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Pre-operational Launch of European Location Framework Released 8 Months Ahead of Schedule

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Showcase application reveals power of the European Location Framework for first time

Spatial data users can experience the power of the European Location Framework for the first time thanks to a new showcase application launched today (18 June 2014) at the INSPIRE Conference 2014.

Delegates attending the event in Denmark were among the first to try out the pre-operational service, which has been released 8 months ahead of schedule. Accessed via www.locationframework.eu, it connects national data services from 5 countries and also includes pan-European geo-information provided by 45 National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities via EuroGeographics.

Speaking on behalf of the European Location Framework Project Consortium, Antti Jakobsson, Technical Coordinator said: "We are thrilled to be releasing this showcase application 8 months early. There are many ways to connect to the platform, such as through Oskari or ArcGIS Online, and we hope both business users and application developers will try the service to experience the benefits for themselves."

"The initial application contains national data services from the Czech Republic, Finland, Norway, Spain and Sweden as well as a GeoLocator georeferencing service and a GeoProduct Finder. This is just the start. Service functionality and data content - in terms of both geographic coverage and level of detail - will continue to be developed to ensure that the European Location Framework provides one reference geo-information source for Europe."

The European Location Framework is a technical infrastructure which delivers authoritative, interoperable, cross-border geospatial reference data for analysing and understanding information connected to places and features. It will take INSPIRE to the next level by providing the practical means for delivering operational cross-border and pan-European services.

The three-year project, which started in March 2013, is co-funded by the EC's Competitiveness & Innovation framework Programme (CIP) Information and Communication Technologies Policy Support Programme (ICT PSP). The Consortium comprises mapping and cadastral authorities, application developers, SMEs, universities, EuroGeographics and the Open Geospatial Consortium.

Global Map El Salvador Version 2

Architect Emma Flores, Manager of Territorial Systems
Engineer Francisco Benitez, Coordinator of Basic Spatial Data
Dirección del Instituto Geográfico y del Catastro Nacional
CENTRO NACIONAL DE REGISTROS

The importance of the global environmental issues such as climate change, deforestation and water scarcity are increasing as time goes by, and it is necessary to have a global awareness of this importance and make use of the common sense, current technology and knowledge in order to find a solution. That's why the National Registry Center in El Salvador took the decision to get involved in projects such as Global Mapping addressing to collaborate with the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) in the active searching for solutions.

Although El Salvador is a country with an area of just over 21,000 km^2 approximately, and located in a region with a lot of environmental degradation, with constant danger of earthquakes and hurricanes, this kind of participation becomes urgent to generate the necessary resources in cases of emergency and for a proper decision making.

Our institution has a large variety of geographical information data and is responsible at a national level to give certainty and reliability for geographic issues in our country, so the task to obtain information for the Global Mapping has been extracted these data according to international standards that have enriched our own geographic information knowledge, following the directions of the ISCGM with the Global Map Specifications.

Having a background on projects like cadastre and registry has allowed us to give greater accuracy to geographic information data, and also allowed us to participate with relevant and accurate information.

The vector data for Global Mapping Version 2 is according to four thematic layers, extracted at scale 1:1 million:

1. Transportation:
 - Aerofacilities, - Roads, - Railroad
2. Political boundaries:
 - Coastline, - National boundary line,
 - Political administrative area
3. Drainage:
 - Water course, - Inland water
4. Population centers
 - Built-up area, - Miscellaneous population

We also validated information for Global Land Cover (GLCNMO2) and Percent Tree Cover (PTC2) with our own thematic layers like Corine Land Cover Map and other sources like Google Earth, and comparing with GLCNMO2 and PTC2 specifications and process provided for ISCGM to make some observations and updates to the data as well.

We are currently exploring the subject of geographic data in the cloud, in order to take advantage of new technological trends and we are promoting projects in the region like the Spatial Data Infrastructure initiative and also involved in workshops such as the Mesoamerican Integration Map in collaboration with USGS, GeoSUR and PAIGH and have been very successful and we hope this could be the trigger to continue this kind of international cooperation in this region since global problems know no borders, and it is necessary to face them from this perspective.

The United States of America Delivers New Global Map Data

Jay Donnelly
Editor
National Atlas of the United States of America
USGS

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has participated in the Global Map since its inception. We are pleased to announce the completion of new digital cartographic data for the United States that meets the Global Map Specifications Version 2.2. All vector data listed in the following table is now available.

