Pursuant to Article 89 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, I hereby issue the

DEcision

PROMULGATING THE NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

I hereby promulgate the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Act, passed by the Croatian Parliament at its session on 26 April 2013.

Class: 011-01/13-01/93
Ref. No.: 71-05-03/1-13-2
Zagreb, May 2, 2013

The President of the Republic of Croatia
Ivo Josipović, m. p.

NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE ACT

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Subject Matter

Article 1

(1) This Act regulates the establishment, maintenance and development of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in the Republic of Croatia (hereinafter: NSDI), as well as the establishment of the NSDI bodies.


(3) This Act establishes a framework for the implementation of certain provisions of the following European Union documents:

Article 2

The NSDI is a set of technologies, measures, standards, implementation rules, services, human resources and other factors enabling efficient integration, management and maintenance of the sharing of spatial data as defined by this Act for the purpose of satisfying needs on both the national and European levels, which will be an integral part of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure defined by the INSPIRE Directive.

Article 3

The NSDI includes:

a) spatial data resources;
b) metadata system;
c) network services and technologies;
d) implementation rules, agreements on spatial data sharing, exchange, access and use;
e) terms of use;
f) coordination and monitoring mechanisms;
g) processes and procedures;
h) NSDI Geoportal;
i) human resources;

as defined in the provisions of this Act.
Definitions

Article 4

The terms used in this Act and the enforcement of this Act, and regulations passed on the basis of this Act, shall have the following meaning:

1. Infrastructure for spatial information means metadata, spatial data sets and spatial data services, network services and technologies, agreements on data sharing, access and use, mechanisms for coordination and monitoring, processes and procedures that are established, managed or accessible in accordance with this Act.

2. The National Spatial Data Infrastructure is defined by Articles 2 and 3 of this Act.

3. INFRAstructure for SPatial Information in Europe (hereinafter: INSPIRE) is an initiative started with a purpose of creating European Union spatial data infrastructure, and is defined by the INSPIRE Directive.

4. Implementing rules are the European Union implementing rules, as well as national implementing rules.

5. National Spatial Data Infrastructure Geoportal (hereinafter: NSDI Geoportal) is an Internet site or its equivalent enabling access to the discovery, view, download, transformation, invoke and other NSDI data services.

6. INSPIRE Geoportal is an Internet site or its equivalent enabling access to the discovery, view, download, transformation and invoke spatial data services at the European Union level.

7. NSDI Internet site is the official Internet site of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

8. Interoperability involves the possibility of combining spatial data sets and the interaction between services, with no repetitive manual intervention, in order to obtain a consistent result and attain the added value of data sets and services.

9. Spatial object denotes an abstract illustration of an occurrence from the real world linked with a certain position or geographic area.

10. Spatial data are all data directly or indirectly linked to a certain position in space or a geographic area.

11. Spatial data set is a uniquely definable collection of spatial data.

12. Series of spatial data sets are those spatial data sets created by the same specification.

13. Spatial data services are computer operations that can be performed, by calling up a computer application, with spatial data in a spatial data set or with associated metadata.
14. Spatial data resource may be a spatial data set, series of spatial data sets or services.

15. Metadata involve information describing spatial data resources and enabling their discovery, view and use.

16. Electronic source of information is a source of information maintained in an electronic or computer format which may be accessed, discovered and invoked using an electronic network or other electronic data processing technology.

17. Public authorities are national, local and regional authorities and legal persons with public competences.

18. Third party is any physical or legal entity that is not public authority.

**NSDI subjects**

**Article 5**

(1) NSDI subjects are public authorities whose competences, i.e. scope of work, include establishing or maintaining spatial data from Article 9, para. 1 and which are, pursuant to this Act, obliged to participate in NSDI establishment, maintenance and development.

(2) A third party may become an NSDI subject if it fulfils the conditions set out by this Act, after the NSDI Council passes a relevant decision about it at the proposal of the National Contact Point.

(3) The conditions for a third party to become a NSDI subject are as follows:

   a) spatial data resources are within its scope of work
   b) spatial data resources within its scope of work are included on the list of spatial data themes pursuant to Article 9, para. 1 of this Act
   c) spatial data resources within its scope of work are in line with technical requirements or rather the NSDI Implementation Rules.

