



# INSPIRE

Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe

## MIWP Action progress and review (without discussion)

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<b>Type</b>	Document for information
<b>Creator</b>	JRC
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<b>Identifier</b>	<b>MIG/7/2017/DOC8</b>
<b>Description</b>	This document gives an activity status - work carried out under MIWP action 2016.4 since the adoption of the MIWP 2017-2020 and an update on the status of 2017.4 – "Validation and conformity testing", the follow-up action on action 2016.3 "Validation & conformity" that was closed by the MIG in written procedure in September 2017.
<b>Requested actions:</b>	The members of the MIG are invited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Take note of the document;</li><li>• In the light of the planned INPSIRE TC evaluation meeting (2/2018) provide suggestions for any improvements of functioning of the INSPIRE TC Collaboration platform including roles of TC facilitators and MIG –T liaisons;</li></ul>

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# 1. Action 2016.4 Theme specific issues of data specifications & exchange of implementation experiences in thematic domains

## 1.1 Introduction

The INSPIRE Thematic Clusters on-line collaboration platform <https://themes.jrc.ec.europa.eu/> was set up and is developed and maintained with the objective of supporting INSPIRE implementation in the Member States.

All infrastructures, and INSPIRE is no exception, require maintenance and evolution. The experience gained during the development of the Technical Guidelines as well as lessons learned by implementing the infrastructure, especially in thematic domains, need to be shared to optimise performance of the infrastructure to meet policy objectives and to increase its usability within thematic domains. To aid this further evolution of INSPIRE and to help embed it in technical practices within a range of communities, on-line collaboration thematic platforms have be set up for sharing theme-specific experiences.

### The Thematic Clusters and their facilitators are:

Cluster Name <i>Facilitator</i>	INSPIRE Themes	Theme Abbreviations
<a href="#"><u>Statistical Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Mirosław MIGACZ</u></a>	Statistical Units, Population Distribution, Human Health and Safety Statistical Units, Population Distribution, Human Health and Safety	(SU-PD-HH)
<a href="#"><u>Marine and Atmosphere Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Keiran MILLARD</u></a>	Oceanographic Geographical Features, Sea Regions, Atmospheric Conditions and Meteorological Geographical Features	(OF, SR, AC, MF)
<a href="#"><u>Earth Science Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Amelia Baptie<sup>1</sup></u></a>	Geology, Soil, Natural Risk Zones, Mineral resources, Energy resources	(GS-SO-NZ-MR-ER)
<a href="#"><u>Land Cover and Land Use Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Lena HALLIN-PIHLATIE</u></a>	Land Use, Land Cover	(LU-LC)
<a href="#"><u>Elevation, Orthoimagery, Reference Systems, Geographical Grids Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Jordi ESCRIU</u></a>	Elevation, Orthoimagery, Coordinate Reference Systems, Geographical Grid	(EL-OI-RS-GG)
<a href="#"><u>Environmental Monitoring and Observations Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Katharina SCHLEIDT</u></a>	Environmental Monitoring Facilities, Observations and Measurements	(EF-OM)
<a href="#"><u>Biodiversity and Management Areas Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Stefania MORRONE</u></a>	Protected Sites, Area Management/Restriction/Regulation Zones and Reporting Units, Habitats and Biotopes, Species Distribution, Bio-geographical Regions	(PS-BR-HB-SD-AM)
<a href="#"><u>Facilities, Utilities and Public Services Cluster</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Angel LOPEZ ALOS<sup>2</sup></u></a>	Facilities, Utilities and Public Services	(PF, AF, US)

<sup>1</sup> Currently without a contract.

<sup>2</sup> In-kind participation

<a href="#">Topographic and Cadastral Reference Data</a> <i>Anja HOPFSTOCK</i>	Hydrography, Geographical Names, Administrative Units, Cadastral Parcels, Addresses, Buildings, Transport Networks	(HY-GN-AU-CP-AD-BU-TN)
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Each Thematic Cluster is managed by a facilitator, whose main task is to support INSPIRE implementers and users to share their experiences, best practices, raise questions and potentially help finding solutions in their thematic domains.