Layer	Feature Name	Feature Type
Boundaries	Coast Line	edge
	Political Boundary Area	face
	Political Boundary Line	edge
Drainage	Canal*	edge
	Inland Water	face
	Water Course	edge
Population Centers	Built-Up Area*	point
Transportation	Airport*	point
	Ferry Route*	edge
	Port*	point
	Railroad	edge
	Railroad Station*	point
	Road	edge

* optional features

In addition to these vector layers, we also offer a national Global Map elevation dataset at a resolution of 100 meters.

All vector datasets were compiled using a variety of larger-scale cartographic data sources and were generalized to 1:1,000,000 scale. These vector datasets were also vertically integrated to assure proper alignment of features between layers. The vector data layers were subjected to two cartographic reviews. The first of these examined the generalization of the edges and faces to ensure that there was a consistent approach to compiling and presenting data at scale. The second cartographic review examined and improved the quality of vertical integration between map layers. Edge positions were adjusted as necessary to remove overlaps. Wherever possible, linear features were separated by 300 meters, but were kept within 500 meters of their true position. Care was also taken to horizontally harmonize drainage and transportation edge features along our northern border in collaboration with staff members of the Atlas of Canada. Roads and railroads along our border with Mexico were center aligned using imagery.

Our latest Global Map data is now available from both the Secretariat and from the National Atlas of the United States (http://nationalatlas.gov/help/global-map-faq.html). However, the USGS has decided to end the National Atlas on September 30, 2014, at which time the National Map program (http://nationalmap.gov) will begin to deliver Global Map data. A Web Map Service and a Web Feature Service for Global Map data will be developed within the National Map program in 2015.

In 2013 we began a multiyear research and development project designed to help us revise Global Map data in five years. The result of this work should allow us to identify areas of change that require revision and to automatically generalize large-scale geospatial framework data for those areas of change down to Global Map scale.

From the Secretariat

Message from the New Secretary General of ISCGM

I am Toru Nagayama, new secretary general of the ISCGM. Pursuant to the rules of ISCGM, at Article 22, Item 2, I was appointed to secretary general in April 2014 by Professor Paul Cheung, Chairperson of ISCGM. I am very pleased to be back to the secretariat of the ISCGM after my previous assignment from 2005 to 2008.

I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to my predecessor Mr. Yoshikazu Fukushima. Mr. Fukushima has exerted himself assiduously for the development of the Global Mapping Project for seven years, the longest term of the office of the secretary general. During his term, the project has been advanced, which can be shown by the increase of the number of the project-participating countries and regions, and the number of the countries and regions which have released their data. These increases are from 172 countries and regions in April 2007 to 183 countries and regions in March 2014 for the project-participating countries and regions, and from 30 countries and regions in April 2007 to 118 countries and regions in March 2014 for those whose data have been released, respectively. Further, cooperation with various organizations has been strengthened. I am convinced that such success of the project had not been realized without his tireless efforts.

It is a pleasure for me to be working closely with you and I will do my best under the leadership of Professor Cheung. I wish to ask you to provide me with the same support and advise that you have rendered to Mr. Fukushima for the future of global mapping.

Global Map Data Release and Participation in the Global Mapping Project

Currently 167 countries/16 regions participate in the Project. Among them, data of 110 countries/8 regions have been released (Version 2 data are for 72 countries/4 regions.).

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If you would like to receive or stop receiving Global Mapping Newsletter by e-mail, please inform the secretariat (sec@iscgm.org) of your name, address and e-mail address.

Global Map and Related Meetings

Followings are Global Map and related meetings. Information on related meetings will be highly appreciated.

2014

- **August 5, UN Headquarters, New York, USA**
  The 21st Meeting of ISCGM
  See draft agenda at ISCGM Home Page (http://www.iscgm.org/)
- August 6-8, New York, USA
  UNCE-GGIM Fourth Session
- November 10-12, Bali, Indonesia
  Third Meeting of UN-GGIM-AP

2015

- March 14-18, Sendai, Japan
  Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
- May 17-21, Sofia, Bulgaria
  FIG Working Week 2015
- August 23-28, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
  27th International Cartographic Conference

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