

An overview of the INSPIRE implementation in Azores, Portugal

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The Interactive Spatial Data Infrastructure of the Azores (IDEiA), project in progress since 2009, aims to promote the sharing of geographic information about the Azores between the various entities responsible for the production of Geographic Information. The IDEiA was formerly established by the Regional Legislative Decree Nr. 42/2012/A, of October the 8th, which also adapted the INSPIRE Directive to the Azores (Portugal).

In this context, a number of regional thematic working groups have been set up to analyze and implement the standards and technical specifications resulting from the INSPIRE Directive, in conjunction with the national working groups. These working groups integrate the various regional public entities that produce geographical information within the various themes listed in Annexes I, II and III to Directive 2007/2/EC.

Several efforts have been made within these working groups to harmonize spatial data sets using the Humboldt Alignment Editor tool and the data model developed for the Region. This model identifies the geographical objects and tables that constitute the INSPIRE themes applied to the Azores, as well as the relationship existing between them. For these spatial data sets, view and download services have also been published in accordance to OGC standards.

For the existing spatial data sets and services, metadata have been created using the Azorean Metadata Manager (GeMA), which is a multifunctional tool that allows the production and edition of metadata files. This tool was developed by the Government of the Azores to ensure the conformity of the metadata files to the INSPIRE rules as well to the Portuguese Metadata Profile. Given its characteristics and functionalities, this tool is used by most of the metadata managers in Portugal.

Since the IDEiA determines the need to make the metadata files available to the public, the Government of the Azores also developed another functionality called Metadata System of the Azores, which is available online and allows any user to view the existing metadata files.

As a result of the work being carried out, it is noted that the Azores have played an important role in monitoring of the INSPIRE implementation in Portugal, as it has contributed to the presentation of positive results for the indicators related to the existence and conformity of the spatial data sets and services metadata files and the accessibility to them through discovery services.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE

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