

# Through the Environment and Planning Act (Omgevingswet) Geometry Will Play a Greater Role in Dutch Legislation

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**Key words:** Cartography; Geoinformation/GI; Spatial planning

## SUMMARY

In 2021 the Environment and Planning Act will enter into force in the Netherlands. This Act combines and modernises laws for spatial planning, housing, infrastructure, the environment, nature and water in a single law. Through the Environment and Planning Act (Omgevingswet) the government wants to combine and simplify the regulations for spatial plans. The Environment and Planning Act requires a good digital support. This is Digital System for the Environment and Planning Act (DSO). All digital information will become available in a 'one-stop-shop': the Online Environmental Desk. Through this facility, everyone can quickly find out what is permitted and what is not permitted according to the Environmental and Planning Act at a certain location.

Spatial planning plans in the Netherlands are traditionally maps with accompanying policies and/or regulations. The map was the starting point and the spatial planning plans consisted of a map with regulations, accompanied by an explanation. This is reversed in the case of the Environment and Planning Act which refers to rules, regulation and policies with locations.

The aspiration of the Digital System for the Environment and Planning Act is for the Online Environmental Desk to show, with a single "click on the map", which rules and regulations are regulated at that location. These are regulations that the municipality, the water board, the province and the national government regulate at that location. An initiator can then check whether a permit or a notification is required for a certain activity. To the extent that information about the state of the physical living environment is also available, the combination of rules and this factual information can also provide insight into the available possibilities at a specific

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location.

The map in the Online Environmental Desk is an interactive map viewer in which the user can interpret the map through interaction. It is a combination of locations next to the text (i.e. rules or policy), where the text gives a clear indication of the boundary. Geometry will play a greater role in legislation, because every rule (or policy text) in an act will be linked to a location.

The presentation will show examples of traditional spatial planning plans in the Netherlands and plans in the interactive viewer of the Online Environmental Desk. It will also tell which role geometry plays in the Environment and Planning Act.

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