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INSPIRE Community Forum – a redesigned platform for all things INSPIRE

Since 2007 the INSPIRE Directive has been the driving force for Member States to harmonize their geographical data and build the European spatial data infrastructure. Enormous progress has been achieved during the last 11 years in terms of producing and publishing high quality geodata for all INSPIRE data themes. This could not have been done without cooperation between mapping agencies and institutions responsible for thematic data.

Convenient communication between experts is essential for efficient implementation. That is why in 2014 Joint Research Centre has launched the Thematic Clusters collaboration platform. All INSPIRE data themes have been grouped into 9 clusters with a facilitator assigned to each one.

During almost four years of functioning, the platform has gathered numerous resources including valuable discussions and implementation examples. Producing INSPIRE compliant data raises questions and issues which are not only resolved on the platform but can also influence the evolution of INSPIRE guidelines and technical documents.

Taking into account user opinions, the platform is undergoing a revamp to be more user-friendly and to better serve users from different backgrounds. Aside from Thematic Clusters, all resources have been grouped into dedicated views for easy discovery. New views include: technical / software issues and policy related resources.

With the Annex III datasets deadline approaching slowly, the time is now to utilize our efforts, discuss, cooperate and exchange experiences in order to make INSPIRE easier for us and most importantly better for data users.