

Multi-lingual spokespeople available for interview

Filming can be arranged on stand

Date

EuroGeographics joins global spatial data specialists building bridges to address global challenges

EuroGeographics is demonstrating how its 52 members from 43 countries are using geographic information to join up Europe at the GSDI 11/INSPIRE World Conference being held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands from 15 to 19 June 2009.

The umbrella association and voice of the European National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies is a Platinum Sponsor of this year's event and is holding workshops on data quality approval, certification, accreditation and standards in Spatial Data Infrastructures (SDIs) and the quality issues in European Spatial Data Infrastructure Network (ESDIN) as well as exhibiting and providing speakers.

"Our vision of one Europe united through geographic information is dependent on our members working together to connect their data," says Magnus Gudmundsson, EuroGeographics' President. "Through our best practice and engagement activities and our products and services, we provide a vital link between National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies, governments, businesses and other geospatial specialists.

"Cooperation and collaboration are vital to achieving this and we are delighted to be sharing our expertise at an event focussed on building SDI bridges to address global social, economic and environmental challenges."

As part of the session on emerging challenges and approaches, Antti Jakobsson, Programme Manager, EuroGeographics will be sharing the lessons learnt in realising the interoperability of members' data as well as the challenge of adapting to users' ever-changing needs.

Mr Jakobsson will then be joining Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu from the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany, a member of EuroGeographics, to showcase EuroGeoNames for the session on INSPIRE projects. This new authoritative multi-lingual geographical names infrastructure was part-funded under the EC's eContent*plus* programme and developed by EuroGeographics' members, academic institutions and software companies is a prototype implementation for an INSPIRE gazetteer service. Dave Lovell, Executive Director, EuroGeographics and representatives from members from France and Sweden will be explaining how the organisation has been putting INSPIRE theory into practice.

Visitors to EuroGeographics' open-plan stand (5), featuring a giant floor map of Europe, can also learn more about the ESDIN project to help develop services to integrate existing national spatial data infrastructures to create the definitive pan-European location framework. This will give users of geographical information access to the rich resource of reference data – such as co-ordinates, administrative boundaries, transport networks, cadastral parcels and hydrography at various levels of detail – available from the national mapping and cadastral agencies of the European Union Member States, candidate countries and European Free Trade Association (EFTA) States. At the same time, the project will also help these organisations to meet the requirements of the INSPIRE Directive.

ESDIN is also investigating ways to reliably and cost-effectively download, use and re-use geographical information from the public sector. The project is co-funded by the European Commission and co-ordinated by EuroGeographics. It brings together National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies, academic institutions, technology providers, European postal and transport services, military, local and regional government, and software companies.

Mr Gudmundsson concluded: "Our activities focus on underpinning the European Spatial Data Infrastructure with definitive reference data collected, maintained and provided by our members. The GSDI World Conference is a unique opportunity to discuss the challenges and issues we face with other, like-minded professionals who are determined to find innovative and exciting ways to connect their data.

“We are delighted to be supporting such an important event and look forward to exchanging ideas, best practice and expertise with delegates.”

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For further information about EuroGeographics, please contact Executive Director, Dave Lovell +33 676 396 241 (mobile), email dave.lovell@eurogeographics.org. or Patricia Sokacova, Marketing and Communication Manager +33 687 541 395 (mobile), email patricia.sokacova@eurogeographics.org.

Notes to Editors

EuroGeographics at the GSDI 11/INSPIRE World Conference

EuroGeographics is a Platinum Sponsor of the GSDI 11/INSPIRE World Conference and many of its members are taking part. The Association is a member of GSDI and is playing an active part in creating the implementing rules and specifications for INSPIRE.

Monday 15 June 2.00 to 3.30

Workshop 3.7: Is there quality in SDIs? How will technology help?

Organised by Patricia Sokacova, Marketing Communications Manager, EuroGeographics.

Monday 15 June 4.00 to 5.30

Workshop 4.7: Just because they're interoperable ... meeting users expectations of data quality in SDIs.

Organised by Patricia Sokacova, Marketing Communications Manager, EuroGeographics.

Thursday 18 June 2.00 to 3.30

Parallel session 4.9: Data standards for global map.

A workshop to exchange information between the EuroGeographics-led ESDIN project and the International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM).

Moderator: Chris Higgins, EDINA, Edinburgh University Data Library, UK.

Thursday 18 June 4.00 to 5.30

Parallel session 5.7: Emerging challenges and approaches.

5.7d: Hard lesson on implementing interoperability in Europe: EuroGeographics' experience, Antti Jakobsson, Programme Manager, EuroGeographics.

Friday 19 June 09.30 to 11.00

Corporate sector visions and perspectives: local to global participation.

Chairs: Dave Lovell, Executive Director, EuroGeographics and Rob van de Velde, Director Geonovum. Organised by the corporate sponsors of the programme.

Friday 19 June 11.30 to 1.00

Parallel session 6.8: INSPIRE projects.

6.8b: EuroGeoNames (EGN) – A prototype implementation for an INSPIRE service, Antti Jakobsson, Programme Manager, EuroGeographics; Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy, Germany.

6.8d: Putting theory into practice, Jorgen Hartnor, National Land Survey, Sweden; Pierre Nouaille-Degorce, National Geographic Institute, France and Dave Lovell, Executive Director, EuroGeographics.

About EuroGeographics

EuroGeographics is the membership association and voice for the European national mapping and cadastral agencies. It brings together 52 members from 43 countries, who invest around €1.5 billion in the development of geographical information each year and use cutting-edge technology to create, manage, maintain and make available authoritative national databases.

EuroGeographics provides a forum for sharing information and best practice and a platform for creating pan-European harmonised datasets. It is a powerful partner for European policy-decision makers and institutions and a reliable provider of authoritative geographic information for civil protection, risk management, enterprise, transport, housing, regional development and much more.

To find out more about EuroGeographics, please visit www.eurogeographics.org. To see our members' geographical information in action, please visit our showcase at

www.youtube.com/eurogeographics. To learn more about the recently completed EuroGeoNames project, please visit '[EuroGeoNames in action](#)'

About ESDIN

ESDIN is a collaboration between mapping and cadastral agencies, academic institutions and technology providers to help prepare data for the INSPIRE Directive. It will benefit a wide range of people including data users and suppliers, systems integrators, software vendors, consultants, academics, those working in standard development and implementation and those involved in establishing spatial data infrastructures.

ESDIN is co-ordinated by EuroGeographics and supported by funding from the European Commission. The project started in September 2008 and will end in February 2011. More information is available at: www.esdin.eu