Open ELS Regional Gazetteer

Webinar, 23.01.2019,
Marcus Brühl (BKG)

Scope of the gazetteer

- Increasing demand for an open gazetteer service providing **authoritative geographical names** (GN).

- → EuroGeographics' ambition is to provide appropriate services with authoritative data from the NMCAs to meet this demand.

ELS approach

- Assemble the national INSPIRE GN services to a centrally available service on the ELS platform.

- Identified issues:
  - A cascading service faces shortcomings with performance and availability of national services.
  - National services are published with a variety of different licence conditions, which are difficult to combine.
  - Main issue is the **coverage**, as it will be difficult to assemble an ELS GN service for the whole extent of Europe in short time.

New idea (developed in Open ELS project)

- EuroGeographics has already products containing authoritative geographical names with European coverage:

→ EuroBoundaryMap (EBM) and EuroRegionalMap (ERM)

→ **Reuse** the EBM/ERM content:

  - Transform and generalise only the geographical names
  - Add **exonyms** (from EuroGeoNames (EGN) project)
  - Provide the new gazetteer as open data

Name content

- EBM/ERM as source data contain a huge amount of toponyms for all topographic feature types with full European coverage:
  - EBM contains all names of administrative units
  - ERM contains all names of settlements (only city districts missing), transport network, hydrography and more
  - Positional accuracy is absolutely sufficient for a gazetteer
  - ERM/EBM contain all endonyms
- The 2018 update of EBM/ERM will be used for the gazetteer.

Name content

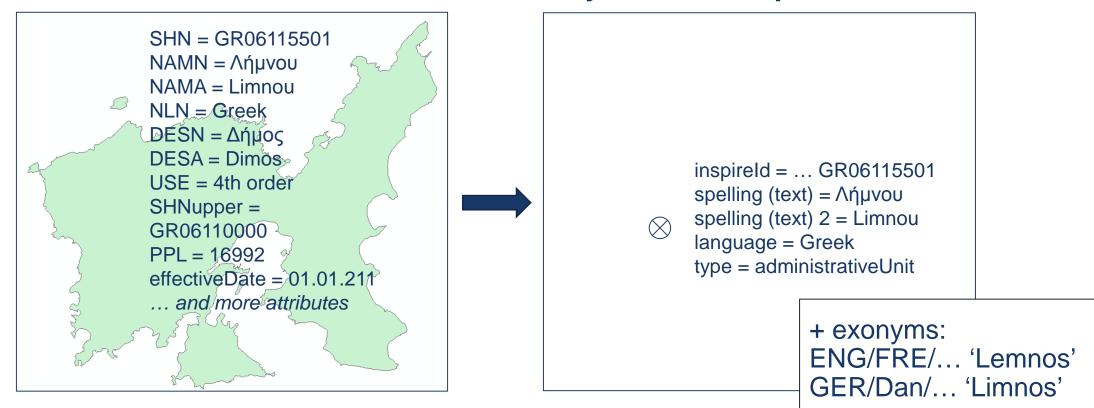| Priority	EBM/ERM feature type
1	BuiltupP
2	UrbanP, RailrdC, AirfldP/C, FerryC, HarborP/C, ExitC
3	AdministrativeUnit_x
4	LakeresA, IslandA, WatercrsA, WatercrsL
5	Additional ERM themes
6	Additional feature types of hydrography and transport

Technical issues

- All feature types with geographical names are transformed (with FME) into the INSPIRE GN data model

- Only reference points are used as geometry
  - EBM/ERM features with line or area geometry are generalised to point

- All objects have stable identifiers

- Exonyms and variant names will be added from EGN and updated and extended further
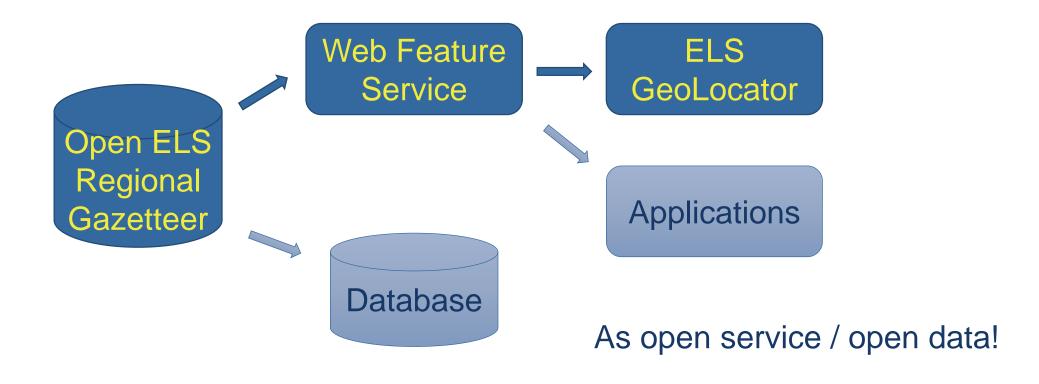
Example of transformation / generalisation

Full EBM

SHN = GR06115501
NAMN = Λήμνου
NAMA = Limnou
NLN = Greek
DESN = Δήμος
DESA = Dimos
USE = 4th order
SHNupper = GR06110000
PPL = 16992
effectiveDate = 01.01.211
… and more attributes

'Only' Reference point with name

inspireId = … GR06115501
spelling (text) = Λήμνου
spelling (text) 2 = Limnou
language = Greek
type = administrativeUnit

+ exonyms:
ENG/FRE/… 'Lemnos'
GER/Dan/… 'Limnos'

Publishing / usage of the gazetteer

As open service / open data!

Frequently asked questions

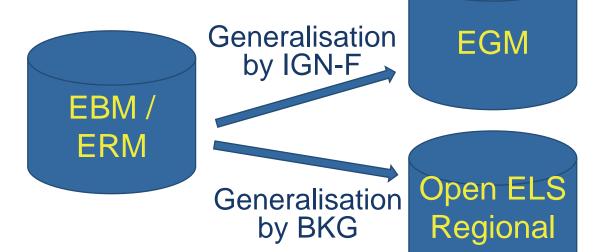www.eurogeographics.org

What is needed from the NMCAs?

- **No** technical input or action required from the NMCAs.
- **Just** permission to use the name content from EBM/ERM.

Is this open data approach new for EG?

- **No,** its similar like EuroGlobalMap.

EBM / ERM

Generalisation by IGN-F →

EGM

All NMCAs agreed to publish EGM (generalised from EBM/ERM) as open data

Generalisation by BKG

Open ELS Regional Gazetteer

Please confirm the same approach for the gazetteer

Why not to use the national GN services?

- National GN services (gazetteers) are only available from few NMCAs as open data.

→ Currently no European coverage.

  → EuroGeographics will not be able to provide authoritative geographical names in due time.

We already provide open GN services nationally, why not to utilize them?

- Fine!
- For the ELS GeoLocator, the national services will be preferred. The Open ELS Regional Gazetteer will only be used for the missing countries.
- But:
  - This needs additional work (assembly of national services and Open ELS Regional Gazetteer)
  - Name content from EBM/ERM is already consistent → worth to be published as consistent service or database

eurogeographics

All our data is open, why do we have to give a special permission for the gazetteer?

- EuroGeographics has to treat any license condition very carefully, because of the complexity and variety between the countries in Europe.

Thank you for your attention

Contact:

Marcus Brühl
Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG)
marcus.bruehl@bkg.bund.de
+49 69 6333 209