

# Sharing is Everything

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## **SUMMARY**

Data is an asset. Some even call it the new raw material that forms the basis for value creation in society. To unlock data's potential you need a good, solid digital infrastructure –just as you need roads to get the most out of a car. Data infrastructure is the fundament for promoting data sharing and consumption and is becoming essential for the operation of a society. "Cities and citizens are becoming smart; the use of mobile technology is growing, as is the use of satellite images and drones. Data is created everywhere and all the time and as we are evermore digitally connected in floating local, regional and global networks we need to be able to share data across borders – administrative as well as geographical. In short, we need interoperability. Interoperability as a concept covers areas of legal, organizational, semantic and technical nature and provides the fundament for good data management and value creation. The interoperable data infrastructure is set up on commonly agreed, international standards, modelling rules, and service level agreements. It is ideally based on transparency and openness that provides users with well-documented and well-structured data. Geospatial data is broadly recognized as critical tools to support national development, economic growth, and improved decision-making as laid out in the UN GGIM initiative. On a European level the INSPIRE directive forms the legal and technical framework of a European Infrastructure for Spatial Information. This presentation will evolve around some general principles for the setting up and maintenance of an interoperable data infrastructure, drawing in a few examples from the INSPIRE initiative.

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