

# 26 Information, Knowledge and Tools to Support Public Authorities on INSPIRE implementation

## Type of support / service available

The INSPIRE Knowledge Base is an interactive online platform providing access for all resources related to INSPIRE. INSPIRE is the European legal framework establishing standards to share spatial data in agreed way. It allows data to be reused across regions and Member States, to be discovered, viewed and accessed easily by public bodies and other interested parties. It started with information needed for environmental policy but, over time, evolved and is today used in many other sectors such as: e-government, agriculture, intelligent transport systems, disaster risk management, smart cities, energy efficiency, etc.

In close cooperation with INSPIRE's policy master, DG Environment, and the European Environment Agency, the JRC acts as the overall technical coordinator for INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation. It also carries out activities to facilitate the implementation by regional and local public authorities.

JRC developed legal Implementing Rules, Technical Guidelines and other supporting reference material, registers and registry services, now available in the INSPIRE Knowledge Base. Through this interactive platform, JRC supports Member States and regional authorities by providing background information and resources, reusable tools for the implementation of INSPIRE, training resources, information on implementation in each Member State and access to the INSPIRE Geoportal.

## Relevance for regional authorities

INSPIRE represents a significant technical and organisational investment linking together the national and sub-national data infrastructures of the 28 EU countries, in 24 languages, and covering 34 data themes from industrial facilities and protected areas to population distribution.

It involves tens of thousands of organisations at all levels of public administrations that require new or additional ICT skills to fulfil their obligations to:

- Create and publish metadata
- Publish data through standardised network services
- Transform data according to INSPIRE interoperable data models
- Develop policies and guidelines to enable data sharing
- Use and combine data from other public authorities in their own country and across borders.

## Policy context

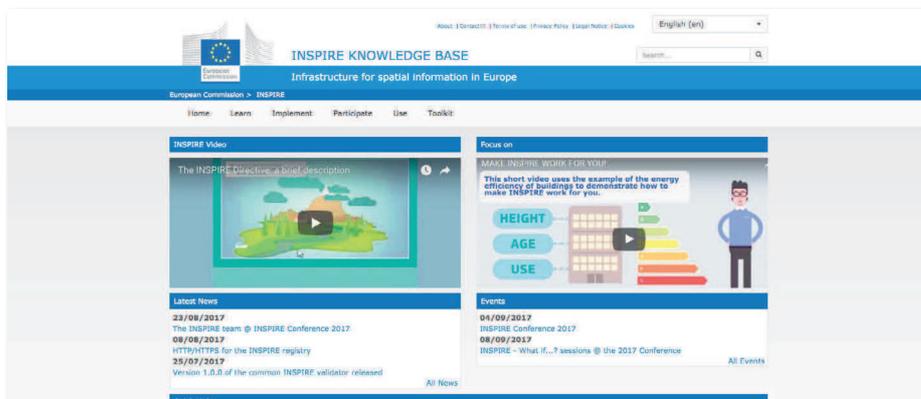
The INSPIRE Directive is the legal framework establishing the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the EU for the purposes of policies or activities that directly or indirectly impact the environment. It mandates government or public administrations at national, regional or local level, to share public spatial data in agreed standard way. The INSPIRE Directive came into force on 15 May 2007 with full implementation in Member State required by 2021. It is a building block of the Digital Single Market, introducing significant innovation in the public administration down to the local level and a cultural transformation on sharing, opening data and collaborative delivery of public services.

## How to use

The INSPIRE Knowledge Base provides access to resources, tools and discussion forums to help implement INSPIRE on national, regional and local level.

The Thematic Clusters online discussion forums and INSPIRE in Practice, a collaborative platform for sharing

resources and experiences, provide support to implement INSPIRE.



JRC INSPIRE Knowledge Base; an interactive platform and a central access point for all resources related to INSPIRE.

Additionally, the application *Find your scope* helps data providers to identify the INSPIRE spatial data themes and spatial object types that are relevant to the dataset(s) they administer.

JRC is also responsible for maintaining INSPIRE geoportal. It provides the means to search for spatial data sets and services and to view and download spatial data sets from Member States within the framework of the INSPIRE Directive.

To help organisations to create metadata on their data sets and services, the geoportal also provides an open source multilingual metadata editor. This editor has been adopted and used by many national, regional and local nodes of the infrastructure to help public bodies in documenting their data.

More information can be found on: INSPIRE Knowledge Base: <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/> and INSPIRE geoportal: <http://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/>

## Impact

Environmental problems do not stop at borders. Solving them often requires cooperation between countries and regions, which is more successful when it is easy to share data across borders and organizations.

The INSPIRE Directive supports the application of knowledge-based policies and monitoring of activities that have an environmental impact. It sets out actions aimed at removing obstacles to the sharing of spatial data between all levels of government within and across Member States.

INSPIRE started with information needed for environmental policy but, over time, evolved in an open way so that today it is used in many other sectors such as: e-government, agriculture, intelligent transport systems, disaster risk management, smart cities, energy efficiency etc. It also facilitates access by citizens and business to spatial information anywhere across the European Union.