THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY Slovakia

Spatial Data Registry[1]

I. Description

- **1. Brief description:** Spatial Data Registry is information system providing the access and management of the metadata for the spatial data, dataset series and services for the whole Slovakia in the context of INSPIRE with outlook for synergies for eGovernment and Open Data activities. At the same time it provides the National discovery service, providing the contribution to the European INSPIRE geoportal[2] on behalf of Slovakia, fulfilling the INSPIRE legal requirements[3].

- **2. Type:** Governmental

- **3. Scope:** International, sub-regional, national, local

- **4. Working language(s):**

  Slovak, Part of the frontend is also available in English[4]

- **5. Target users:** Public, private, non-governmental sector, academia, R&D, citizens

- **6. Starting year**: 2017

- **7. Budget and funding source**:

  Approximately:

  o 9 M€ development (EU funding)
  o 1,7 M € SLA for 7 years (National budget)

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II. Implementation

- **9. Policy, legal and institutional context**:

  o Directive 2007/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 March 2007 establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE)[5]
  o The Act no.3/2010 Coll. on National spatial information infrastructure with amendments (sk only)[6]

- **10. Partner organizations involved**: Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic (Tool owner and operator, with the support of the contractor secured via SLA)

- **11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits**:

  o State authorities (Compulsory; defined in national legislation)
  o Voluntary contributors (Any other stakeholders)

- **12. User needs and methods of their assessment**:

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[1] https://rpi.gov.sk
[2] https://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/
[3] https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/INSPIRE-in-your-Country/SK
[4] https://rpi.gov.sk/en
[5] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/SK-EN/TXT/?qid=1453818786381&uri=CELEX:32007L0002&from=EN
[6] http://inspire.gov.sk/transpozcia/zakon-o-nipi

- o Stakeholders survey – systematic user needs collections
- o Coordination council and expert group – interaction with stakeholders
- o Help Desk – ad hoc support
- o SLA – development services

- **13. Technology choice**:

  - o Original version: Custom development combined with vendor locked software solutions
  - o Ongoing development services: Custom development based on open source solutions

III. Evaluation

- **14. Results**:

  System currently (07/2019) provides metadata from 50 different stakeholders and about 8320 Metadata resources[7]:

  - o 6952 metadata records related to the spatial data series
  - o 1173 metadata records for spatial datasets
  - o 195 metadata records for network services

    Out of these, National catalogue service provides metadata for 260 spatial data resources[8] for the European Geoportal.

- **15. Efficiency gains**:

  Aside the fulfillment of the legal requirements, the tool provides the possibility to document the existing spatial data resources, manage their content and share them, making the possibility to discover their content via human (graphical user interface)[9] as well as machine readable interface (standardized application programming interface)[10]. This provides important technology base for the future integration of the tool with the National Open Data portal[11], which will reduce the burden for the metadata management and increase the potential for the re-use of the described spatial data resources.

- **16. Risks**:

  The main risks can be identified in the area of the governance on the side of the tool operator and relevant expertise availability on the side of the spatial data resource providers.

- **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not)**:

  Significant issues remain with respect to the quality of the metadata and the availability of the described spatial data resources. Main reason for that are limited expert capacities and technology conditions on the part of stakeholders. There were also some technological issues with certain parts of the tool, which are currently under the revision and update process, supported via existing SLA.

- **18. Lessons learned**:

  Funding schemas providing the support for the development of this kind of tools via big projects create significant administrative burden, which provides less time for iterative tools development and less time for the interaction with the users. If possible, it is important to ensure the integration of the domain specific tools with the other eGovernement infrastructure components in order to ensure higher interoperability, level of integration and higher usability.

- **19. Conditions for successful replication**:

  Current system improvements aim to document all new developments with the aim to support further re-use of the system parts, mainly via API and re-using of the already existing components, where possible.

- **20. Overall assessment of the tool**:

  Despite the identified issues, the tool supports the data providers with documenting their spatial data resources and fulfillment of the legal requirements. At the same time, the tool represents the central access point for the users searching the information about the available geospatial resources. The activities focused on improvement of the quality of the metadata and user experience are foreseen in the future.

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[7] https://rpi.gov.sk/client/reports/

[8] https://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/results.html?country=sk&view=details&theme=none

[9] https://rpi.gov.sk/client/map/#inspire

[10] https://rpi.gov.sk/sk/sluzby-metaudajov/narodna-vyhladavacia-sluzba

[11] https://data.gov.sk/