



## INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG)

# INSPIRE conferences 2017 and 2018

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## Contents

1. Evaluation INSPIRE Conference 2017.....	2
2. Preparation INSPIRE Conference 2018 .....	6

## 1. Evaluation INSPIRE Conference 2017

The 2017 INSPIRE Conference took place between 4 and 8 September 2017 in Kehl/Strasbourg.

The first two days of the event were dedicated to workshops in Kehl, DE followed by three days of conference in Strasbourg, FR.

### Participation

The event was attended by 614 participants.

In terms of country representation (residence of participants) 27 Member States (548), all EEA/EFTA and several candidate accession countries (Western-Balkans, Turkey) were present.

Approximately 50% of the participants came from 4 countries (DE, FR, BE, NL) as shown in Table 1.

Table 1: EU 28 country representation

EU Country	Count	%	% / % EU population	% of EU population
Austria	7	1.28	0.75	1.7
Belgium	57	10.40	4.73	2.2
Bulgaria	0	0.00	0.00	1.4
Croatia	6	1.09	1.37	0.8
Cyprus	2	0.36	1.82	0.2
Czech Republic	17	3.10	1.48	2.1
Denmark	11	2.01	1.82	1.1
Estonia	4	0.73	2.43	0.3
Finland	17	3.10	2.82	1.1
France	82	14.96	1.14	13.1
Germany	166	30.29	1.87	16.2
Greece	1	0.18	0.09	2.1
Hungary	3	0.55	0.29	1.9
Ireland	3	0.55	0.61	0.9
Italy	39 <sup>1</sup>	7.12	0.60	11.8
Latvia	6	1.09	2.74	0.4
Lithuania	6	1.09	1.82	0.6
Luxembourg	6	1.09	10.95	0.1
Malta	2	0.36	3.65	0.1
Netherlands	33	6.02	1.82	3.3
Poland	13	2.37	0.32	7.4
Portugal	8	1.46	0.73	2

<sup>1</sup> Note: 12 EC/JRC Ispra - Italy

Romania	3	0.55	0.14	3.8
Slovakia	4	0.73	0.66	1.1
Slovenia	7	1.28	3.19	0.4
Spain	25	4.56	0.50	9.1
Sweden	8	1.46	0.73	2.0
United Kingdom	12	2.19	0.17	12.9
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>548</b>			

The EC services had 22 representatives from DG ENV, DG GROW, DG AGRI, DG RTD, DG CNECT, DG REGIO, EUROSTAT, DG MOVE JRC (12) and the EEA (5).

Category	Count	The participants represented <b>350 different organisations</b> in the following categories - the EC/EEA, public governmental administrations, research institutions and the private sector.
EC/EEA	30	
Private	147	
Public	387	
Research	23	
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>587<sup>2</sup></b>	

The public sector was represented at all levels of government – local, regional, national and EU, although as the statistic show, there was certainly a geographical bias.

There was a good participation from INSPIRE and environmental public co-ordination organisations (ministries etc.) as well as public organisations active in broader areas related to eGovernment. In addition we noted the participation of both policy levels (decision-making) and public service 'implementing' and 'user' organisations at the different levels of government.

The private sector was mainly represented by technology (GIS) providers, developers and consultants. There was only a limited participation of private sector potential users of spatial data and services (e.g. insurance companies, transport, eCommerce, energy/agricultural sector etc.).

### The Workshops

On the first two days of the event, 368 participants attended the 28 workshops organised in 5 parallel sessions.

Around 70% of the workshops presented a mix of training and technical hands-on sessions where the participants could become familiar with a wide range of technical solutions and tools developed to simplify the implementation of the INSPIRE technical framework and to facilitate the development of end-user applications underpinned by INSPIRE.

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<sup>2</sup> Note: Organisation missing for a number of participants.

Two sessions were organised as 'hackatons' where participants combined INSPIRE data with citizens' science data, Copernicus satellite data and other sources of Open data.

There were thematic workshops on INSPIRE in the domains of energy, agriculture and the marine/maritime environment.

