

Area Management/Restriction/Regulation Zones and Reporting Units – Executive Summary

The definition of the INSPIRE spatial data theme *Area Management/Restriction/Regulation Zones and Reporting Units* (AM theme) reflects the heterogeneous nature of the domains and topics that could be covered by this INSPIRE spatial data theme. The theme is defined generically in the INSPIRE Directive as “areas managed, regulated or used for reporting at international, European, national, regional and local levels”. The AM data specification Technical Guidelines specify a wide range of zone types that are established or used for four different and sometimes overlapping concepts: manage, restrict, regulate and report.

The AM Guidelines reflect two basic concepts:

1. the need for spatial information on areas where specific management, restriction or regulative regimes are established, and
2. the definition of the “reporting units” within the scope of INSPIRE and the AM theme.

There are few limits to the scope of the theme. *Area Management, Restriction and Regulation Zones* are zones established in accordance with specific legislative requirements to deliver specific environmental objectives related to any environmental domain, for example, air, water, soil, biota (plants and animals), natural resources, land and land use. This includes, but is not limited to, objectives established to:

- Protect and improve environmental quality (includes reducing pollution levels)
- Protect and conserve environmental and natural resources
- Protect and control risk from natural and man-made hazards
- Protect plant, animal and human health
- Control development and spatial planning

To achieve these objectives, a competent authority is commonly defined that is responsible for delivering, regulating and monitoring specific environmental objectives that may be defined within management or action plans.

Due to the broad scope of the theme, the modelling approach undertaken to develop the AM theme has been to define a generic core model that encompasses the management, restriction and regulation concepts using a predefined set of zone types which can be further extended by additional specialised zone types. This generic model can be used to exchange spatial data between different domains and public authorities. It is expected that this generic core model shall be extended (i.e. specialised) to define spatial objects that contain additional domain-specific properties. However, this detailed and domain-specific information is out of the scope of the AM theme.

Reporting units are based on legally defined environmental reporting obligations. Diverse spatial objects, defined within different INSPIRE spatial data themes, are used for providing a spatial reference for the data being reported under these reporting obligations, and these spatial objects can therefore be considered as reporting units. Therefore, no specific *Reporting Units* application schema is included in this data specification. Instead, the obligation on how to make *reporting units* spatial data available under INSPIRE is expressed in specific requirements. **Error! Reference source not found.** provides more information on reporting units within INSPIRE spatial data themes, including the AM theme.

The AM theme provides information on how to distinguish between the AM theme and other INSPIRE spatial data themes where close interrelationships exist between them. The resolutions to those interrelationships are provided on the basis of:

- similarities of the scopes (e.g. INSPIRE themes Protected sites and Land use);
- conceptual interrelationships (e.g. with Environmental Monitoring Facilities, Hydrography, Geology, Natural Risk Zones, Soil); or
- sharing of the same geometry as another INSPIRE spatial object (e.g. Sea Regions, Geology, Administrative Units, Natural Risk Zones).

This AM Guidelines includes use cases which were used as the basis in the specification development process and examples of how to provide data based on the Area Management, Restriction and

Regulation Zones Application Schema and how to extend the generic application schema of the AM theme into more detailed application schemas for specific thematic domains.