



Maintenance and Implementation Group (MIG)

INSPIRE

Update on Commission initiatives

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1. GreenData4All

The Greendata4all initiative has two main drivers, the political ambition of the European Data Strategy to support the European Green Deal and the regulatory task for the Commission to evaluate the INSPIRE Directive by 1 January 2022.

A mandatory¹ evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive is due by the 1st of January 2022, according to Regulation 2019/1010 on the alignment of reporting obligations in the field of legislation related to the environment. Together with the European Green Deal, the Commission launched its ambitious digital strategy^{2,3,4} initiative to also help deliver on Europe's goals for sustainability set out in the European Green deal⁵. The European Data Strategy recognises the importance of INSPIRE. It announces a 'GreenData4All' initiative that includes as the starting point the assessment of the interaction between [INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC](#) and [Directive 2003/4/EC on public access to environmental information](#). The overall objective of the 'GreenData4all' is to:

- modernize both the INSPIRE and the Public Access to Environmental Information Directives to align them with the contemporary state of technology,
- promote active dissemination and sharing of government- and private-held public data in support of the environmental acquis and the Green Deal objectives, and;
- define and implement interoperable building stones for sharing public data in the Green Deal data space.

1.1. Scope, indicative timing and status

The Commission has published the evaluation roadmap for public consultation as a first step in kicking off the evaluation of the INSPIRE Directive. The evaluation roadmap was published on 7 September 2020 and the public consultation on the roadmap ran till 19 October 2020 on the Commission's "Have your say" website (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/12427-Setting-up-an-Infrastructure-for-Spatial-Information-INSPIRE-Evaluation-of-the-Directive>).

The Commission will start preparing the consultation strategy the coming weeks. This will include a public consultation with a fixed set of evaluation questions assessing the efficiency, effectiveness, relevance, coherence and EU added-value of the INSPIRE Directive. The public consultation will

¹ Regulation (2019/1010) - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019R1010>

² COM(2020) 64 final, Shaping Europe's digital future - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0064>

³ COM(2020) 65 final, White Paper On Artificial Intelligence - A European approach to excellence and trust - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2020:65:FIN>

⁴ COM(2020) 66 final, A European strategy for data - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020DC0066>

⁵ COM (2019) 640 final, The European Green Deal - <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=COM:2019:640:FIN>

probably be launched in January 2021 and will run for 12 weeks. For this public consultation the larger INSPIRE, environmental and digital communities will be involved.

In addition to the public consultation, the Commission will also set up targeted consultations with selected stakeholders. The format of these targeted consultations still have to be agreed. They will probably take place January 2020 – February 2021.

A support study for supporting the Commission with the evaluation and the preparation of the Staff Working Document will be launched in December. For the evidence base and in addition of other evidence that will be gathered in the study, the data available from the Monitoring and reporting and from the 2016 INSPIRE REFIT exercise will be used.

The results of the study will be further processed and published by the Commission in the form of a Staff Working Document (SWD).

The geographical scope will be all EU Member States and the EEA/EFTA countries. For the temporal scope we will focus on evidence for the period 2014-2020.

The default better regulation evaluation criteria will be assessed: effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance and EU added-value.

The findings of the evaluation may lead to further EU action, such as revised legislation. A possible revision will be subject to the results of an impact assessment.

September 2020	- Publication of the evaluation roadmap
December 2020 - January 2021	- Kick off study contract to support the evaluation. - Launch public consultation - Start targeted consultations
July-August 2021	- Draft final evaluation report - COM Staff Working Document (SWD) first outlines
October 2021	- Evaluation report / SWD in Inter-Service Consultation
November 2021	- Publication of Evaluation Report / SWD

2. Modernised e-Reporting with Reportnet 3.0

2.1. Development status

The first version of the operational Reportnet 3.0 platform has been launched on 31 July 2020 as scheduled: <https://reportnet.europa.eu/>. With this release, legally sound delivery of an alphanumeric dataset through Reportnet 3.0 is possible.

The platform is supported by the EEA helpdesk service (helpdesk@eionet.europa.eu), which also takes care of infrastructure management and secures eventual bug fixing. The continuation of the development focuses on new functionalities based on the agreed roadmap for user stories and user demand and enhancements to the existing functionalities. The functionalities in the platform will be updated by the deployment of the three-monthly releases, right after they are tested by the Reportnet 3.0 stakeholders.

Currently, the data requesters of the first dataflows (Bathing Water Directive – including spatial data deliveries - and Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation) which will be handled in Reportnet 3.0 are designing their dataflows for the legal reporting. Reporters will be given operational access once the relevant dataflow is open for reporting. EEA will contact each community and dedicated training sessions will be provided prior to that.

2.2. Current platform capabilities

The Reportnet 3.0 development project will continue with periodic releases. The development will concentrate on the needs of the exiting dataflow owners once they have decided a transition over from Reportnet 2 and cover the new demands from the modernisation of the reporting dataflows.