The Facilitators are helped by MIG-T liaisons (one per each Cluster) **especially when it comes to collect, document and prioritise the possible changes/additions to INSPIRE Technical Guidelines.**

### The current MIG-T liaisons are:

1. Earth Science Cluster: Carlo Cipolloni (IT)
2. Land Cover and Land Use Cluster: Lars Erik Storgaard (DK)
3. Elevation, Orthoimagery, Reference Systems, Geographical Grids Cluster: Markus Seifert (DE)
4. Environmental Monitoring and Observations Cluster: Jose Miguel Rubio Iglesias (EEA)
5. Facilities, Utilities and Public Services Cluster: ?
6. [Topographic and Cadastral Reference Data](#): Markus Jobst (AT)
7. Marine and Atmosphere Cluster: Anders Ryden (SE)
8. Biodiversity and Management Areas Cluster: ?
9. Statistical Cluster: Jari Reini (FI)

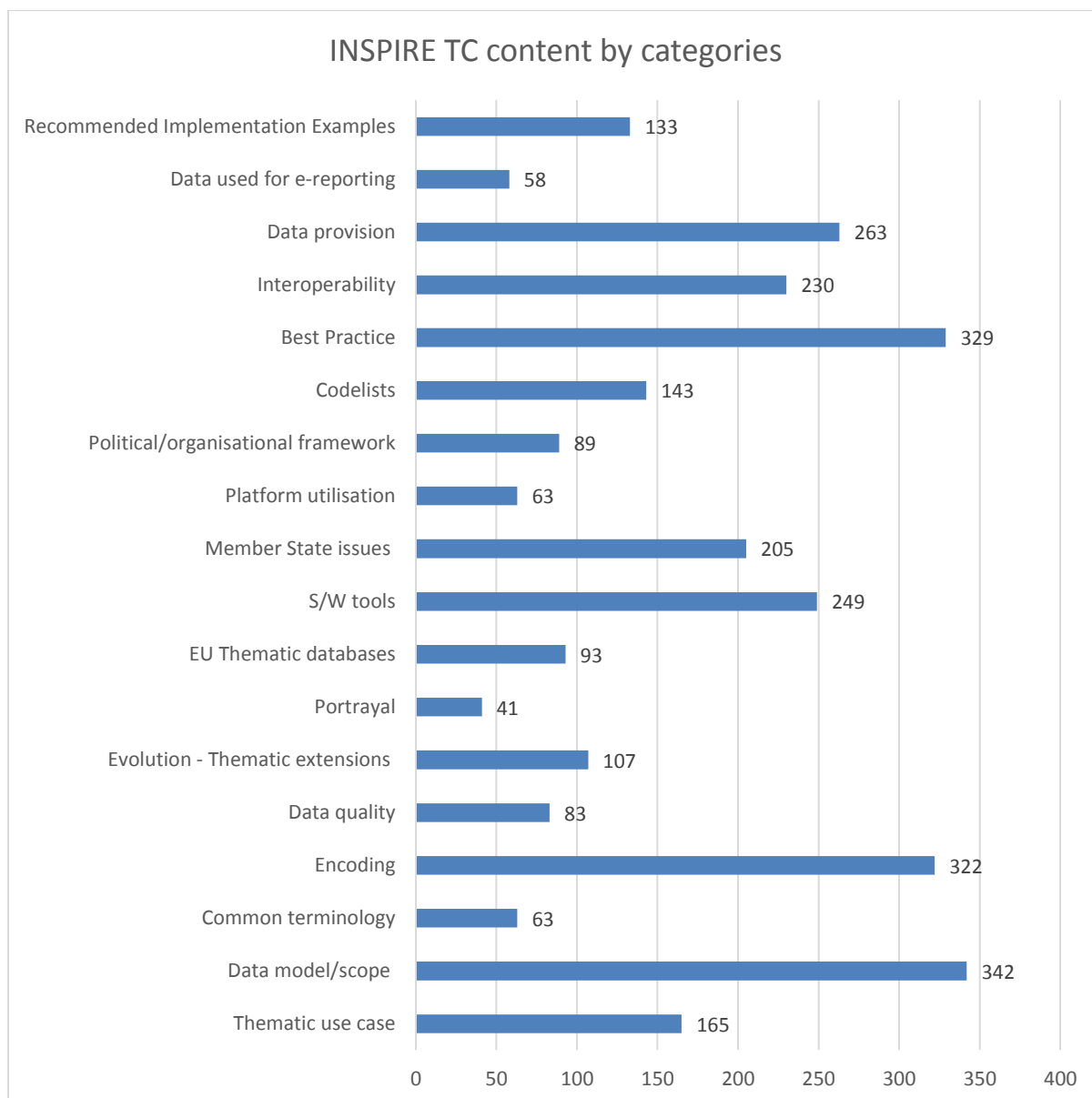
## 1.2 TC Activity

### 1.2.1 Statistics of the use of the INSPIRE TC platform (21/11/2017)

- 844 registered members
- 50 groups (groups + sub-groups)
- 613 discussion topics
- 1700+ responses
- 227 files uploaded
- 187 issue/topic dedicated pages created
- Over 18000+ visits and 52000+ page views since 1.1 2017

### Membership by Thematic Clusters





From the INSPIRE TC overall content (Documents, discussions etc.) overview it can be deduced that the topics related to data encoding (322), data model/scope (342) are the most frequent. Follow up by the content classified as Best practice (329). This current distribution of stakeholder “interest” is in line with the INSPIRE MIWP 2016-2020 e.g. the new proposed MIWP Action on alternative encodings.

In addition, the numbers of best practices (329) or recommended implementation examples (133) are increasing demonstrating clearly the intensified progress in INSPIRE implementation.

