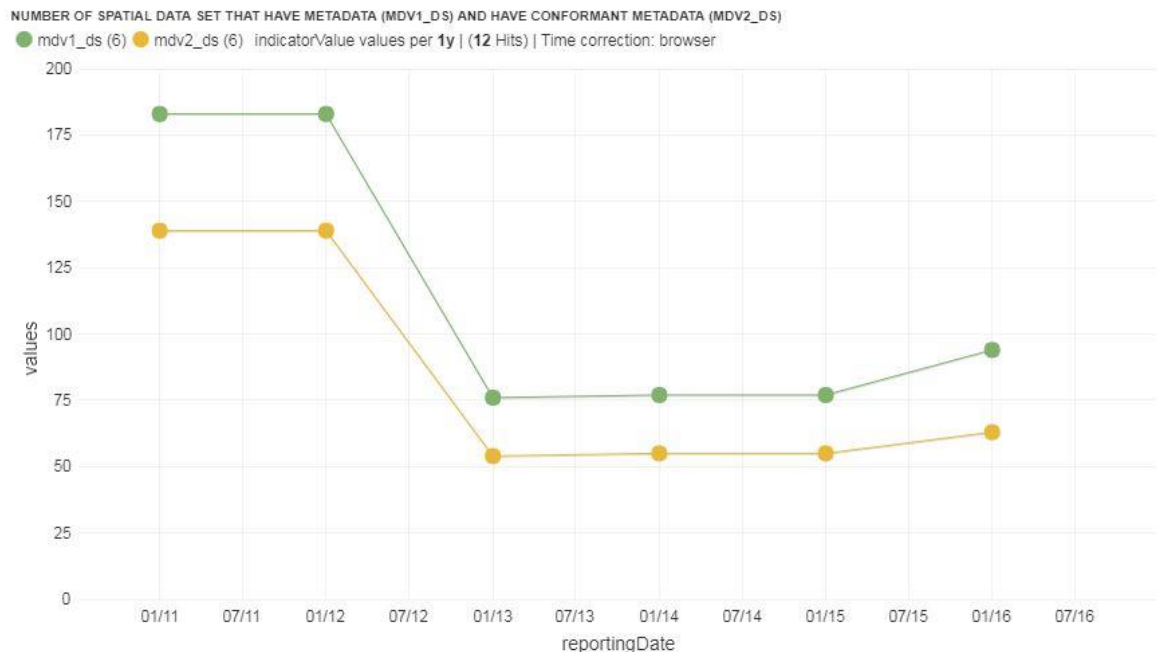
Additional spatial data sets have been identified in 2016. Total number of identified spatial data sets is not corresponding with number of spatial data sets per annexes. The identification still could further improve by identifying and documenting spatial data sets required under the existing reporting and monitoring regulations of EU environmental law.