Currently, a data requester can create a dataflow linked to a legal reporting obligation, invite editors for collaboration, fully design an alphanumeric dataset, create basic webforms, implement quality control rules, monitor the status of the submission through dashboards, integrate FME to prepare a European datasets and release this dataset. Being in the delivery role, a reporter can get support from the help documentation to prepare for reporting, invite other reporters to work collaboratively, import or add/paste the data, validate the data, inline edit the records in case of errors and release the data for submission.

New functionalities like the support of full spatial data delivery, data harvesting using web services, additional field types, subscribing to the notifications and advanced webform design will be in scope of 2021.

2.3. Testing of the Fourth Release Candidate

The testing session of the fourth release candidate has been launched on 07 October and ended on 23 October 2020. Testers consist of the Reportnet 3.0 stakeholder groups, EEA data

stewards/custodians, nominations from the National Focal Points (NFPs) and volunteered members National Reference Centres for Environmental Information Systems (NRCs) of the European Environment Information and Observation Network (Eionet).

The session focussed on the improved FME integration in terms of functionality and technicality, new field types such as coordinates on a map and enabling the reporters to attach a document, SQL based quality control execution, simple and custom webforms, the release history on the data collection and external website integration using API.

The testing of the first dataflows which will be reported legally or voluntarily in Reportnet 3.0 will be continued in the fourth quarter of 2020 with the relevant reporting communities. A unique testing session will be scheduled at the end of November with the NFPs of Eionet to test the role management and view the list of the assigned reporters of their respective country.

2.4. Planned Reportnet 3.0 dataflows in 2021

Planning, development and release of new functionalities in Reportnet 3.0 are driven by the needs of the dataflows scheduled to be configured on the operational platform. The preparations are ongoing for the following dataflows – both including spatial data implementing INSPIRE - which will be officially reported on Reportnet 3.0:

- Nationally Designated Areas (CDDA) - 15 March 2021: The schemas of CDDA have been analysed and configured in Reportnet 3.0. Only spatial feature types are missing. It is one of the priorities to complete before the end of 2020.
- Environmental Noise Directive - Report on all major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations (DF1 and DF5) - 30 June 2021: European Topic Centres (ETCs) are currently configuring the dataflow and the quality control rules on the platform.

Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action Regulation (GovReg): 7 dataflows under GovReg will be carried out on Reportnet 3.0 in 2021. Four of them will be reported by 31 March 2021, two by 31 July 2021 and one by 30 September 2021. The data requesters have started to design the schemas on the platform. These dataflows require substantial resources since their design is completely different from each other. The transition of further dataflows in 2021 will be based on the platform capabilities and a common agreement with the owner of the reporting obligation, (EEA, DG ENV, DG CLIMA, DG ENER) involving Member States through the responsible expert groups

The final deliverables and the communication material produced under the project are publicly available from this link: <https://www.eionet.europa.eu/reportnet/reportnet-3.0>

3. INSPIRE Conference 2021

The INSPIRE 2021 Conference is scheduled from 07 to 09 September 2021, in Dubrovnik, Croatia. This time we are planning a hybrid conference that will kick-off with a virtual part followed by a face-to-face part in Dubrovnik. More information will be available soon at the Conference web page (<https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/conference2021>).

4. Funding opportunities

4.1. Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call September 2020

The world is facing unprecedented challenges and Europe is responding with the European Green Deal, an ambitious yet attainable action plan for a systemic transformation towards a climate-neutral continent by 2050.

Research & Innovation has the capacity to accelerate a just and sustainable socioeconomic transition by demonstrating innovative solutions. Responding to the urgency of the challenges at hand, the [Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call](#) aims for tangible results in the short- to medium-term. It focuses on rapid scalability, dissemination and uptake to bring real benefits to Europeans in their daily life.

The €1 billion European Green Deal call is the last and biggest call under Horizon 2020. With innovation at its heart, this investment will accelerate a just and sustainable transition to a climate-neutral Europe by 2050. As we do not want anyone left behind in this systemic transformation, we call for specific actions to engage with citizens in novel ways and improve societal relevance and impact.

DEADLINE 26 JANUARY 2021

Selected projects are expected to start in autumn 2021.

Funding & Tenders website <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/h2020>

EU Funding rate 70 -100 %

4.2. Horizon Europe

[Horizon Europe](#) is the EU's next research and innovation programme starting in 2021. The Commission's proposal for Horizon Europe is an ambitious €100 billion research and innovation programme to succeed Horizon 2020.

Its powerful instruments and innovative governance will drive the necessary systemic changes to reach climate neutrality and ensure an inclusive ecological and economic transition.

Horizon Europe, in synergy with other EU programmes, will be key to leveraging national public and private investment. Together they will foster new technologies, sustainable solutions and disruptive innovation and spread successful new solutions across Europe and the world.

Over 35% of Horizon Europe spending will contribute to climate objectives.

4.2.1. Green partnerships

There will be a new wave of research and innovation partnerships under Horizon Europe.

Partnerships will help drive the huge transformations in environment, society and the economy that the European Green Deal calls for.

The EU will work closely with industry and countries to support partnerships in critical areas such as transport - including batteries - clean hydrogen, low-carbon steel, circular biobased sectors, the built environment and biodiversity.