Two workshops were dedicated to INSPIRE in the wider digital economy context looking at challenges, opportunities and new perspectives for using INSPIRE in digital government.

In the context of the INSPIRE 2016-2020 Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme workshops (3) were dedicated to INSPIRE and eReporting, to priority data sets and to the added value of INSPIRE to the Copernicus programme.

### **The Conference**

During the 3 days of conference we had 240 presentations in 28 thematic sessions (72 hours).

Around one third of the presentations had a thematic application focus on eGovernment (18), and on various aspects of environmental policies (indicators, assessment, monitoring, sustainable management of natural resources, energy, transport, the integration with statistics, compliance assurance, spatial planning, natural and technological risk management, utility and asset management).

About 15% focussed on implementation, including the alignment with other policies and initiatives, the challenges encountered, fostering fitness-for-purpose and an overview and state-of-play of the INSPIRE 2016-2020 Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme.

One quarter of the sessions (7) had a mainly technical focus including a training session for beginners and a session on Copernicus. Around 10% of the programme covered a wide range of exploratory subjects under the 'Thinking out of the box' heading where in particular the "INSPIRE What If?" session, underpinned with short position papers yielded a very interesting reflecting on the future evolution of INSPIRE.

### **Conclusion**

The event met the following objectives:

- It confirmed the political relevancy and support to INSPIRE as an infrastructure framework for both the digital economy/society and environmental policies.
- It demonstrated the application potential of INSPIRE for various EU policies and eGovernment at local to EU level.
- It showed important progress on the development of 'tools' to support the implementation of INSPIRE.
- It brought together private sector, academia and public sectors representatives to exchange views on the implementation and future outlook of INSPIRE.
- It allowed to take stock of a number of important challenges – both technical, legal and organisational that still need to be tackled to fully reap the benefits of INSPIRE as a European cross-border data infrastructure.

The 'call for submissions' met largely its objective although a number of policies such as agriculture and some environmental thematic areas (e.g. compliance assurance, waste management to name a few) could have been better represented.

Participants appreciated the interactive and practical nature of the workshops and the new format of 'speed presentations' sessions as it stimulated more interactions and discussions between the participants.

Participants appreciated the high-level political participation and support expressed in the opening plenary, while there was a more mixed feedback on the other plenary sessions.

All conference presentations can be consulted in the Conference programme:

<http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/conference2017/psessions>, in the INSPIRE Conferences search tool in which videos and power points can be consulted together : [https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/pr\\_searchx.cfm?i=0](https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/pr_searchx.cfm?i=0) or at <http://inspire.ec.europa.eu/news/inspire-conference-2017-presentations-and-video-recordings-online>

## 2. Preparation INSPIRE Conference 2018

### Date – Venue – Governance

The 2018 INSPIRE Conference dates and venue were announced at the Closing session of the 2017 conference.

The conference will take place in the city of Antwerp, Belgium as a joint initiative of the EC, The Netherlands and Belgium between the 18<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>th</sup> of September – 4 days.

A Programme and Organizing Committee has been set up.

The Programme Committee is composed of representatives of the local organizing organisations, the Dutch [Geonovum](#) and the Flanders Information Agency, [Informatie Vlaanderen](#). It includes further national and regional representatives of the two host countries - [the Belgian National Geographic Institute](#), the Walloon Region, the Spatial Data Policy department of the Dutch Ministry of Interior, [The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate](#) and [the European Commission – Directorate-General for the Environment, DG ENV](#)

DG ENV represents the [INSPIRE Coordination Team \(INSPIRE CT\)](#) in the Committee. The INSPIRE\_CT interacts for the conference with its own and other EC services and agencies and with the [INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group \(MIG\)](#).

The Programme and Organizing Committee are currently reviewing the draft texts for scene setting, scoping, call for submissions etc.

The sections below are the core ideas agreed by the Programme Committee but remain indicative and will be subject to changes.

