

Brief introduction to the reasons for creating Technical Working Groups (TWG)

The work of a TWG, progress and difficulties

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The implementation of the INSPIRE Directive and the development of the SDIs in Spain is responsibility of the Executive Board of the Geographic Information Infrastructure of Spain (CODIIGE).

The CODIIGE has created Technical Working Groups (TWG), whose main purpose is to analyse how to transpose the INSPIRE Directive into Spanish legislation and to help the different organizations to achieve its compliance.

For this, the TWGs have to:

- Study the specifications of their corresponding themes INSPIRE and draw up a Technical Guideline to facilitate the implementation of INSPIRE at national level.
- Define the spatial data sets included in their themes, and analyse the data received related to the TWG in the first phase of the annual consultation.

As members of the TWG Thematic Data for themes 15 (Oceanographic Geographical Features) and 16 (Sea Regions) of INSPIRE Annex III, we have made progress on the following topics:

- The study of the Data Specifications for both themes.
- The determination of the points at which these specifications are not developed and need some improvements.
- The analysis of the Spatial Data Sets informed by the different Public Administrations, in order to decide if they are conform with INSPIRE and if its reporting to the European Commission is correct.

Nevertheless, the TWG15&16 has encountered several problems that are slowing down the implementation of INSPIRE in an effective way:

- The TWG15&16 believes that the European Technical Guidelines that Spain has to adapt are produced by a small group of experts that does not represent all sectors involved in these themes.
- The adaptation of the guidelines into the Spanish reality is being complicated. For instance, the fact of handling closed codelists where the typical characteristics of our geography have no place, has made the TWG15&16 to reconsider the need of a review of the Technical Guidelines.
- There are oceanographic data formats and access services, such as netCDF and OpenDAP, that have not been taken into account for its adaptation to the INSPIRE Directive.
- The “voluntary” nature of the people who are working on the development of the guidelines and the limited time assigned to perform this task.

In conclusion, the work done by the TWG15&16 is really necessary and can be very useful to GIS producers that have to report their data sets to the European Commission, but due to the problems encountered this task is not being developed quickly enough.

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