

Cross-border data consistency , an INSPIREd first step to connect your country to cross-border digital economy. Best practice examples from National Mapping Agencies

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Abstract

The article 10.2 of the Directive specifically mentions the need for cross-border consistency of the datasets . Indeed, edge-matching processing on geographical data is a tremendous step for progressing into cross-border interoperability between countries and regions, and it is the base for inter-regional applications, which will allow pan-European stakeholders to develop the digital economy. For 18 years, the NMCAs have been working on cross-border national datasets for creating pan-European and harmonised datasets, which fit European needs. Those best practices and experiences have been formalised in technical guides and processes in the framework of the ELF project (<http://www.elfproject.eu/>), how to edge-match datasets at borders taking into account technical, semantic and organisational levels. The ELF edge-matching processes have been set up so as to be applicable at any administrative level and for any dataset. The technical guidelines are made publicly available. Edge-matching geo-tools have also been implemented so as to apply to INSPIRE compliant datasets. The ELF project has also established a common depiction of State boundaries at different detail levels so as to rely on them for proper edge-matching.

National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies are therefore advised to adopt those processes for setting up a cross-border consistency on their master datasets entering in the scope of INSPIRE. The ELF project initiated this process, which is crucial for interoperability, on 4 selected themes: administrative units, hydrographic and transport networks, and building units. For 2 years, IGN France has been working with his neighboring partners (Belgium, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) so to set up cross-border consistency on their master dataset BD UNI with the neighboring master datasets of similar resolution. The presentation will describe the applied methodology on edge-matching and the results of the work, with the obstacles and main issues the neighboring partners had to face, and the commonly agreed solutions. Examples will mainly be taken on the Franco Belgian border. In conclusion, cross-border continuity is a key step towards INSPIRE interoperability , which will allow pan-European players to develop the digital economy based on consistent and harmonized spatial data.

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