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

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

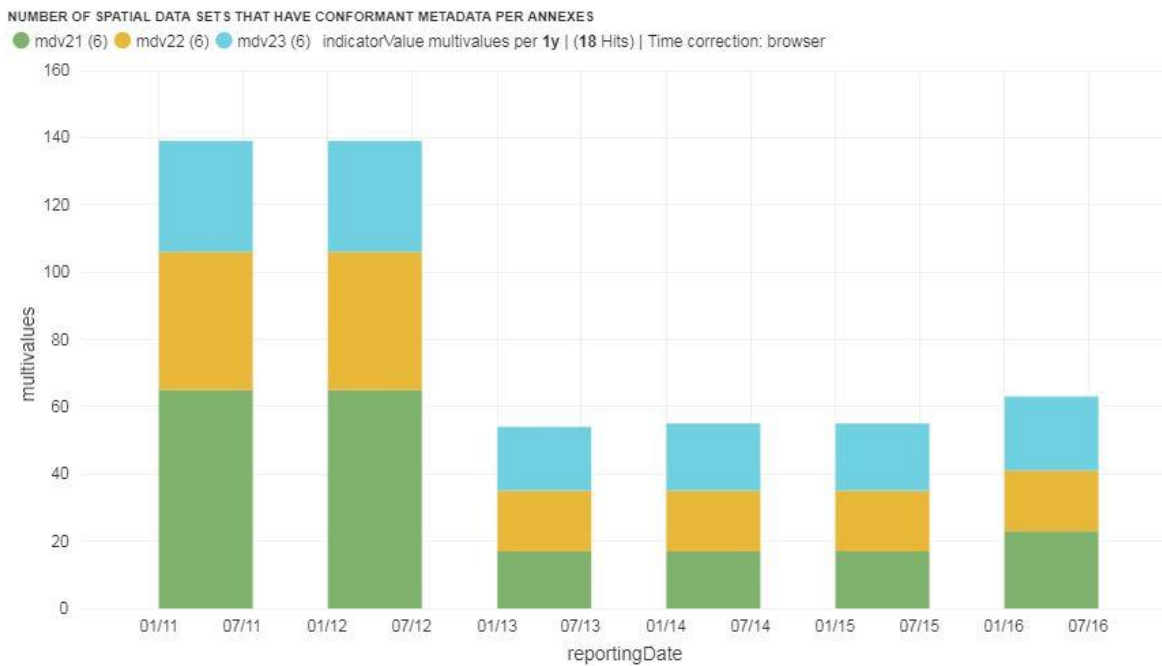
MDv1\_DS (green): number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have metadata

MDv2\_DS (yellow): number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have conformant metadata



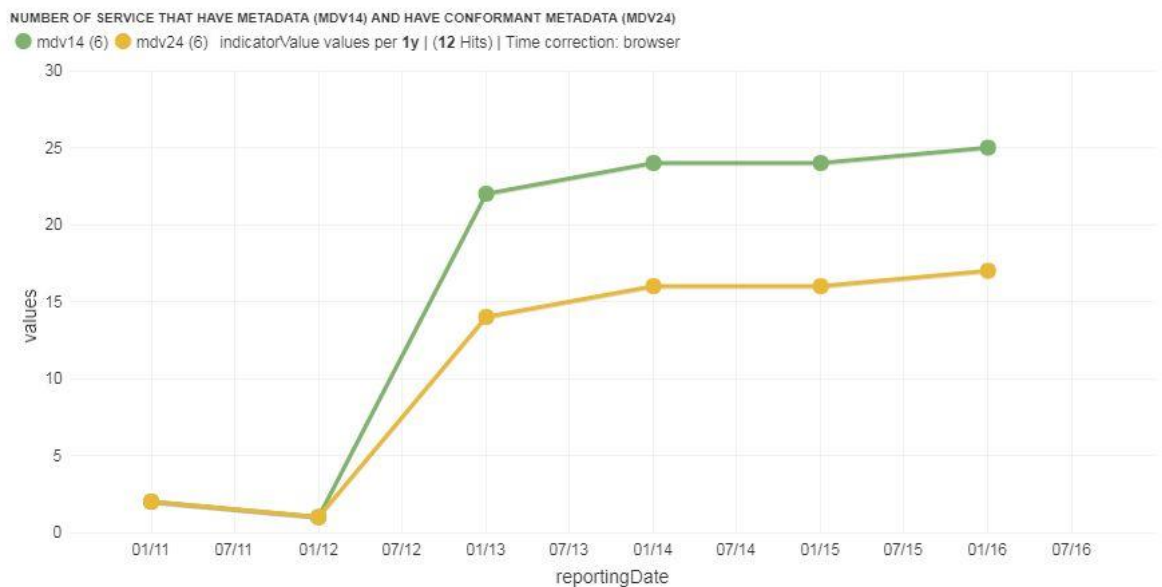
### b. Documented data per annex in 2015

MDv2.1 (green): number of spatial data sets for Annex I that have conformant metadata  
 MDv2.2 (yellow): number of spatial data sets for Annex II that have conformant metadata  
 MDv2.3 (blue): number of spatial data sets for Annex III that have conformant metadata



