



## European Forum for Science and Industry

### News

#### **INSPIRE, Europe's spatial data infrastructure, opens market potential for small and medium-sized companies**

*Through the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE), the European Union (EU) has created common standards to facilitate the exchange of information and data between the local, regional, national and European or international levels and thus support integrated policy decision-making at all levels of government while. INSPIRE is a set of EU and national legal acts and their coordinated implementation.*

By implementing INSPIRE, Member States, the Commission, and the European Environment Agency are adopting innovative and interoperable data management practices that greatly improve the consistency, availability and re-use of spatial information. The infrastructure will improve decision making in support of environmental policies, and of policies that have an impact on the environment. This makes INSPIRE a multi-purpose infrastructure that can be used for other policy domains as well. In fact, INSPIRE is increasingly being used as the geospatial backbone for e-Government and plays a key role in the Commission-driven programme Interoperability Solutions for European Public Administrations (ISA). INSPIRE has also been the trigger for a number of public authorities to make key geospatial data sets available as open data.

The business community has been involved from the start in the development of INSPIRE, and continues to support INSPIRE by assisting national public authorities in the implementation of the infrastructure. The JRC is working closely with the business community, such as the company Sparx Systems which, via the European Committee for Standardization (CEN), The Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission (EC) has the technical leadership in creating this spatial data infrastructure, coordinating the work of hundreds of experts from the public and private sectors in Europe to develop the common standards for spatial data for environmental related policy making. By building the INSPIRE infrastructure based on de-facto and de-jure standards, the EC has been creating a level playing field for industry.

*"The use of environmental data in the EU offers new business opportunities for companies that are only possible through the standardization of INSPIRE. Thus, the European directive is also a driving force for an exciting new industry," says Hans Bartmann, the CEO of Sparx Systems Software Central Europe, which is one of the numerous stakeholders who have devoted time and resources facilitate the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive.*

Now that we are moving into the implementation phase of INSPIRE the role of the business community in supporting the public authorities implementing INSPIRE but also as users of the INSPIRE data and services, is becoming increasingly important. In order to assess the opportunities

that INSPIRE brings to small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the SmeSpire initiative was established with the support of the EU. smeSpire helps SMEs to identify gaps in skills required for the implementing and using INSPIRE, and offers training and continuing education to address these gaps.

A very important result of smeSpire is the Europe-wide network of SMEs, which offers SMEs INSPIRE-related training, news and updates on, for instance, funding opportunities and the possibility to share best practices. smeSpire recently completed a study that highlights business opportunities that INSPIRE is creating – in particular related to the accessibility of key geospatial information. The study also identifies some obstacles, and proposes closer cooperation between public agencies and companies to better address these. One good example of this is the European Union Location Framework transportation pilot, in which private sector players for navigation systems are consuming INSPIRE data for updating their information products. The Commission continues to support the maintenance and implementation of INSPIRE, for instance through the development of the Re3ference Platform of the ARE3NA Action, which will allow solution providers including SMEs to showcase their solutions.

Policies, technologies and applications are the three key factors affecting growth of geospatial industry. Formulation of policies and its associated implementation requires strong engagement & propagation of innovations and practices. Public private partnership (PPP) is one instrumental driver not only in bridging technological gaps, but in integrating stakeholders for maximum impact. This year the annual INSPIRE Conference is organized as part of the Geospatial World Forum. The theme of the Conference, CONVERGENCE: Policies + Practices + Processes via PPP, aims to address the need for greater coordination among policy-makers, technology providers and users. This will bring opportunities to SMEs that developing innovative solutions and services. The conference will also highlight geospatial workflows as an enabler for successful PPPs by facilitating more informed decision making among the stakeholders.

#### **Related links:**

[INSPIRE website](#)

[smeSpire website](#)

[INSPIRE-Geospatial World Forum Conference](#)

[Re-usable INSPIRE components - ARE3NA](#)

[European Union Location Framework – EULF](#)

### **Upcoming events**

#### **INSPIRE-Geospatial World Forum Conference**

25-29 May 2015

Lisbon Congress Centre, Praça das Indústrias, 1300-307 Lisbon – Portugal

Directive 2007/2 on the establishment of an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe and related legislation, better known as INSPIRE, is becoming Europe's *lingua franca* for geospatial data and technologies. This year the annual INSPIRE Conference is organized as part of the Geospatial World Forum from 25 to 29 May 2015. Key representatives from the public and private sectors will feature on the plenary programme, including JRC's Director General Vladimir Sucha.

For more information and registration:

<http://www.geospatialworldforum.org/>

### **JRC Side-event to the Standardization Summit – Construction Standards**

3 June 2015

Investment and Development Agency of Latvia, Pērses str. 2, Conference hall, 2nd floor, Riga, Latvia

Within the framework of the European Forum for Science and Industry, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), together with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Association for Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO) as co-organisers is hosting the "JRC Side-event to the Standardization Summit - Construction Standards". The event will take place in Riga in the afternoon of 3 June 2015 at the Investment and Development Agency of Latvia.

The main objective of the event is to discuss the role of science and research in the field of standardisation, and how standards have enabled knowledge transfer, from research to market, to support the competitiveness of the construction industry. The audience of the event will consist of public, academic and private institutions related to the construction sector.

For further information and to register, please contact by 24 April 2015:

[fabio.taucer@ec.europa.eu](mailto:fabio.taucer@ec.europa.eu)

#### **Further information**

You can also find information on the European Forum for Science and Industry online:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/efsi>

A more general overview over current JRC activities is given by the JRC newsletter:

<https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/jrc-newsletter>

#### **The JRC invites you to contribute**

##### **The JRC invites you to participate...**

On a regular basis, the JRC will publish news about the European Forum for Science and Industry. This will include information on JRC activities related to industry needs, updates on innovative examples from science and industry as well as the announcement of upcoming events from both JRC and partners.

Therefore, I invite you to actively contribute to this publication: if you would like to present an interesting study, innovative idea or event, you are welcome to contact the JRC:

[ulla.engelmann@ec.europa.eu](mailto:ulla.engelmann@ec.europa.eu)

#### **The JRC**

...is the European Commission's in-house science service. It provides independent scientific advice for policy decisions, with a view to ensuring that the European Union achieves its Europe 2020 goals for a productive economy as well as a safe, secure and sustainable future.

The JRC includes 7 institutes in 5 European countries and collaborates extensively with over 1000 public and private organisations, institutions and expert groups.

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