(4) The costs of accessing, establishing and maintaining NSDI links shall be borne by the third party.

**Spatial data resources**

**Article 6**

This Act applies to spatial data resources under the condition that:

   a) they apply to the territory of the Republic of Croatia, its internal sea waters, territorial sea, epicontinental belt and its ecologically protected or economic areas and other areas where the Republic of Croatia exercises sovereign rights
   b) they are in electronic format
   c) they are under the authority or within the scope of work of NSDI subjects
   d) they apply to one or several topics under Article 9, para. 1 of this Act
   e) they do not apply to classified spatial data.
Article 7

(1) In case when there are several identical copies of spatial data sets, this Act applies only to the original version of the competent NSDI subject's data set serving as a basis for the copies.

(2) This Act does not impose the collection of new spatial data.

Article 8

The NSDI may encompass data related to the territories of neighbouring countries located along the border with the Republic of Croatia and meeting the preconditions from Article 6, para. 1, points b), d) and e) of this Act.

Spatial data topics

Article 9

(1) The spatial data from this Act regards the following spatial data topics:

Annex I:
   1. Coordinate reference systems
   2. Geographical grid systems
   3. Geographical names
   4. Administrative units
   5. Addresses
   6. Cadastral parcels
   7. Transport networks
   8. Hydrography
   9. Protected sites
  10. Data on mines suspected area

Annex II:
   1. Elevation
   2. Land cover
   3. Orthoimagery
   4. Geology

Annex III:
   1. Statistical units
   2. Buildings
   3. Soil
   4. Land use
   5. Human health and safety
   6. Utility and governmental services
   7. Environmental monitoring facilities
   8. Production and industrial facilities
   9. Agriculture and aquaculture facilities
  10. Population distribution - demography
11. Area management /restriction /regulation zones and reporting units
12. Natural risk zones
13. Atmospheric conditions
14. Meteorological geographical features
15. Oceanographic geographical features
16. Sea regions
17. Bio-geographical regions
18. Habitats and biotopes
19. Species distribution
20. Energy resources
21. Mineral resources

(2) According to the proposal given by the National Contact Point or NSDI Council member or NSDI Board member, NSDI Council may decide on introducing a new spatial data theme or on repeal or change of the current theme mentioned in para. 1 of this Article.

(3) The definitions and the detailed description of the spatial data themes from para. 1 of this Article may be adjusted and adopted in the course of the corresponding procedure, taking into account the statements from Article 17 hereof in order to take into consideration the development needs for spatial data.

(4) The definitions and the detailed description of the spatial data themes from para. 1 of this Article shall be published by the National Contact Point at the NSDI Internet site pursuant to the NSDI Council’s decision.

Spatial data resources register

Article 10

The National Contact Point keeps the spatial data resources register containing:

a) names and description of the spatial data resources
b) unique resource identifier
c) data on the institution responsible for the spatial data resource
d) geographic scope of the spatial data resources
e) spatial data access and use restrictions.

II. NSDI ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NSDI Geoportal

Article 11

The NSDI Geoportal is established, maintained and developed by the National Contact Point for the purpose of managing the metadata and providing the services of discover, view, download, transform and invoke the spatial data resources as well as other information regarding the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.
**Metadata content**

**Article 12**

The metadata contains the information regarding:

a) conformity of the spatial data resources with the implementing rules and specifications;
b) conditions for accessing and using the spatial data resources and on fees, if they are applied;
c) spatial data resources quality and validity;
d) NSDI subjects responsible for managing, establishing the distribution and maintaining the spatial data resources;
e) public access restrictions and reasons for the restriction.

**Metadata creation**

**Article 13**

(1) NSDI subjects shall upload and regularly maintain the NSDI metadata, through the NSDI Geoportal, for the spatial data resources under their jurisdiction or scope of work.

(2) The metadata are produced in accordance with the implementing rules so as to simplify the discovery and use of the spatial data resources. The metadata completeness and quality are provided by the corresponding NSDI subject.

(3) The metadata are kept and maintained in electronic format in the metadata system that is an integral part of the NSDI Geoportal. The metadata information system enables the NSDI subjects to upload and update the metadata under their jurisdiction.