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

MDv1.4 (green): number of spatial data services that have metadata  
 MDv2.4 (yellow): number of spatial data services that have conformant metadata

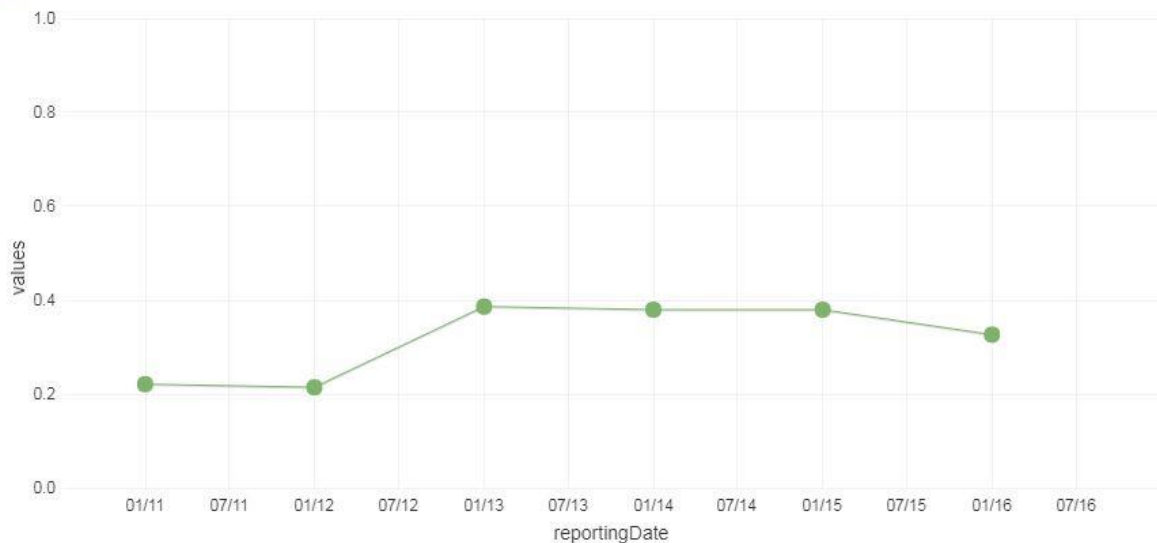


#### d. Evolution of the overall conformity of the documented metadata

MDi2 = (number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have conformant metadata + number of spatial data services that have conformant metadata) / (number of spatial data sets for all Annexes + number of spatial data services)

PERCENTAGE OF SPATIAL DATA SETS AND SERVICES WITH CONFORMANT METADATA (MDI2)

● mdi2 (6) indicatorValue values per 1y | (6 Hits) | Time correction: browser



#### Evaluation of progress for step 2:

Ireland has documented and published metadata through a digital discovery service for 43,52% (94 out of 216) of the identified spatial data sets and 86,21% (25 out of 29) of the digital services. Overall, 32,65% of the metadata conforms to the INSPIRE metadata specifications.

