

TARGETED ANALYSIS //

**DIGIPLAN – Fact sheet on digital
plan data in Ireland**

Annex 2.6 of final report

Final delivery // June 2021



This Targeted analysis was conducted within the framework of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme, partly financed by the European Regional Development Fund.

The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

This deliverable does not necessarily reflect the opinions of members of the ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee.

Coordination and Outreach

Christian Fertner, University of Copenhagen and Piera Petruzzi, ESPON EGTC

Authors

University of Copenhagen (Denmark): Christian Fertner, Andreas Aagaard Christensen, Sara Folvig, Sophie Ingeholm

Norwegian University of Life Sciences (Norway): Marius Grønning, Daniel Galland, Bjørnar Rutledal, Marc Le Diraison

Swiss Federal Research Institute WSL (Switzerland): Anna Hersperger, Silvia Tobias, Corina Wittenwiler

Nordregio (Sweden): Julien Grunfelder, Alex Cuadrado

Cite as

ESPON DIGIPLAN (2021) Fact sheet on digital plan data in Ireland. Annex 2.6 of final report. <https://www.espon.eu/digiplan>

Advisory group

Stakeholders: Bent Lindhardt Andersen and Ole Pagh Schlegel, Danish Business Authority, DK | Hilde Johansen Bakken, Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation, NO | Silvia Jost, Yves Maurer and Marc Pfister, Swiss Federal Office of Spatial Development, CH

ESPON EGTC: Senior Project Expert: Piera Petruzzi, Financial expert: György Alföldy

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the experts who participated in the interviews.

Information on ESPON and its projects can be found at www.espon.eu.

The website provides the possibility to download and examine the most recent documents produced by finalised and ongoing ESPON projects.

ISBN: 978-2-919795-63-5

© **ESPON, 2020**

Published in June 2021

Graphic design by BGRAPHIC, Denmark

Printing, reproduction or quotation is authorised provided the source is acknowledged and a copy is forwarded to the ESPON EGTC in Luxembourg.