(4) The metadata for the new spatial data resources is established at the moment their resource is created and no later than one year after the date of the enforcement of the document stating the new spatial data resource.

**Spatial data resources interoperability**

**Article 14**

(1) NSDI subjects are obliged to provide connections between various spatial data resources relating to the same location (interoperability) in accordance with the implementing rules.

(2) Information for the implementation and provision of spatial data resources interoperability, including codes and technical solutions, must be available to the public and third parties through the NSDI web-site.

(3) Interoperability of spatial data resources that are included in the spatial data resources register, and correspond to spatial data resources from Article 6 hereof, shall be ensured by NSDI subjects.
(4) The terms of operability and, if necessary, harmonisation of the spatial data resources are stipulated by the implementing rules.

**Article 15**

(1) When establishing new spatial data resources or updating the existing ones included in the NSDI register of spatial data resources, a NSDI subject shall define rules for unique identification of spatial objects recorded for the first time or rather already uniquely identified in another spatial dataset, allowing the NSDI subject to set up its unique identification or to define the link with the identification original in accordance with the interoperability implementing rules.

(2) NSDI subjects ensure that newly created or comprehensively restructured spatial data resources shall be available, in line with the implementing rules within two years from being adopted, and that spatial data resources, that are still being used, available in line with the implementing rules within seven years from being adopted.

(3) Spatial data resources shall be available, in line with the implementing rules, through the adaptation of existing spatial data resources or through transformation services from Article 19, para. 1.d hereof.

**Article 16**

The sharing of the spatial data resources within the scope of this Act is established by it being harmonised with the implementing rules affecting the spatial data and services interoperability as well as other documents.

**Article 17**

The national implementing rules such as the technical specifications and instructions defining the technical conditions for interoperability and, as needed, harmonisation of the spatial data resources, adopted by the NSDI Council for the purpose of the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development, shall encompass:

a) relevant user requirements;
b) initiatives and international standards for the data interoperability and harmonisation;
c) common framework for unique identification of spatial objects to which the identifiers within the national system might connect in order to ensure their interoperability;
d) links between spatial objects;
e) key attributes and corresponding multilingual lists of keywords;
f) information on the temporal component of the data;
g) data updating;
h) feasibility;
i) cost-benefit analysis.
Article 18

(1) NSDI subject shall ensure the availability of all information, including metadata and technical conditions for interoperability that are required for harmonisation with the implementing rules, in accordance with the conditions that do not limit their use for that purpose.

(2) In order to ensure the integrity of spatial data connected to a geographic feature whose position spans the frontier of two or more neighbouring countries, the National Contact Point shall reach decision, in cooperation with the responsible bodies of the neighbouring country, about the depiction and position of such common objects.

(3) The procedures from para. 2 of this Article do not affect the procedures where the State border is delineated.

Network services

Article 19

(1) The National Contact Point and NSDI subjects will, based on the agreement and in coordination, provide the following spatial data services (hereinafter: network services) to be available on the Internet or another suitable electronic communications channel:

a) discovery services, enabling searching for spatial data resources based on the content of the metadata and displaying the metadata content;

b) view services, enabling - as a minimum - displaying, navigating, zooming in/out, moving or overlapping to view available spatial data resources, and displaying legend information and any other relevant metadata content;

c) download services, enabling downloading copies of spatial data resources or parts of those sets and, where suitable, direct access to those data;

d) transformation services, enabling transformation of spatial data resources to achieve interoperability;

e) services enabling invoking spatial data services.

(2) Network services must be simple to use, public and easily accessible.

(3) A description of network services, program solutions, procedures and network services methodology shall be published on the NSDI web-site as proposed by the NSDI subject.

(4) For the spatial data resources discovery services, the following combination of search criteria shall be applied:

a) keywords;

b) spatial data resources classification;

c) spatial data resources quality and validity;

d) degree of conformity with the criteria and specifications;

e) geographical location;

f) conditions for accessing, exchanging and using the spatial data resources;

g) NSDI subject responsible for establishing, managing, maintaining and distributing spatial data resources and services.
(5) The transformation services stated in para. 1.d of this Article should be combined with other services stated in the same paragraph by enabling all the afore-mentioned services to be managed in accordance with the implementing rules.

