



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL ENVIRONMENT
Directorate E - Implementation & Support to Member States
Unit E.4 – Compliance & Better Regulation
The Head of Unit

Brussels, 25. 07. 2018
ENV.E.4/JR/kpc

Addressed to the INSPIRE National
Contact Points (NCPs) via email

Group 1 – MS with significant number of
priority datasets provided

Subject: Implementation of the INSPIRE Directive – follow up on the list of environmental priority datasets

Dear colleague,

Since the evaluation on the implementation of the Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community ('the INSPIRE Directive'), we have been working together on many joint initiatives. We are slowly starting to see the results and we would like to thank you for your efforts and cooperation.

I would like to come back to the work on the list of priority datasets and the discussion that we had at the last meeting of the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG) in June. We have called on you in a letter of December 2017 (ARES(2017) 6316317 of 21/12/2017) to work together with us on a pilot phase to allow access and download of datasets particularly relevant for environmental reporting. Since then, we have reviewed and refined the list of priority datasets¹ and the way in which you can tag them in the EU Geoportal. You can also find more easily your own datasets through the Thematic Viewer.

We are very pleased to note that you have invested in this exercise and that we have already some significant results for your country which already demonstrate that the INSPIRE approach works and creates added value at EU level. Having your datasets available, is extremely valuable also for our work with the EEA and the JRC to modernise the EU environmental reporting system and make increasing use of datasets resulting from the INSPIRE implementation. We know that you are still working on these issues in order to improve the quality and the coverage of the datasets. We encourage you to continue these efforts in particular by focussing on making as many priority datasets available for download as possible.

If there is anyway we can help you in these efforts, please let us know. The colleagues in the JRC, the EEA and in my team are ready to engage further in order to address potential issues that prevent you of making progress. We are also keen to learn about your

¹ <https://ies-svn.jrc.ec.europa.eu/projects/2016-5/wiki>

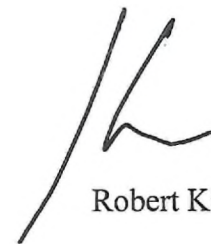
experiences so we can improve the EU level instruments (e.g. the Thematic Viewer) or better valorise your efforts.

In order to plan our own resource input, we would appreciate if you could let us know your plans on this over the coming months and in 2019, e.g. by when you expect all priority datasets relevant for your country becoming available as download. For your information, we are planning to show updated statistics on the progress at the upcoming INSPIRE Conference. We will also use the statistics in the next round of country reports under the Environmental Implementation Review. Whilst these reports will be published in spring 2019, the cut off date for statistics and facts will be October or November 2018. Finally, we will take stock of the progress of this voluntary exercise again in the next MIG meeting in the end of November 2018. On the basis of this discussion, we will decide thereafter whether and how to continue this exercise into 2019 on a voluntary basis or consider a more formalised approach.

In conclusion, we believe that together we have made significant progress and we want to thank you for the excellent cooperation on this exercise. It demonstrates that our joint efforts driven by the Maintenance and Implementation Work Programme until 2020 in this constructive and collaborative way is the best way to proceed, in particular because these efforts led to fruitful and impressive results in your case. We are committed to continue working with you in this output oriented fashion.

Should you have any queries, Joeri Robbrecht (Joeri.Robbrecht@ec.europa.eu, +32 229-66404) is ready to give you further information.

Yours sincerely,



Robert KONRAD

CC: INSPIRE CT