



Geographical information (74)

EUROSTAT Unit D-2

Regional indicators and geographical information

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. GENERAL BACKGROUND

- Geographical information is used for a wide range of applications within the Commission
- Eurostat: statistical maps in publications, spatial analysis, indicators combining statistical and geographical information
- Other DGs: Geo-referencing for policy uses



GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

2. THE ACQUIS

- No legal base
- Spatial data are mainly collected and maintained by National Mapping Agency in each country
- Some geographic information (e.g. administrative boundaries) is provided to the European Commission-Eurostat by the association of European NMAs (EuroGeographics) under a paying licence framework



GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

3. MOST PROBLEMATIC ISSUES

- The NSI should co-operate with the NMA in the country to ensure that codes for administrative units (regional and local) are consistent and updated
- Turkey: need for digital map of LAU 2



GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

4. FUTURE ACQUIS

Legal act in preparation:

- INSPIRE framework Directive: aiming at establishing a European spatial Data Infrastructure, to make available relevant harmonised spatial information to the European Institutions, National, Regional and Local Administrations and to the citizens
- The Directive contains provision for data harmonisation and data access and sharing
- 2007: expected entry into force of the Directive; gradual implementation between 2007 and 2013