**Article 20**

NSDI subjects shall ensure technical possibilities for connecting their spatial data defined in Article 9, para. 1 hereof and the corresponding network services defined in accordance with Article 19 hereof with the NSDI Geoportal services.

*Spatial data sharing*

**Article 21**

(1) The NSDI Council shall adopt the general conditions for availability of spatial data resources for the purpose of interoperability or rather define the general terms for licensing as well as evaluation, where applicable.

(2) In defining general conditions, consideration will be taken to avoid all unnecessary limitations that could create obstacles in practice for the sharing of spatial data resources occurring during use and, at the same time, to ensure measures to prevent their unauthorised use.

(3) For the purpose of the actions that might affect the NSDI, the general conditions for the spatial data resources sharing shall be available reciprocally and equally to all bodies established pursuant to international agreements signed by the Republic of Croatia.

*Public use restrictions*

**Article 22**

(1) The access to the spatial data resource may be restricted if the restriction is stipulated by a separate regulation.

(2) The access to spatial data related to the information about the environmental emissions may not be restricted except if such an access might negatively influence:

   a) international relations, State security or national defence
   b) the option of enforcing the protection of rights and legal interests of any person to a fair trial or the option of the State authority to carry out a criminal or disciplinary investigation.

*Charging for network services*

**Article 23**

(1) The network services from Article 19, para. 1.a and 1.b hereof are used free of charge.
(2) The NSDI subjects offering other services from Article 19, para. 1 hereof are entitled to charge for the network services paid by their user.

(3) The decision on introducing charges from para. 1 of this Article is passed by the NSDI Council at the proposal of the NSDI subject head for the network services under its jurisdiction.

(4) By derogation from the provisions of para. 1 of this Article, the NSDI subject providing the service from Article 19, para. 1.b hereof may introduce charges in cases when such charge is used for maintenance of the spatial data resources and corresponding data services.

(5) The data available through the view service from Article 19, para. 1.b may be in the format precluding their re-use in commercial purposes.

(6) The NSDI Council may stipulate detailed criteria and conditions for determining the amount of charges from paras. 2 and 4 of this Article whereby account will be taken that the charges are calculated as the minimum required in order to ensure the necessary quality and quantity of spatial data and as a reasonable return on investments while respecting, at the same time, the interest of the NSDI subjects providing the spatial data resources.

(7) If the NSDI subjects levy charges for using the network services, they must publish the amount charges from para. 2 of this Article in their media and on the NSDI Internet site as well as make them available to any applicant.

(8) If the NSDI subjects levy charges for using their network services, they must ensure e-commerce.

(9) When the NSDI subjects, for the purpose of meeting the environmental reporting obligations in accordance with the European Union regulations, use the NSDI spatial data, they are exempt from paying charge.

(10) The provisions of this Article do not relate to the charges for the network services from Article 19 hereof that the NSDI subjects provide in accordance with special regulations as well as the charges for the network services over the spatial data not defined in accordance with Article 9 hereof.

(11) If the NSDI subject is funded by the State budget, the funds obtained on the basis of the charges from para. 2 of this Article are the State budget funds.

**Article 24**

(1) The general conditions from Article 21 hereof are published on the NSDI Internet site.

(2) The NSDI Council will, at the proposal of the National Contact Point, member of NSDI Council or NSDI Board, appoint the responsible bodies and/or organisations and/or persons who will provide feedback about the level of harmonisation of the spatial data and services from the jurisdiction or scope of work of the NSDI subjects with the implementing rules, general conditions, adopted specifications and exchange protocols.
Rights and obligations of the NSDI subjects

Article 25

(1) The NSDI subjects shall:
   a) prepare the data and metadata and include them in the NSDI;
   b) care for their update;
   c) prepare the spatial data Information and Communications Technology (ICT) systems and include them in the NSDI;
   d) meet all other obligations derived hereof.

(2) The NSDI subject head shall be responsible for meeting the obligations from para. 1 of this Article.