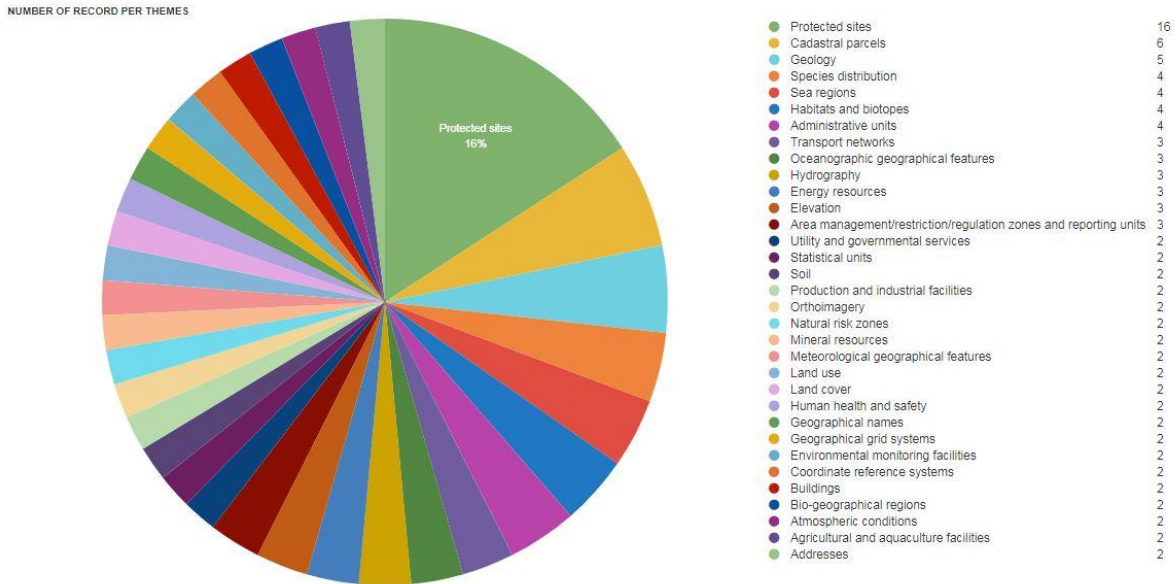
Many datasets are still missing metadata and are not discoverable through infrastructure. To support data discovery for the end-users of the INSPIRE infrastructure, Ireland should also achieve better technical conformity of the available metadata.



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

### a. Digitally accessible spatial data per INSPIRE theme in 2015

Note: This figure reflects the amount of spatial data sets made available through a digital service, not the amount of available digital services. A digital service can make several spatial data sets available.



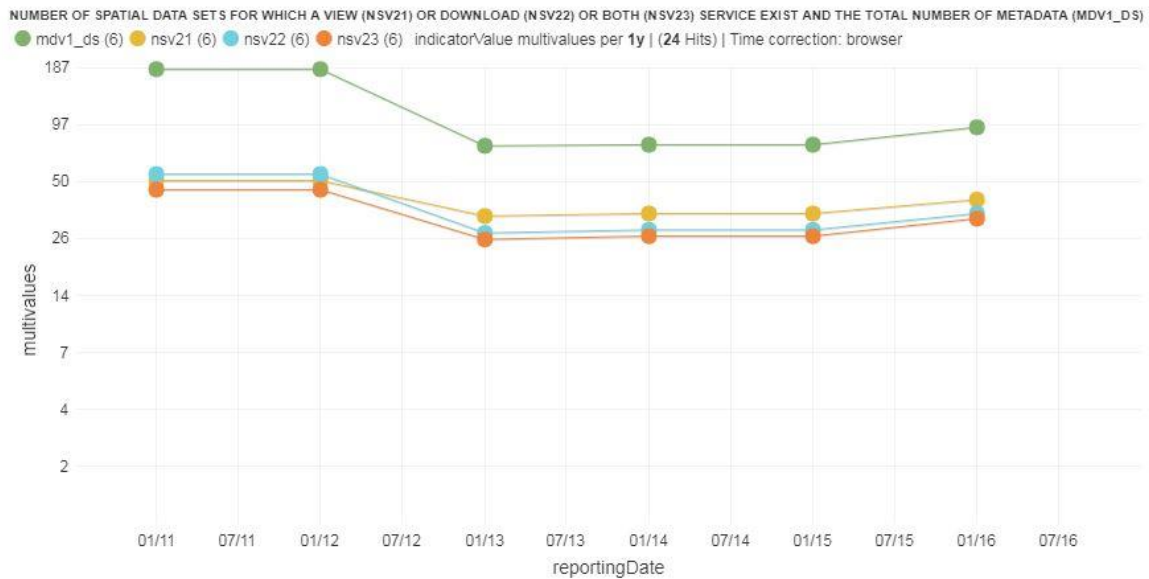
### b. Evolution of spatial data made accessible through digital services