4.2.2. Green missions

The [missions in Horizon Europe](#) will mobilise research and innovation, catalyse action, deliver impact, demonstrate solutions, and produce European public goods.

At the same time, they aim to capture citizens' imagination and inspire confidence in the transformations ahead.

Four out of the five agreed mission areas in Horizon Europe directly support the European Green Deal

- Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
- Climate-neutral and smart cities
- Soil health and food
- Adaptation to climate change and societal transformation

EU Funding rate 70 -100 %

4.3. Digital Europe Programme

As part of the next long-term EU budget – the Multiannual Financial Framework – the Commission has proposed Digital Europe, a programme focused on building the strategic digital capacities of the EU and on facilitating the wide deployment of digital technologies. With a planned overall budget of €8.2 billion (in 2018 prices, €9.2 billion in current prices), it will shape and support the digital transformation of Europe's society and economy.



The programme will boost investments in [supercomputing](#), [artificial intelligence](#), [cybersecurity](#), advanced [digital skills](#), and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society, including through [Digital Innovation Hubs](#). Its goal is to improve Europe's competitiveness in the global digital economy and achieve technological sovereignty. It will do so by deploying and capacity-building new digital technologies, in order to support digital transformation that will guarantee high quality public services benefiting citizens and businesses.

Digital Europe will complement other EU programmes, such as the proposed [Horizon Europe](#) programme for research and innovation, as well as the [Connecting Europe Facility](#) for digital infrastructure.

EU Funding rates and eligibility criteria for grants and other elements of the implementation will be provided for in the work programmes.

4.3.1. Strategic planning

The Commission has published [draft Orientations](#) for Digital Europe, which will shape the work programmes and calls for proposals for the programme's first two years (2021-2022). Between July and October 2019, a [consultation](#) was held to gather views on the Orientations, open to anyone with an interest in the digital transformation of Europe's economy and society.

The INSPIRE Directive is referenced in three actions

- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – Exploiting the potential of data and putting AI to work
 - High-value datasets from the public sector

- DIGITAL FOR A CLEAN PLANET
 - Common and open environment data space.
- CITIZEN-CENTRIC DIGITAL PUBLIC SERVICES
 - An ecosystem of interdependent offerings supporting European digital government.

4.4. The Recovery and Resilience Facility

The Recovery and Resilience Facility (the Facility) will make €672.5 billion in loans and grants available to support reforms and investments undertaken by Member States. The aim is to mitigate the economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic and make European economies and societies more sustainable, resilient and better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of the green and digital transitions. By offering large-scale financial support for investment and reforms, the Facility will better prepare Member States for a sustainable recovery. The Facility will enter into force when the negotiations among the co-legislators on the Regulation are concluded.

The Commission proposed the Facility on 27 May 2020 as the centrepiece of [NextGenerationEU](#), a temporary recovery instrument that allows the Commission to raise funds to help repair the immediate economic and social damage brought about by the coronavirus pandemic. The Facility is also closely aligned with the [Commission's priorities](#) ensuring in the long-term a sustainable and inclusive recovery that promotes the green and digital transitions.

On 21 July 2020, the European Council reached a political agreement on NextGenerationEU, including the Facility, and the 2021-2027 long-term EU budget.

Member States will prepare recovery and resilience plans that set out a coherent package of reforms and public investment projects. To benefit from the support of the Facility, these reforms and investments should be implemented by 2026. The plans should effectively address challenges identified in the [European Semester](#), particularly the [country-specific recommendations](#) adopted by the Council. The plans should also include measures to address the challenges and reap the benefits of the green and digital transitions. Each plan is expected to contribute to the four dimensions outlined in the [2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy](#), which launched this year's European Semester cycle:

- Environmental sustainability
- Productivity
- Fairness
- Macroeconomic stability

The Facility is an opportunity to create European flagship areas for investments and reforms with tangible benefits for the economy and citizens across the EU. These should address issues that need significant investment to create jobs and growth, and which are needed for the green and digital transitions. Furthermore it offers an unprecedented opportunity to speed up the recovery in Europe and reinforce the commitment to the twin transitions: green and digital. The Commission will assess the national plans against the following targets:

- **37% for green investments and reforms**

Each recovery and resilience plan will have to include a minimum of 37% of expenditure related to climate. Progress towards other environmental objectives is also important, in line with the European Green Deal.

- **20% for digital investments and reforms**

Each recovery and resilience plan will have to include a minimum of 20% of expenditure to foster the digital transition. The Commission is developing a methodology to ensure investment is channelled to both infrastructure and digital capacities.

The [European Semester](#) and the Recovery and Resilience Facility are intrinsically linked. The publication of the [2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy](#) launched this year's European Semester. It continues last year's growth strategy based on the [European Green Deal](#) and the concept of competitive sustainability.

The Commission will assess recovery and resilience plans against the country-specific recommendations. As the European Semester and the Facility will overlap, it is necessary to temporarily adapt the European Semester.

Member States are therefore encouraged to submit their national reform programmes and their recovery and resilience plans in a single integrated document, which will provide an overview of the reforms and investments that the Member State plan to undertake in the coming years, in line with the objectives of the Facility.