(3) The meeting of the obligations from para. 1 of this Article may be achieved by performing the operations and tasks of the spatial data editor and/or spatial data administrator.

(4) The spatial data editor prepares the spatial data from Article 9, para. 1 and the metadata in accordance with Article 13, para. 2 hereof in order to include them in the NSDI and to care for their updating.

(5) The spatial data administrator prepares the spatial data ICT systems for their inclusion into NSDI.

(6) The NSDI subject forwarding the data from Article 8 hereof shall be responsible for obtaining consents of the neighbouring countries and to inform thereof the National Contact Point.

(7) Each NSDI subject retains the intellectual property right over the data under its jurisdiction.

(8) In case that the NSDI subjects fail to meet the obligations derived from this Act, the National Contact Point shall inform them thereof in writing and request them to correct irregularities within a reasonable deadline.

(9) In case that the metadata has not been updated and that the resulting changes hinder or impair the discovery and view of spatial data, the National Contact Point shall inform the NSDI subject in writing about the resulting problems. If within the reasonable period (estimated on the basis of the time required for the resulting problem to be resolved and stated in the written notification) the problem is not removed over the spatial data resource, the National Contact Point shall exclude the stated metadata from the NSDI system while the NSDI subject shall continue to have the obligation of inserting the correct metadata and data into the NSDI system.
III. NSDI BODIES AND NATIONAL CONTACT POINT

Article 26

The NSDI bodies are the NSDI Council, Board and working groups.

NSDI Council

Article 27

(1) The NSDI Council is composed of the president and its members appointed and relieved of office by the Croatian Government.

The Government of the Republic of Croatia appoints to the NSDI Council one representative from:

- National Contact Point;
- Central State administrative body in charge of the environmental and nature protection tasks;
- Central State administrative body in charge of construction and physical planning;
- Central State administrative body in charge of e-Croatia operations;
- Central State administrative body in charge of defence;
- Central State administrative body in charge of transport, transport infrastructure and electronic communications;
- Central State administrative body in charge of agriculture, forestry and water management;
- Central State administrative body in charge of science and education;
- Central State administrative body in charge of cultural heritage protection;
- Central State administrative body in charge of economy;
- Central State administrative body in charge of the State survey and real property cadastre;
- Central State administrative body in charge of official statistical operations;
- Central State administrative body in charge of navigation safety;
- public institutions in charge of performing hydrographical operations;
- communities of geodesy and geo-information economy;
- communities of information technology economy;
- professional associations of chartered geodetic engineers.

(2) The NSDI Council president is appointed from the ministry in charge of the National Contact Point work.

(3) The NSDI Secretary takes care of the organisational and administrative aspects of the NSDI bodies' work. The NSDI Secretary is the employee of the National Contact Point.

(4) The NSDI Council president and members are appointed for the period of four years.

(5) The NSDI Council
proposes to the Government of the Republic of Croatia the strategy, operational programs and other documents of importance for the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development;
- promotes the establishment, maintenance and development of the spatial data resources and metadata;
- passes the criteria for the establishment, maintenance and sharing of the spatial data resources for the purpose of interoperability;
- passes documents from Article 17 hereof;
- passes the decision from Article 23, para. 3 hereof;
- passes decisions on the definitions and detailed descriptions of the spatial data themes;
- passes general conditions;
- passes the decision on accessing the NSDI third parties;
- monitors and streamlines the NSDI Board work;
- submits the annual report on the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development to the Government of the Republic of Croatia;
- appoints and relieves of office the NSDI Board;
- appoints and relieves of office NSDI working groups to elaborate certain tasks and obligations at the proposal of the National Control Point, NSDI Council member or NSDI Board member;
- offers guidelines for the work of the National Contact Point.

Article 28

(1) The permanent NSDI implementation body is the NSDI Board.

(2) The NSDI Board is composed of:
- three NSDI Council representatives;
- three National Contact Point representatives;
- heads of working groups.

(3) The NSDI Board president is appointed among the National Contact Point representatives.

(4) The NSDI Board:
- enforces the policy of the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development set forth by the NSDI Council;
- performs the operations and tasks conveyed to it by the NSDI Council;
- coordinates and monitors the work of the NSDI working groups;
- coordinates implementation activities of the NSDI subjects in accordance with the NSDI Council guidelines;
- reports to the NSDI Council about the progress in the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development.