Contact: info@espon.eu

TARGETED ANALYSIS //

**DIGIPLAN – Fact sheet on
digital plan data in Ireland**

Annex 2.6 of final report

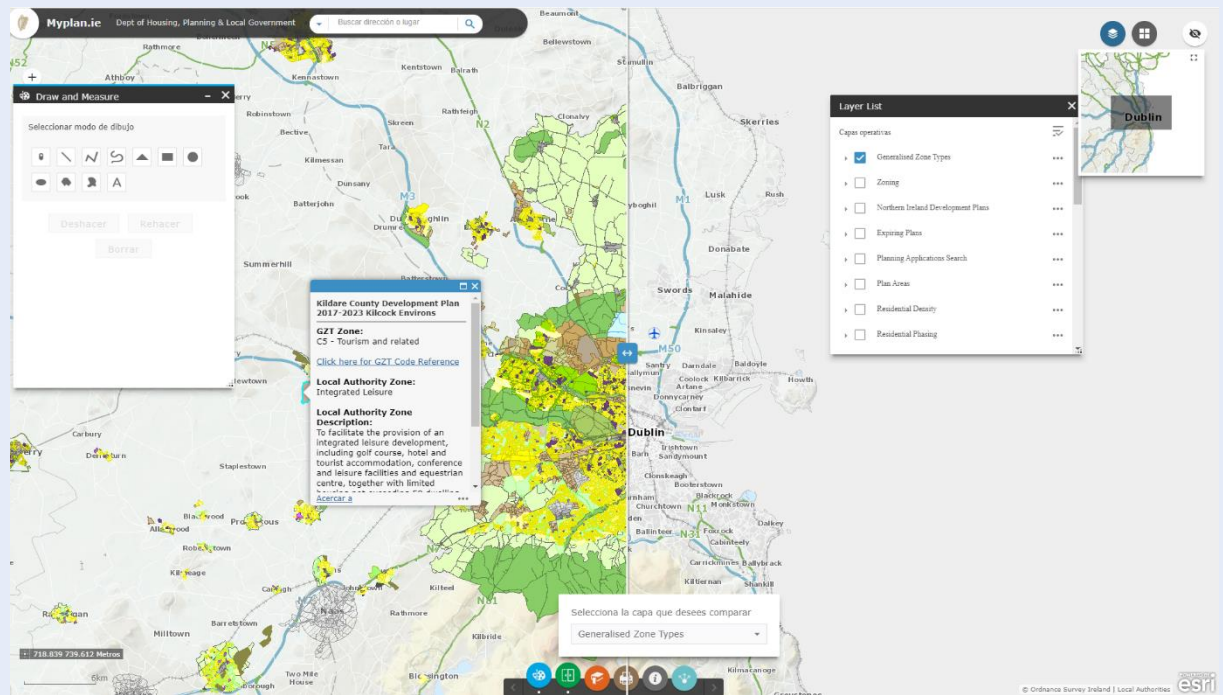
Final delivery // June 2021

This fact sheet summarises the experience in digitisation of plan data in Ireland. This explorative investigation includes information on the digitisation of plan data, on the digital platform that contains plan data, the current uses of digital plan data as well as foreseen developments of the investigated platforms. The inputs are based on both a desk study and interviews with experts at the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government of the Irish Government.

Ireland (Centralized; three levels of government)

The most relevant spatial planning plan in Ireland is the National Planning Framework 2040. Its purpose is to enable all parts of Ireland, whether rural or urban, to successfully accommodate growth and change, by facilitating a shift towards Ireland’s regions and cities other than Dublin, while also recognising Dublin’s ongoing key role. The key issue addressed in the Framework is where best to plan for Ireland’s growing population and economy recognizing the role of the country’s three regions, capital, cities, and rural fabric.

The digital plan data platform investigated is MyPlan – viewer.myplan.ie



Background information

Main stakeholder(s)	Department of Housing, Planning, and Local Government
Level of digitalisation of the geoportal	Intermediate: the user can make a limited number of simple operations based on the available plan data (e.g. sharing, printing, drawing, measuring)

The digitisation of plan data

Main purpose(s)	To provide data for analysis purposes and to give a national overview of digital plan data.
Added value	Allowing for cutting edge analysis of land use by having the plans organized at the national level. The information is now a part of the digital economy as well.
Main driver	Leadership efforts took by planning advisors at the Department of Environment Several stakeholders who were interested in planning data in the project board.
Main obstacle(s)	Getting the data from the numerous amount of bodies involved in capturing plan data at the local level. Some problems were lack of interest or lack of resources to provide what was demanded by the Department.

Ireland (Centralized; three levels of government)	
Standards and methods	There are no mandatory national zoning standards set of zoning use in Ireland, so each local authority creates their own zoning classifications. The Department created the generalized zone type (GZT) and that is the standard used by the Department for mapping the local zoning classifications to a national classification.
The current platform	
Type of plan data included	Zoning data connected to all municipalities' spatial plans.
Legal status of the plan data	The digital plan data is not legally binding. Only the printed plan and maps are the legal documents.
The current uses	
Type of users	Planners, institutions, universities, companies, and the public.
Number of users	Between 500 and 1000 visitors per month. There are about 700 return users (people that come back to the platform) per month and around 1 million service requests monthly.
Example of evaluation of planning practices or innovative practices	The Department had an issue with over zoning when the economy was growing and space for adequate residential developments was needed. More land zone than the needed was being required and the system allowed us to see it. MyPlan gave the Department an oversight of what was happening at the local level. Also, it served to identify some data quality issues with the data that were addressed.
Foreseen developments	
To capture zoning data from each local authority using software which pulls the data from the databases where it's stored and publishing it with as little intervention as possible. The efforts are directed towards improving the datasets in use; making them more robust and valuable.	

Levels	Planning instruments	Included in the geoportal?
National	National Spatial Strategy	No
Sub-national	Regional Planning Guidelines	No
Local	Development Plans	Yes
	Local Area Plans	Yes



Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund

Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

espon.eu   

ESPON 2020

ESPON EGTC

4 rue Erasme, L-1468 Luxembourg

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Phone: +352 20 600 280

Email: info@espon.eu

www.espon.eu

The ESPON EGTC is the Single Beneficiary of the ESPON 2020 Cooperation Programme. The Single Operation within the programme is implemented by the ESPON EGTC and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund, the EU Member States, the United Kingdom and the Partner States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland.

ISBN: 978-2-919795-63-5

Disclaimer

This delivery does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members of the ESPON 2020 Monitoring Committee.