European Commission

INSPIRE for Marine Data Sharing

European Union Location Framework

Good practices

Key Data
Name: EULF Marine Pilot
Countries: Denmark, Germany and Netherlands
Policy domain: Marine environment
Interactions: G2G
Process owners and users: Member States, DG Environment, DG Mare, EEA, EMODnet, Regional Sea Conventions
Introduced: 2014
Website: https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/eulf/og_page/eulf-marine-pilot

Context

The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) requires Member States to develop and implement national strategies for the achievement of the Good Environmental Status (GES) of European oceans and seas by 2020. These strategies must be based on the collection and sharing of sound data on the status of the marine environment and on the pressures from, and impacts to, socio-economic activities. These data requirements may overlap with requirements coming from other EU environmental legislation, like the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Habitats and Birds Directives, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Nitrates Directive, among others. Moreover, data sharing must comply with the provisions of the INSPIRE Directive on access and sharing of spatial environmental information among EU public administrations.

Solution

The EULF marine pilot supported Member States in complying with the MSFD obligations by providing guidance and building capacity in the stakeholder community. It clarified the requirements of INSPIRE and MSFD, as well as the overlaps and potential for collaboration between INSPIRE and the European Marine Observations Data Network (EMODnet) community. It provided technical guidelines for marine data sharing, establishing a re-usable pattern for reporting on other indicators, also coming from other EU legislation articulated along the legal, organisational, semantic and technical levels of interoperability. The marine pilot also helped deepen the understanding of the stakeholder community in how INSPIRE can be used for streamlining the e-reporting to the EU institutions (European Commission, European Environment Agency).

Relevance

The use case of sharing and reporting data on chlorophyll-a concentrations showed the value of the INSPIRE infrastructure in fostering the reuse of marine data and information into several communities or settings, as well as for streamlining the reporting process to the EU institutions.
It has also suggested possible ways to reform the reporting process of MSFD-related spatial data, in order to improve efficiency and timeliness, and increase comparability and transparency, following the principle of "collect once, reuse many times".

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EULF Focus Areas

Policy and strategy alignment

- Analysis of the relations between INSPIRE and MSFD, pointing to potential for alignment at technical and organisational level
- Promotion of a way to improve data quality and sharing, which are an essential component of evidence-based policy making

e-Government integration

- Foster the use of INSPIRE for cross-sector and cross-border e-Government services, increasing transparency and accountability of e-reporting
- Suggest a way to streamline marine e-reporting, using INSPIRE-compliant distributed infrastructures

Standardisation and interoperability

- Importance of a standardised approach on marine data collection, for improved comparability and transparency across borders
- Encourage data reuse, following the principle "collect once, reuse many times"

Effective governance and partnerships

- Stimulation of cross-border partnering
- Creation of a knowledge-based repository with training and capacity building activities and material on INSPIRE and the MSFD

Return on investment

- Streamlined reporting will bring time and cost savings to data flow management and reporting activities
- Capacity building on the benefits of integrating INSPIRE for the implementation of the MSFD
- Change of workflows at the organisational level towards greater efficiency and avoiding duplications

Good practice contact information

Website
https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/community/eulf/og_page/eulf-marine-pilot

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European Union Location Framework

Delivering savings, growth and better services through location enabled e-government

EULF website: http://ec.europa.eu/isa/actions/02-interoperability-architecture/2-13action_en.htm

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