### 1.2.2 Activity reporting

#### **INSPIRE Conference 2017 Activity reports by TC facilitators:**

Each facilitator is obliged to provide a report about the activity in the respected cluster over the past period (6-12 months). The facilitator's reports contain best practices, identified issues, recommendations and suggestions for improvements as published by users in Thematic Clusters collaborative platforms or provided directly by facilitators. The last Activity reports covering the 2016 period are available here:

<https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/thematic-clusters>

#### **Presentation of the Thematic clusters activities during the MIG-T face-to-face meeting in Ispra 30-31/10/2017:**

The INSPIRE TC activity based on the material received from facilitators was presented in a dedicated section. The new issue monitoring system was presented, as well as workflow for life cycle issue management. At the end an important theme specific upcoming events organised/participated by facilitators were highlighted.

**The link to the TC overall activity presentation and summary is:**

[https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/mig-inspire/wiki/MIG-T\\_meeting\\_44](https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/mig-inspire/wiki/MIG-T_meeting_44)

**New Thematic Cluster Issue tracker:**

<https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/thematic-clusters/issues/new>

#### **Evaluation/competition/review of the Change proposals to IR on interoperability of datasets and services**

Facilitators actively participated in the first evaluation of the Change proposal to IR on datasets and services interoperability received by MS. Their expert/technical evaluation activity could be characterized as following:

- 1) first-cut expert evaluation
- 2) clarification, completion of the proposals, commenting
- 3) adding relevant links to the INSPIRE TC discussions (if exist)
- 4) in case of Geology we have received a complete TG update proposal including all geology related changes.

In total facilitator have so far have participated on 31 change proposals out 48.