MDv1\_DS (green): number of spatial data sets for all Annexes that have metadata

NSv2.1 (yellow): number of spatial data sets for which a view service exists

NSv2.2 (blue): number of spatial data sets for which a download service exists

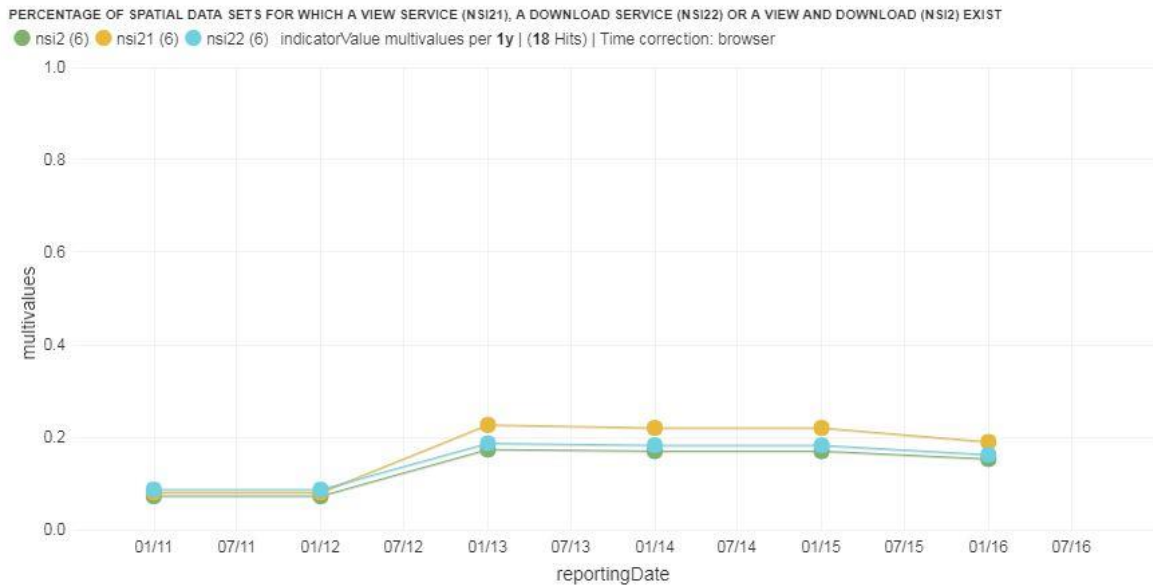
NSv2.3 (orange): number of spatial data sets for which both a view and a download service exists



NSi2 (green) = number of spatial data sets for which both a view and a download service exists / number of spatial data sets for all Annexes

NSi2.1 (yellow) = number of spatial data sets for which a view service exists / number of spatial data sets for all Annexes

NSi2.2 (blue) = number of spatial data sets for which a download service exists / number of spatial data sets for all Annexes



