As Affiliated Partner of Plan4all you will be cooperating with the team of Plan4all in order to harmonize the spatial data and processes within the European Union. Plan4all's goal is to make European spatial data regarding spatial planning, legislation and rules accessible and comparable for institutions, policy makers and every inhabitant in the European Union. Affiliated Partners will be regularly informed about the progress of INSPIRE and Plan4all by means of newsletters. Also Affiliated Partners can decide to work together with Plan4all in order to utilize the project results into their own practice. This partnership is based on mutually advantageous cooperation that centres on the exchange of data and knowledge that will contribute to achieve the Plan4all project task and the utilization of the results. Lastly Affiliated Partners can assist in the validation of data that has been made accessible by other partners. In short, Affiliated Partners contribute to the implementation of the EU-directive INSPIRE aimed at the harmonization of spatial planning and processes within the European Union in order to conserve and improve the environment in Europe.

The European Union realizes that quality of the environment is no longer bound to the boundaries of nations. At the same time the spatial data, legislation and rules are incomparable between member states even though spatial planning has an enormous influence on the quality of the environment. Spatial planning and its spatial legislation and rules have also become an transgressing activity. Even though spatial planning and policy of the member states of the EU is mostly based on an identical theoretical framework the actual legislation differs between each nation. Policy makers, institutions and inhabitants of the EU have therefore difficulty comparing legislation between nations.

Therefore the European Union has decided to issue the INSPIRE directive in order to improve the exchange-ability of relevant spatial data between the member states. The directive identifies 25 spatially important themes. And the member states are obliged to meet the INSPIRE requirements before 2020. As a direct result of the INSPIRE directive there are now multiple projects underway, all aimed at the harmonization of spatial data. Plan4all is one of those projects.
Plan4all is an European research project that started in 2007. Its goal is to harmonize the data of 7 out of 25 INSPIRE spatial themes in order to make this data accessible and usable for institutions, policymakers and the inhabitants of the European Union. Over the course of the project the 24 research partners of Plan4all have developed a spatial metadata profile that has been transformed into a spatial data model. Within this framework Plan4all specifically targets the following spatial INSPIRE themes:

1. Land cover;
2. Land use;
3. Utility and government services;
4. Production and industrial facilities;
5. Agricultural and aquaculture facilities;
6. Area management/restriction/regulation zones;
7. Reporting units and natural risk zones.

For all 7 spatial themes Plan4all has developed a detailed description and summary of the most recent and relevant standards, proposals, case studies and implantations of spatial data and metadata profiles, data models and harmonization procedures of all 24 partners. Plan4all’s final goal is to develop network standards for storage and exchange of spatial data within the European Union where the results are made accessible with the development of a Geoportal.

Interested to be regularly informed about INSPIRE and Plan4all or you want to actively contribute to the harmonization of European spatial data? Then you can very easily and without cost sign up to be an Affiliated Partner of Plan4all. Want to become Affiliated partner or if you want more information you can contact the Dutch partner of Plan4all, ISOCARP – International Society Of City And Regional Planners (kropman@isocarp.org). Extra information can also be obtained visiting the following websites: www.plan4all.eu or www.isocarp.org.