## 1.3 TC Meetings 2017 and Outlook 2018

- **2017 Meetings of Thematic cluster facilitators / MIG-T liaisons**
  - 1st TC Facilitators meeting, 20/02/2017
  - 2nd Joint TC Facilitators/MIG\_T liaisons meeting, 21/03/2017
  - 3rd Joint TC Facilitators/MIG\_T liaisons meeting, 02/05/2017
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Joint TC Facilitators/MIG\_T liaisons meeting, 09/06/2017
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Joint TC Facilitators/MIG\_T liaisons meeting, 19/10/2017

- 6<sup>th</sup> Joint TC Facilitators/MIG\_T liaisons meeting, 13/12/2017
- **INSPIRE MIG-T subgroup face to face meeting ISPRA 30-31/10/2017**
- **INSPIRE Thematic Cluster evaluation meeting**

It is planned to organize a face to face meeting with TC facilitators, MIG-T liaisons to evaluate the 3 years of INSPIRE TC activity, to discuss possible improvements as well as new priorities provided by EC&EEA INSPIRE team. It will be an opportunity to discuss and draft agreed new task descriptions for facilitators to be used for the new contracts from 6/2018.

The meeting will also give opportunity to invite a candidate for a still missing facilitator (Earth Science) as well as MIG-T liaisons (Biodiversity & Facilities TCs).

The meeting is currently planned to be held in Ispra at the end of February – beginning of March 2018.

## 1.4 Issues and Risks

- The biggest issue is still the missing facilitator of the Earth Science Cluster (kindly supplemented for geology sub group by Tim Duffy and Carlo Cipolloni). The planned face-to-face meeting in 2018 is the opportunity for filling this gap. Similarly, it is important to find a MIG-T liaisons for TC Utilities and newly for Biodiversity TC.
 

The close collaboration between facilitators and MIG-T representatives is fundamental not only for the discussions and evaluation of the change proposals, but also for awareness rising what is happening in thematic domains across MS.
- Willingness of current facilitators/MIG-T liaisons to continue working in case of a possible change of priorities – tasks for facilitators from the 6/2018.

## 2. MIWP action 2017.4 - Validation and conformity testing

As an outcome of the discussion on MIWP action 2016.3 "Validation & conformity" in the 6th meeting of the MIG it was agreed to consult the MIG in a written procedure after a final round of comments.

The MIG endorsed the closure of action 2016.3 and the revised mandate for the action on "validation and conformity testing" unanimously in written procedure in September 2017.

The call for nominations for the 2016.3 sub-group has so far resulted in 14 nominated experts from 10 MS (ES, RO, NL, IT, PT, FI, SE, DE, FR, UK), with expertise mainly on metadata and network service testing. The call will therefore be kept open to allow additional nominations. In particular, additional experts on data validation would be welcome.

The group will kick off its work in December. One crucial function will be to support the helpdesk on the ATS and ETS, in particular for issues on issues related to interpretations of the TG requirements and how to test them.

There has been considerable interest in the validator instance running at JRC since the launch of release 1.0 in July, with 700+ tests per week (status: end of October). As a consequence, there is also an increasing number of issues and questions being reported in the validator issue trackers.

Contracts for the further development work on the reference validator are currently being put in place. Taking into the results of the recent survey to the MIG, the order of priority of the work on the missing ATS/ETS will be:

1. Metadata TG v2.0
2. View services (WMS, WMTS)
3. Annex II+III data
4. SOS/WCS-based download services
5. Discovery service

One important issue is the scope of the validator instance at JRC, which could be a reference implementation with limited capacity (not aimed to be used widely in operational implementations) or the main reference instance used for operational implementations. In the MIG-T meeting, several participants felt that, while it was important to have the option to deploy the software locally, the JRC-hosted instance should also be usable in operational implementations and should support more than the current 4 concurrent requests.

In the MIG-T meeting it was underlined that it will be important to keep local deployments in sync with the latest changes to ATS/ETS (automatically), and that deployment should be made easier.

The user interface is currently only available in English, but multi-linguality is supported. This is especially important for the validation (error) reports. JRC will open a call for contributions of translations.

The new validator is planned to be also used for monitoring and, as far as that is possible, for compliance assurance. The latter, however, may need specific test suites covering the legal aspects.