### c. Evolution of the conformity of the digital services

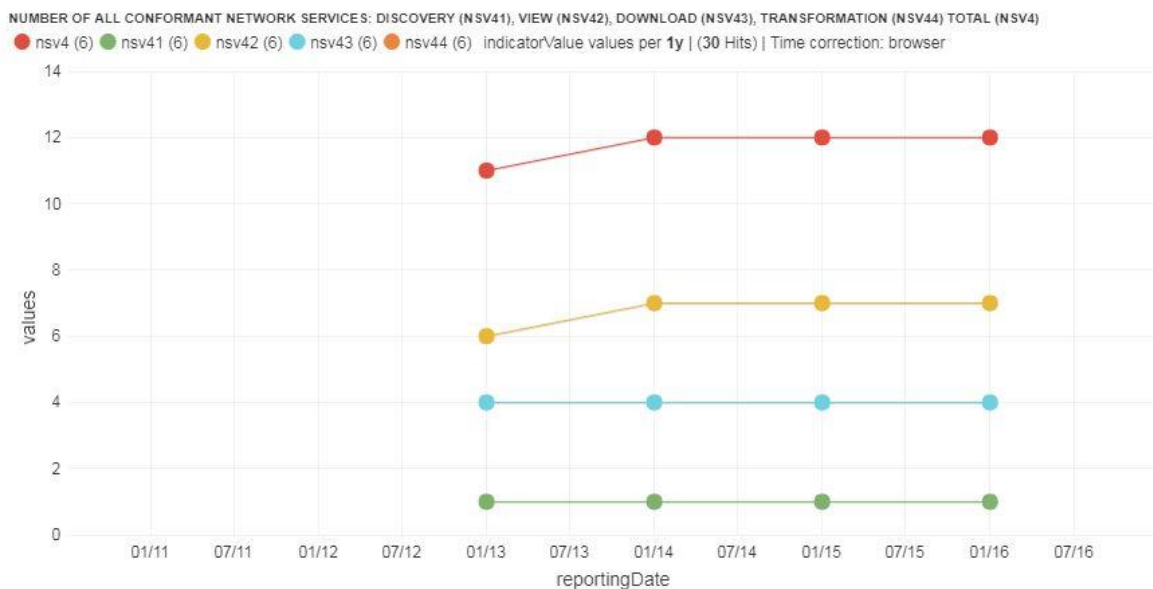
NSv4 (red): number of all conformant network services

NSv4.1 (green): number of conformant discovery network services

NSv4.2 (yellow): number of conformant view network services

NSv4.3 (blue): number of conformant download network services

NSv4.4 (orange): number of conformant transformation network services



### Evaluation of progress for step 3:

Ireland has:

- 18,98% of its data sets accessible for viewing through a view service;
- 16,20% of its data sets accessible for download through a download service.

**41,37% (12 out of 29) of the available digital services are conform to the INSPIRE network service specifications.**

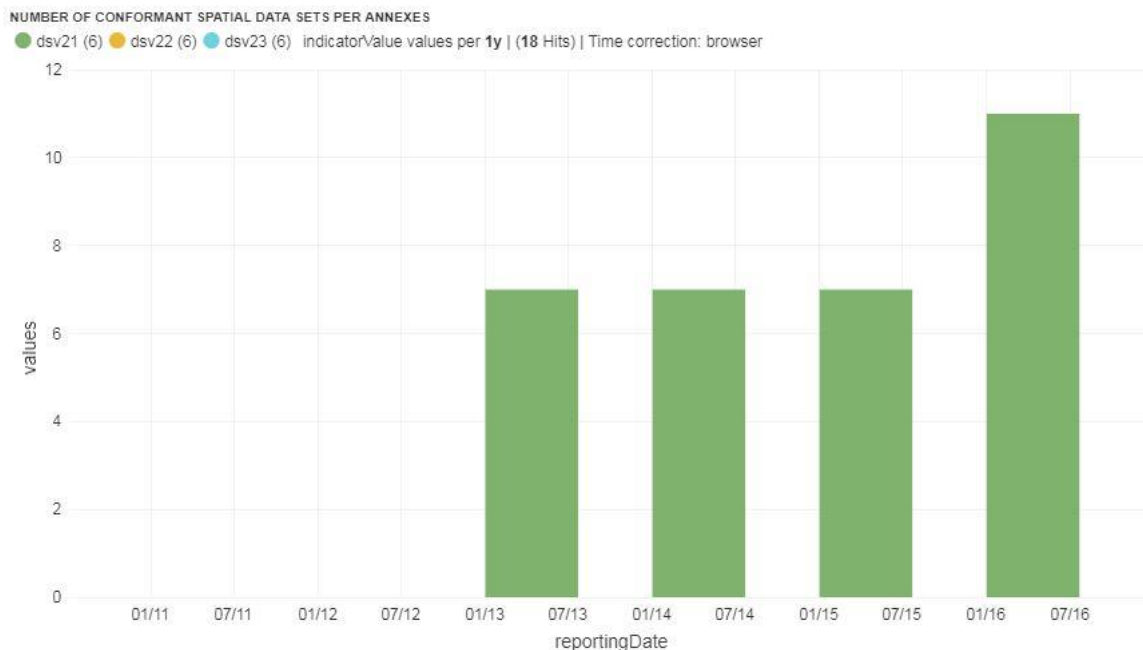
Ireland shows slow progress in building the necessary capacity and competences to make data accessible through digital INSPIRE network services. The technical conformity of the available services with the INSPIRE network service specifications is also poor. Ireland should boost their effort to further improve the accessibility of their spatial data through digital INSPIRE services.

