

NOSIN – Nordic Open Source Initiative Network

Annual report 2022, prior to the Nordic Executive Meeting in august.

Chairman/reporter: Henrik Lund Pedersen (N)

Reporting period: 8/2021 – 8/2022

Purpose of group

1. On behalf of the IT Executive group “Development and IT”, carry out given relevant tasks and subsequently report back progress and results.
2. To jointly evaluate open source software products and solutions for possible use in national as well as INSPIRE based SDI (spatial data infrastructures) in the Nordic countries.
3. Share tech knowledge and experience on contemporary SDI in order to forward common Nordic strategies and viewpoints to the INSPIRE MIG workgroups.

Members

Sweden: Fredrik Persäter (NCP), Erik Gustafson, Mauritz Bomark, Tommy Helstrøm, Peter Alexander Bodley

Finland: Timo Aarnio (NCP), Janne Heikkilä, Jakob Ventin, Kai Koistinen, Jari Reini, Sini Pöytäniemi, Sami Makinen

Norway: Henrik Lund Pedersen (NCP), Thomas Ellett, Lars Inge Arnevik, Erlend Klokkervold, Frank Arntsen

Iceland: Hafliði Sigtryggur Magnússon (NCP), Ásta Kritisin Oladóttir, Benedikt Valur Árnason

Denmark: Lars Storgaard (NCP), Jørgen Larsen de Martino, Morten Lindegaard, Tom Weber

Workspace

NOSIN: <https://lantmateriet.atlassian.net/wiki/spaces/NOSIN/overview>

1. General

NOSIN is a long-standing group that continues to enjoy the mutual benefits of cooperating on technical topics common for all nordic member states, as well as exchange of knowledge and experience with a special focus on SDI infrastructure, metadata catalogue technologies and spatial data issues in general.

Specific benefits derived from the group:

- Joint development and implementation of a national metadata catalogue (GeoNetwork)
- Shared knowledge and experience regarding service development platforms
- Shared knowledge and experience regarding OGC API development
- Common approach to Inspire implementations
- Cooperation on development and operation of the Arctic SDI application.
- Frequent workshops on implementation of services, OGC standards, etc.

2. Work Group Update

A. Service and Data Infrastructure

During 2021 and 2022, the group has arranged regular online meetings to present, discuss and share experiences and thoughts on a wide variety of topics such as vector tiles, the new suite of OGC API services, 3D data challenges and opportunities and alternative encodings and data formats.

In-depth review of the new Swedish geoportal and the Finnish OGC API features implementation was given special attention.

In addition, the group continues to be a good place to discuss specific technical issues within the national infrastructures and relevant technologies.

B. Geonetwork and INSPIRE technical group

The group has held monthly meetings with knowledge exchange, especially on GeoNetwork related topics and INSPIRE issues. Other directives affecting our Geoportals, such as the Web Access Directive, the Open Data Directive and the “High Value datasets” strategy are also being discussed in the group. The group consists of members with knowledge beyond what you find in your own country and meetings have been useful as they have opened opportunities to share opinions, experiences and best practices on common issues.

C. QGIS

QGIS is a full-featured open-source GIS software suite for professional users with a desktop, mobile and web component. It is an official project of the Open Source Geospatial Foundation (OSGeo), on par with the best commercial products. This group was an initiative between Finland and Iceland, based on the use of QGIS and the associated Geopackage (a geospatial data transfer format). They have had online meetings discussing delivery formats and practical use.

3. Planned groups and tasks for 2022-2023

A. Service and Data Infrastructure WG (continues)

Service and Data Infrastructure WG

Focus will be on the following topics: OGC API services, INSPIRE alternative encodings, 3D Data, STAC (Spatio-Temporal Asset Catalog) and cloud technologies.

While the bulk of the work will happen through the bi-monthly meetings, the group will also consider if a separate sub-group is needed for the OGC API services work, as this topic will require the most work in 2022/23. If the same application software is chosen by enough countries, a partnership similar to that for Geonetworks could be considered (joint funding of software development).

B. Geonetwork and INSPIRE technical WG (renamed)

Focus during next period will be on the following topics: GeoNetwork 4.0, INSPIRE requirements and updates from the INSPIRE Maintenance and Implementing groups (MIG), validation tools, general metadata management and harvesting.

C. QGIS WG (continues)

QGIS along with Geopackage are fast developing technologies that could be useful to a higher degree in our organizations. Denmark have decided to join the group and Norway will consider joining it as well. The group is planning to have a minimum of two online meetings during the coming period.

D. International initiatives WG (new)

International initiatives (mostly European and Nordic) appear frequently and may need our attention for several reasons. The Open Data Directive, the European Green Deal (EU) and still INSPIRE, all need an extended spatial data infrastructure in order to succeed. They obviously affect us and therefore we should give them our attention. In addition, the IT managers group may ask us to engage in some of these initiatives, perform certain tasks and give feedback.

NOSIN managing group (permanent)

The managing group (responsible coordinators) of the workgroups will do an online meeting every second month to keep track of status and progress. Group members are Henrik Lund Pedersen (Norway), Fredrik Persäter (Sweden), Hafliði Magnússon (Iceland), Lars Erik Storgaard (Denmark) and Timo Aarnio (Finland).

It was decided that Norway takes the chair until the end of the current period (2023).