

A vision for future European Location Services

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SUMMARY

Today, the power of geographic information is being unleashed like never before but with so many sources available, users need to be discerning about which one they choose.

The EU covers more than 4 million square kilometres and 1 in 5 of its citizens live within 50 kilometres of a border. Access to up-to-date cross-border maps that are harmonised and can be easily shared between Member States is therefore very important for a wide range of European initiatives – from protecting against flooding, or other natural hazards, to intelligent transport and economic growth. Confidence that the information provided is consistent and comparable, regardless of its national source, is key.

The INSPIRE Directive provides a legal framework to create a European Union spatial data infrastructure. Implementing INSPIRE, however is not easy and whilst the Directive provides leverage for opening up access to sources of authoritative geodata, it has not led to full harmonisation. There are also a number of European policies that do not yet take INSPIRE into account and there is still more to do to ensure the delivery of operational cross-border data and pan-European services.

To help solve some of these issues, EuroGeographics, which represents European National Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registry Authorities, has been working with a number of its members and other partners in the European Location Framework Project.

The Project ended in October 2016 and developed the standards, specifications, tools and technical infrastructure to deliver pan-European geospatial content. It now moves into a two-year transition into an operational service, during which ownership will transfer to EuroGeographics and its

members.

Our vision is that European Location Services will:

- □ Provide the single access point for international users of harmonised, pan-European, authoritative geospatial information and services; and
- □ Enable national mapping, cadastral and land registry authorities to be recognised in our International effort to contribute to the wider public good.

EuroGeographics' strength lies in its extensive membership – 61 organisations from 46 countries covering the whole of geographical Europe. We are founded on a tradition of sharing knowledge and expertise, and we have a long, successful track record of delivering harmonised pan-European geospatial data products.

The European Location Framework Project was our members' response to the demand for one access point to national reference datasets and services and provides a solid foundation on which to build future European Location Services.

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