INSPIRE as enabler of open data objectives

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The objective of the LAPSI 2.0 thematic network is to identify the remaining legal barriers and obstacles to access and re-use of public sector information (PSI) on the European content market, and to provide measures and tools to overcome or reduce these barriers and to stimulate the progress of the European market towards open data.

How about INSPIRE?

INSPIRE???
Objective of the PSI directive

• to promote re-use of public sector information
Meeting user needs

Source: Backx 2003
Known: recognizable and findable

- PSI Directive:
  “Member States shall make practical arrangements facilitating the search for documents available for re-use, accessible *where possible and appropriate* online and in machine-readable format, and portal sites that are linked to the asset lists. *Where possible* Member States shall facilitate the cross-linguistic search for documents”

- INSPIRE:
  INSPIRE requires Member States to publish actively INSPIRE data and services through the INSPIRE geo-portal and may also provide access through national access points
Attainable: de facto accessible

- PSI Directive: not addressed

- INSPIRE
  INSPIRE requires that INSPIRE data and services are accessible through the INSPIRE network services

Attainable: de jure accessible

- PSI Directive:
  If accessible documents shall be re-usable for commercial or non-commercial purposes

  “Public sector bodies may allow re-use without conditions or may impose conditions, where appropriate through a licence. These conditions shall not unnecessarily restrict possibilities for re-use and shall not be used to restrict competition.”

- INSPIRE:
  INSPIRE data is accessible through the network services

  INSPIRE does not require data providers to distribute their data through open licences. For data sharing with other public authorities there are some rules provided in article 17.
Attainable: affordable data

• PSI Directive:
  “Where charges are made for the re-use of documents, those charges shall be limited to the marginal costs incurred for their reproduction, provision and dissemination.”

• INSPIRE:
  INSPIRE requires that access to the discovery and viewing services are without cost. Only in exceptional cases the viewing may come with a cost.

  INSPIRE does limit the price for other services such as the download services to full cost recovery plus a reasonable return on investment.
Usable: datasets are usable

- Adequate metadata
- Up to date data
- Complete
- Open formats, machine-readable
- Helpdesk
Usable: datasets are usable

Metadata

• PSI Directive:
Public sector bodies shall make their documents available in any pre-existing format or language, and, *where possible and appropriate*, in open and machine-readable format together with their metadata.

• INSPIRE
INSPIRE regulations require standardized metadata documentation for the data and the services.
Usable: datasets are usable

Up to date data

- PSI Directive: not addressed

- INSPIRE:
  Requires data providers to make available updates of data on a regular basis. All updates shall be made at the latest 6 months after the change was applied in the source data set, unless a different period is specified for a specific spatial data theme (art. 8 Commission Regulation 1089/2010).
Usable: datasets are usable

Complete data

• PSI Directive: this is not addressed, but..
  “To facilitate re-use, public sector bodies should [...] make documents available [...] at the best level of precision and granularity, in a format that ensures interoperability, e.g. by processing them in a way consistent with the principles governing the compatibility and usability requirements for spatial information under [INSPIRE]” (recital 20 PSI directive amended)

• INSPIRE:
  INSPIRE does not require data to be complete or to collect new data to make the data complete.

Requirements for data and services harmonisation should enable and stimulate the cross-border interoperability of INSPIRE datasets and
Usable: datasets are usable

Open formats and machine-readable

- PSI Directive:
  “Public sector bodies shall make their documents available in any pre-existing format or language, and, where possible and appropriate, in open and machine-readable format together with their metadata. Both the format and the metadata should, in so far as possible, comply with formal open standards”

- INSPIRE:
  Open formats not required
  Interoperable datasets implies that they are machine-readable.
Usable: datasets are usable

Helpdesk

- PSI Directive: this is not addressed

- INSPIRE: this is not addressed
Known

Attainable

Usable

Clear

Manageable

Reliable

Available

Payable

Recognizable

Findable

INSPIRE

PSI directive

INSPIRE

PSI directive

INSPIRE
Conclusion

• Three equally important factors key for re-users: Known, Attainable, Usable

• INSPIRE contributes through required publication in portal, access through network services, standardised metadata, up to data information significantly to re-users needs

• Applying the INSPIRE requirements to information other than public sector geographic information is highly desirable from a reusers standpoint

• But: INSPIRE as it is, is not enough: see “When two do the same thing” by Peter Deak
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