### Conference Theme

## INSPIRE Users: Making it Work Together

### Scope and scene setting of the conference

The conference will focus on three strands – **the users and use of INSPIRE, the need for cooperation** to establish synergies, and on how to **enhance the 'fitness-for- purpose' of INSPIRE**.

The conference scene setting refers on the one hand to policy priorities related to the [Digital Single Market's](#) priority initiative for building a [European data economy](#), the [Tallinn Ministerial declaration on eGovernment](#), October 2017 where Member States and EFTA countries pledged to adhere to the vision outlined in the [European eGovernment Action Plan 2016-2020](#), the [European Interoperability Framework](#).

On the other hand, it presents the conference in the context of sustainability priorities related to the [Circular Economy Action Plan](#), the [UN Sustainable Development Goals](#), including on [the Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#) and the [2018 Work programme](#) of the EC.

The 2018 Work programme of the EC emphasises the effective application and enforcement of EU law by Member States as a 2018 priority where [considerable challenges](#) still need to be tackled to fully reap the

economic, environmental and societal benefits of the EU's environmental policies through closing the environmental 'implementing gap' [estimated in 2011 to cost the EU economy no less than €50 billion a year](#).

INSPIRE can play a key role in helping to close this 'implementation gap' through better information. Yet in order to do so, it needs to tackle its own gaps in implementation. This can only be done through an effective cooperation between all actors involved from local to EU level and beyond in implementing this digital infrastructure. This concerns also building on - and integrating INSPIRE in EU programmes such as those of the Digital Single Market initiative and the [EU space strategy programmes Copernicus and Galileo/EGNOS](#). These joint efforts are needed to further empower developer and user communities who are building and benefitting from the myriad of digital applications in many policy and societal areas that INSPIRE and those EU initiatives support.

### Scope of the call for submissions

In-line with the conference focus on the use and users of INSPIRE, on cooperation and on fitness-for-purpose there will be call for submitting workshop proposals, posters and conference presentation abstracts in three conference strands: 1) Inspire Users, 2) Doing it Together and 3) Making it Work.

### Structure of the conference

The conference will have 4 plenary sessions, workshops, a poster session and thematic oral presentations sessions.

The Opening Plenary will be mix of political and 'inspirational' key notes.

One thematic plenary will be dedicated to the role of INSPIRE in the 'Transition to the Green Economy'.

The second thematic plenary will focus on the role of INSPIRE in the 'Digital Transformation of Economy'.

The Closing plenary will have an 'inspirational' key note and a take-away synthesis of the event.

The Workshops and Thematic sessions will be organized in 6 parallel strands according to the schedule below.

	18 /09/18	19/09/18	20/09/18	21/09/18
8:00-9:00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
9:00-10:30	Workshops	Workshops	Workshops	Thematic sessions
	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00-12:30	Workshops	Workshops	Thematic sessions	Thematic sessions
	Lunch - expositions			
14:00-15:30	Opening Plenary	Thematic Plenary I	Thematic Plenary II	Thematic sessions
	Break	Break	Break	Closing Plenary
16:00-17:30	Thematic sessions	Thematic sessions	Thematic sessions	Farewell drink
	Reception		Dinner	

This schedule corresponds to 1.5 day of workshops (15 to 20 workshops) and 3.75 days of thematic sessions where depending on the format (speed/regular – 4/6 presentations per session block) there will be time for between 168 and 252 presentations.

## **Important dates**

### Submissions and programme

- 15 January 2018 Programme 1.0 online
- 15 January 2018 Call for proposals opens
- 1 April 2018 Call for proposals closes
- 1 May 2018 Acceptance notification
- 1 June 2018 Draft programme on-line
- 1 July 2018 Programme on-line

### Registration

- 15 February 2018 Early bird registration opens
- 15 August 2018 Late registration opens
- 14 September 2018 Later registration closes
- 18-22 September 2018 On-site registration

### The event

- 18-22 September 2018 INSPIRE Conference, Antwerp

***MIG-P members are invited to promote participation in the INSPIRE conference 2018 of environmental and e-government policy makers in their Member State.***