

## Utilization of data throughout Europe



**IN**frastructure for **SP**atial **I**nfo**R**mation in **E**urope (INSPIRE) aims to create a Spatial Data Infrastructure for policies or activities, which may have an impact on the environment. With INSPIRE the European Union wants to facilitate the cross-border exchange, sharing, access and use of spatial data in Europe, especially to support joint environmental policy decisions.

For this purpose, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Directive 2007/2/EU, which came on 15th May 2007 into force and has meanwhile been transposed into national legislation by the member states. The INSPIRE Directive defines the legal framework for the establishment of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure.

The EU regulates technical details by means of implementing rules, which are legally binding for the member states. In practice, INSPIRE requires a standardised description of the relevant spatial data sets and their provision on the Internet, including services for discover, view and download the data sets. The data sets themselves must be available in a harmonised format, too.

The Steering Committee SDI Germany (Lenkungs-gremium GDI-DE) is the national contact point of the European Commission for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive. Coordination Office Spatial Data Infrastructure (Koordinierungsstelle GDI-DE) has the task of performing this function in Germany on a permanent operational basis.

## More information and contact

Detailed information on INSPIRE can be obtained directly from the European Commission at: <https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/>

Further information about the GDI-DE network is available at: [www.gdi-de.org/en](http://www.gdi-de.org/en)

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**GDI-DE –  
Competence  
through  
cooperation**



[www.gdi-de.org](http://www.gdi-de.org)  
<https://wiki.gdi-de.org/>  
[www.geoportal.de](http://www.geoportal.de)

## Networking spatial data

In SDI Germany (GDI-DE), the national spatial data infrastructure of the Federal Republic of Germany, spatial data are made available on the Internet across administrative levels and disciplines.

<https://geoportal.de/> is the entry point to the GDI-DE for searching, finding and using spatial data from the federal, state and local governments as well as from industry and science.

### Better decisions based on spatial data

For the purpose of information or decision making citizens, politics, administration and economy as well as scientific communities can request data via the GDI-DE such as:



**Is my house in a flood zone of a river?**



**Where in a particular region are commercial areas in the planning phase?**



**Where are wind-power plants situated today, where is further potential?**

Spatial data help to answer such questions with geographical reference. These data is initially available in diverse formats at many different bodies. Setting up a federal organized and supported national GDI-DE, these public web-based spatial data are better accessible and interconnected. This provides an opportunity for decision-makers, among others, to obtain up-to-date and precise information to be able to act efficiently.

## Competence through cooperation

The GDI-DE is financed and operated in cooperation between the federal, state and local governments. The cooperation of the GDI-DE is carried out by:

### Steering Committee (LG)

In the steering committee, the representatives of the federal government, the states and the municipal umbrella organisations discuss and decide on the strategic orientation of the GDI-DE and on the work programme. It also reports to the IT Planning Council (the steering committee for federal cooperation in the IT sector). The LG acts as the European Commission's national contact point for the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive.

### Coordination Office

The coordination office, is located at the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) in Frankfurt a. M., advises the LG, prepares its decisions and organises the implementation of the decisions taken.

### Technical operation

The Operation Office, based at the BKG, is responsible for the provision, maintenance and upkeep as well as technical support and further development of the National Technical Components.

## National Technical Components

### The service functions of the GDI-DE:



As a central access point, <https://Geoportal.de> offers simple ways to research, combine, display in maps and spatial data sets and services.



The **Geodatenkatalog.de** is a discovery service (based on metadata) for all available spatial data within the GDI-DE.



The **GDI-DE Testsuite** is an application for testing the quality of metadata, spatial data sets and services and is the central validation tool of the GDI-DE.



The **GDI-DE Registry** is an information system that supports central administration as well as technical support with overarching concepts used exclusively by the GDI-DE.

Users can access the data in the GDI-DE directly via the Geodatenkatalog.de discovery service and the Geoportal.de web application.