#### 2.4. 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](#)). The deadlines for implementation of the spatial data interoperability are in the future: 23/11/2017 for Annex I data and 21/10/2020 for Annex II and III data.

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

DSv2.1 (green): number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex I  
DSv2.2 (yellow): number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex II  
DSv2.3 (blue): number of conformant spatial data sets with conformant metadata for Annex III



#### Evaluation of progress for step 4:

**Ireland has reported 11 data sets, all Annex I, to be conform to the INSPIRE interoperability specifications.**

We can conclude that Ireland has already started its preparations for the 2017/2020 data interoperability deadlines.

### 3. Outlook

Ireland has not provided an action plan in 2016.

### 4. Summary - How is Country doing?

INSPIRE key obligation	Overall implementation status and trend	Outlook	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Dashboard Legend</u></b></p> <p><b>Implementation Status:</b></p> <p>☺: implementation of this provision is well advanced or (nearly) completed. Outstanding issues are minor and can be addressed easily.</p> <p>☹: implementation of this provision has started and made some progress but is still far from being complete. Outstanding issues are significant and need to be addressed to ensure that the objectives of the legislation can still be reached by 2020.</p> <p>☹: implementation of this provision is falling significantly behind or has not even started. Serious efforts are necessary to close implementation gap.</p> <p><b>Trend:</b></p> <p>↗: the trend of the implementation is positive.</p> <p>→: the trend of the implementation is neutral.</p> <p>↘: the trend of the implementation is negative.</p> <p><b>Outlook:</b></p> <p>🟢: clear and targeted actions have been identified which allow reaching the objectives of the legislation in an effective way.</p> <p>🟡: No real progress has been made in the recent past or actions which have been identified are not clear and targeted enough to predict a more positive outlook.</p> <p>🔴: no actions have been identified to overcome identified implementation gaps.</p>
Ensure effective coordination	☹ ↗	NA	
Data sharing without obstacles	☹ →	NA	
Step 1: Identify spatial datasets	☹ ↗	NA	
Step 2: Document datasets (metadata)	☹ →	NA	
Step 3: Provide services for identified spatial datasets (discovery, view, download)	☹ →	NA	
Step 4: Make spatial datasets interoperable by aligning them with the common data models.	☹ ↗	NA	

### Specific recommendations:

For each Member State, the accessibility of environmental data (based on what the INSPIRE Directive envisages) as well as data-sharing policies have been systematically reviewed.

Ireland has indicated in the 3-yearly INSPIRE implementation report that the necessary data-sharing policies allowing access and use of spatial data by national administrations, other Member States' administrations and EU institutions without procedural obstacles are available and implemented. Open data policy is one of the cornerstones of IE policies. The existing INSPIRE licence shall be superseded by open data policy in 2016.

Assessments of monitoring reports issued by Ireland and the spatial information that Ireland has published on the INSPIRE geoportal indicate that not all spatial information needed for the evaluation and implementation of EU environmental law has been made available or is accessible. The larger part of this missing spatial information consists of the environmental data required to be made available under the existing reporting and monitoring regulations of EU environmental law.

#### *Suggested action*

- Identify and document all spatial data sets required for the implementation of environmental law, and make the data and documentation at least accessible 'as is' to other public authorities and the public through the digital services foreseen in the INSPIRE Directive.