(5) The NSDI working groups are established for the purpose of elaborating certain tasks and obligations within the scope of the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development.

(6) The members of the working groups are selected from the State bodies at the national, regional and local level as well as other legal entities and natural persons whose scope of
work is linked to the spatial data infrastructure including the users, producers or providers of additional services related to spatial data.

*National Contact Point*

**Article 29**

(1) The State Geodetic Administration is the NSDI National Contact Point in the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive.

(2) The National Contact Point is responsible for communicating with the bodies of the European Commission with regards to the implementation of the INSPIRE Directive, efficient application of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and performs secretarial tasks and coordination of the NSDI bodies as well as technical support services of the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development.

(3) The National Contact Point shall perform the following:

- prepare proposals for strategy and operational programs of the Government of the Republic of Croatia in the NSDI area;
- maintain the register of spatial data resources and NSDI subjects;
- publicise a detailed description of spatial data themes;
- establish, maintain and monitor the work of the NSDI Geoportal;
- establish and maintain metadata public service within the NSDI Geoportal in a manner that enables NSDI subjects interactive maintenance of metadata within their competence;
- work on spatial data interoperability and, where necessary, homogenisation;
- coordinate and monitor the application of implementing rules in the Republic of Croatia;
- develop and propose to the NSDI Council a program of activities and measures necessary to meet the conditions for spatial data infrastructure establishment, maintenance and development;
- prepare reports on the implementation and use of spatial data infrastructure for the European Commission and the public;
- in coordination with the NSDI bodies, propose acts from Article 17;
- cooperate with the European Commission related to the INSPIRE Directive;
- inform the NSDI subjects and the general public about the activities concerning the establishment, maintenance and development of the NSDI;
- monitor the application and provide suggestions for improving NSDI implementation in practice.

(4) Pursuant to para. 3 of this Article, the National Contact Point creates annual reports on monitoring the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development for the European Commission.

(5) Pursuant to para. 3 of this Article, the National Contact Point creates three-year reports on the NSDI establishment, maintenance and development for the European Commission.
IV. NSDI DEVELOPMENT

Article 30

NSDI development shall be harmonised with the development of the INSPIRE Directive.

Article 31

(1) The National Contact Point is obliged to continuously follow the development of spatial data infrastructure on the international, European Union and national levels, including all international, European Union and national acts of immediate relevance for the NSDI, and their implementation.

(2) In meeting the obligations from para. 1 of this Article the National Contact Point is obliged to prepare guidelines for further development, applying the following basic principles:

- spatial data storage, availability and maintenance in the most appropriate manner;
- simple finding of spatial data resources that can be used in accordance with the required purpose and conditions;
- allowing for consistent combining of spatial data from different resources and their exchanging among several users and applications;
- allowing for exchanging spatial data among NSDI subjects.

V. SUPERVISION

Article 32

The implementation of this Act shall be supervised by the State Geodetic Administration.

VI. RESPONSIBILITY AND PENAL PROVISIONS

Article 33

Should an NSDI subject, through their actions or failure to meet their obligations as defined by this Act, cause damages the responsibility for which is, in line with European Union legislation, borne by the Republic of Croatia, any costs incurred by such actions shall be covered by that NSDI subject.

Article 34

The responsible person of the NSDI subject as defined by Article 5 shall be liable to a fine of HRK 10,000.00 to 50,000.00 for failing to ensure meeting of the obligations from Article 25, para. 1 a, b and c hereof.

VII. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 35

This Act, upon coming into effect, shall supersede Chapter V of the State Survey and Real Property Cadastre Act (Official Gazette no. 16/2007, 124/2010).
Article 36

Upon the accession of the Republic of Croatia to the European Union, the Decision on Determining Criteria and Standards for Data Sharing (Official Gazette no. 102/2010) and the Decision on Determining Criteria and Standards for Data Sharing – Implementation Rules for Network Services for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (Official Gazette no. 46/2012) shall cease to have effect.

Article 37

This Act shall enter into force on the eight day after its publication in the Official Gazette.