International Workshop on Spatial Data and Map Quality
Old University Building, Valletta, Malta 20th - 21st January 2015

During the past decades the main problem in the domains of geography and cartography was the lack of spatial data availability. Nowadays the wide diffusion of location-enabled electronic devices is resulting in the generation of an unprecedented volume of spatial data. In addition volunteered geographic information activities (e.g. OpenStreetMap, Wikimapia), public initiatives (e.g. Spatial Data Infrastructures, Geo-portals, Open data,) and private projects (e.g. Google Earth, Bing Maps) produce or integrate an abundance of spatial data and map products. However, in most cases this plethora does not help the efficiency and effectiveness of decision processes. This is because usually these data have no associated quality indicators included in metadata.

In order to utilise spatial data, produce reliable maps and facilitate the decision process at all levels by means of spatial data/services a clear identification of the quality of geographical information is needed. However, quality can mean different things to users and producers. Aspects like user feedback, usability and quality visualization have to be considered.

In Europe there are currently diverse ongoing activities on spatial data and map quality issues in various national mapping organisations, universities, and the private sector.

Implementation of the European spatial information infrastructure (INSPIRE) will change the availability of data in Europe. Therefore there is an urgent need for better data quality management. The European Location Framework (ELF) project (www.elfproject.eu) and the National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities (NMCAs) in Europe are working to create the first implementation of a geospatial reference infrastructure based on national information assets (INSPIRE). One of goals of the project is to introduce a Data Quality Validation Service that can be applied for checking the data quality from both the producer and user point of views. During the workshop the main results of the project will be presented. In addition the association of NMCAs, EuroGeographics, has established the Quality Knowledge Exchange Group (QKEN), which has active members working on sharing best practices among national mapping authorities.

Key standardisation organisations are active in this quality domain. ISO/TC 211 has created international metadata (ISO 19115) and quality (ISO 19157, ISO 19158) standards. The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) has active quality groups working on user feedback and quality issues. In other domains there are already examples of certification and accreditation standards. The workshop will explore the need for development and results on application of these ISO geoinformation quality standards and how these should be developed further.

Spreading the knowledge and application of quality tools, approaches, and techniques will not in itself lead to sustainable results. Sustainable results require a quality approach that is applied within a culture that supports, promotes, and enables a commitment to excellence and best practice. Understanding the basic rules, tools, and fundamentals of quality are key to its effectiveness.

A number of international groups and organisations actively involved in spatial data and map quality issues are organizing a two-day international workshop at the Old University Building in Valletta, Malta 20th -21st January 2015.

This two-day event aims at providing innovative and original contribution to the ongoing debate on spatial data and map quality issues and at improving the process of knowledge transfer by means of the development of new techniques and methods for quality assessment of spatial data sets and the maps produced.

http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/international-workshop-spatial-data-and-map-quality

The entities participating in the organisation of the workshop are:
- The European Location Framework (ELF) project
- EuroGeographics – Quality KEN
- EuroSDR
- Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC)
- International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) Technical Committee (TC) 211 Geographic Information
- International Cartographic Association

Programme Committee
- Carol Agius (Chair EuroGeographics – Quality KEN)
- Antti Jakobsson (National Land Survey of Finland)
- Lysandros Tsoulos (National Technical University of Athens, Greece)
- Olaf Ostensen (Chair of the ISO/TC 211)
- Joep Crompvoets (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium)
- Bart De Lathouwer (OGC)
- Jonathan Holmes (Ordnance Survey, Great Britain)
- Anja Hopfstock (Bundesamt für Kartographie und Geodäsie Germany)
- Dorus Kruse (Kadaster Netherlands)
- Joan Masó (Creaf, Spain)
- Rodolphe Devillers (Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada)

Workshop topics

Papers are invited on all topics related to spatial data and map quality, including (but not limited to):
- Quality evaluation of spatial data and maps
- Quality certification and accreditation of spatial data
- Use of ISO metadata and quality standards
- Quality issues in spatial data infrastructures (e.g. national, INSPIRE)
- Communication/visualization of spatial data and map quality
- Spatial data usability
- Impact of data quality on decision making + Policy making + Service delivery
- Impact of data quality on maps/charts
- Quality assessment of maps/charts
- Spatial data quality assessment
- Spatial data quality vs scales
- Applications of spatial data quality
- Business models for managing spatial data quality
- Governance aspects of spatial data management
- Legal aspects (Liability, security, privacy, licensing)

Abstracts should be submitted by 30th September 2014. Each abstract will be independently reviewed by the programme committee members. Their individual scores will be re-evaluated and result in one of the following final decisions: accepted (oral presentation, poster, demonstration), or accepted on the condition that suggestions for improvement will be incorporated, or rejected. Notification of this decision will take place by 30th October 2014. There will be opportunity to send a full paper/long abstract to be published in conference proceedings. The deadline for sending long abstract/full paper is 31st December 2014.

Submissions can be made on-line: https://www.easychair.org/conferences/?conf=sdmq2015

Abstracts should be between 500-1000 words. There is also a possibility to propose a demonstration of software (by sending an abstract). After the conference selected contributions will be considered to be published as a book.

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