



INSPIRE Data Specification for harmonised Orthoimageries

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Summary: Orthoimageries may have a specific role which comprises the extraction of thematic information, as well as mapping and monitoring of the environment. Therefore, the related data theme has been included in the Annex II of the INSPIRE directive. Data specifications are currently developed for 34 INSPIRE data themes. Based on the data specifications INSPIRE will develop legally binding implementing rules. A review process has been launched to allow stakeholders to submit comments to the drafts in order to achieve reasonable requirements for implementation (INSPIRE 2011). The review process ended at the end of October 2011. This paper briefly introduces the main principles and objectives of the INSPIRE initiative. Then, the data specification for the data theme Orthoimagery is explained in detail.

Zusammenfassung: *INSPIRE Datenspezifikation für Orthophotos.* Orthophotos spielen eine wichtige Rolle beim Extrahieren von thematischen Informationen, zur Aktualisierung von topographischen Karten und zum Monitoring der Umwelt. Aus diesem Grund wurde dieses Datenthema in den Annex II der INSPIRE Rahmenrichtlinie aufgenommen. Derzeit werden zu insgesamt 34 Themen die entsprechenden Datenspezifikationen erarbeitet. Auf Grundlage der Datenspezifikationen werden rechtlich verbindliche Durchführungsbestimmungen erstellt. Um praxisnahe und umsetzbare Vorgaben festzulegen, wurde im Rahmen eines Reviews die Fachöffentlichkeit zur Kommentierung der Datenspezifikationen aufgerufen (INSPIRE 2011). Das Reviewverfahren lief bis Ende Oktober 2011. Dieser Beitrag erläutert kurz die Grundlagen und Ziele von INSPIRE. Anschließend wird die Datenspezifikation für Orthophotos im Detail vorgestellt.

1 Introduction

Currently most of the high quality spatial information is available at local and regional level and is therefore difficult to exploit in a broader context for a variety of reasons. The situation on spatial information in Europe is characterized by fragmentation, gaps regarding the availability of geographical information, duplication of data collection and problems of identifying, accessing or using the data that is available.

The data often has unsatisfactory or undefined quality, is based on proprietary geographic information systems and not accessible to the public or other users at the local, regional, national or international level. Policies need to be put in place to reduce the duplica-

tion of data collection, to promote harmonisation efforts and to facilitate a wide dissemination of the data. By passing the INSPIRE directive, also orthoimagery are addressed in order to establish interoperable datasets across Europe.

2 The European Spatial Data Infrastructure (INSPIRE)

Good policy relies on quality information. The increasing complexity and interconnectedness of issues that affect the quality of life today is recognized by the policy-makers and influences the way new policies are being prepared today. INSPIRE (Infrastructure for Spatial Information in Europe) (INSPIRE 2007) is a Eu-