# The need to harmonize spatial data for effective cross-border cooperation <br> Case study: Cross-border zone between Bulgaria and North Macedonia 

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## Introduction

- Geospatial data and information (SDI and INSPIRE Directive)
- Interested actors and their role - producer, provider, customer, end-user
$\checkmark$ Government, State Agencies
$\checkmark$ Municipalities
$\checkmark$ Academia, Universities
$\checkmark$ Research institutes
$\checkmark$ Business companies
$\checkmark$ NGOs, etc.
- Data qualities issues
- Data interoperability, exchange \& added-value



## A framework to integrate the geospatial information

https://www.eionet. europa.eu/gemet/en linspire-themes


## Application $\rightarrow$ Annex I: I.2-I.9 <br> -Annex II: II. 1 - II. 4

-Annex III: III.1-III. 21

## Consistent

methodologies
\& information
linking

- INSPIRE DIRECTIVE: Annex I.1. Coordinate reference systems
- CRS for EU (incl. Bulgaria):
$>$ ETRS 1989 - for coordinates ( $x, y, z$ ) and/or $(\varphi, \lambda),(B, L)$
> EVRS 2007-for height h or H

- State e-Gov Agency /2016/; Ministry of e-Governance (2022)
- National Geoportal: https://inspire.egov.bg/
- Key stakeholders $\checkmark$ Ministries
$\checkmark$ State Agencies
$\checkmark$ Municipalities
$\checkmark$ Research institutes
$\checkmark$ Others spatial data INSPIRE


|  | NSPIRE | ANNEXI | ANNEX II | ANNEX III |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Themes ntity | 9 | 4 | 21 |
| $\begin{aligned} & \frac{\mathscr{M}}{\frac{1}{c}} \\ & \frac{6}{6} \\ & \frac{\sum}{\Sigma} \end{aligned}$ | MOEW | 3 | 1 | 9 |
|  | MI | 3 | 2 |  |
|  | MD | 4 | 2 |  |
|  | MRDPW | 7 |  | 2 |
|  | MTITC | 2 |  | 2 |
|  | MAFF |  | 2 | 5 |
|  | ME |  | 1 | 2 |
|  | MH |  |  | 2 |
|  | MC | 1 |  |  |
|  | NSI |  |  | 2 |
|  | MA | 1 |  |  |
|  | BAS |  | 1 | 6 |
| SUM |  | 21 | 9 | 30 |

## - INSPIRE datasets

## https://gis.armf.bg/en/Map?isInspire=True

- gis.armf.bg/en/Map?isinspire=True


## Spatial data MTS Bulgaria <br> https://inspire.egov.bg/



- According to SDQ in Bulgaria:
$\checkmark$ Geospatial databases developed in digital form are:
- in most cases not subject to common rules
- are not covered by uniform national information systems.

Inferences for spatial data quality in Bulgaria
-The need for serious joint multidisciplinary efforts to:
$\checkmark$ evaluate available databases and their quality
$\checkmark$ harmonization of SD in accordance with national and European legislation

- According to establishing NSDI:
$\checkmark$ Policies, people, advanced technology, criteria, and standards
$\checkmark$ Need of a National strategy that reflects the interests of all parties, users and suppliers of geospatial data
$\checkmark$ Indicators to account the INSPIRE implementation


## End-users needs: <br> case study analyses <br> Sociological <br> Survey on the quality of CM\&CR in Bulgaria

- The survey is performed by Dr. Ilinka Ivanova (2016)
- Survey is concerted with the AGC, USLM, CGE, CEID
- Three groups were interviewed:
$\checkmark$ I group: Private geodetic companies (18 questions)
- 32 questionnaires
$\checkmark$ II group: Specialized municipal administrations (17 questions)
- 110 (from 175 municipalities with approved CM\&CR) $\checkmark$ III group: Citizens (13 questions)
- from several cities

Таблица 3

| № | Въпроси | Отговори (относителен дах, \%) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Да | He |
| 1. | В разяснителната кампания при отхрито производство за изработване на кадастрална карта и кадасгрални регистри трябва да участват: <br> a) СГКК; <br> б) СГКК н правоспособното лице; <br> в) СГКК, общината и правоспособ̈ното лице. | 90\% са посочили - <br> - ${\text { буква }{ }_{n} \text { в" и }}^{\text {" }}$ <br> $-10 \%$ буква ${ }^{6}{ }^{6}$ |  |
| 2. | Като собственик на поземлен имот, наясно ли сте защо трябва да означнте границите му? | 5\% | 95\% |
| 3. | Като собственик на недвижим нмот, наясно лі сте защо трябва да представите на фирмата, която изработва кадастратна карта, документа за собственост? | 10\% | 90\% |
| 4. | Трябва ли всички дейности, свързани с поземпената регистрация (кадастьр, карта на възстановената собственост, специатизирани данни за земята и за нмотите, ограничения и др.). да бъдат в една администпат.-. структура (поземлена администрашия)? | 70\% | 30\% |

# Problems identified from I group 

- Poor organization in preparing and conducting the awareness campaign in the process of CM and CR production
- Lack of engagement of the property owners due to unawareness of their rights and obligations
- Errors in CM
- Detecting errors in CR
- No current control when creating CM and CR
- The time for field measurements is not is not good enough for quality work of CM
- Administrative structures for CM and CR should be only one administrative structure


## Problems identified from II group

- Municipalities (70\%) did not mark the boundaries of the municipal ownership on the terrain
- Co-operation between municipalities, AGCC and contractors is rather "poor", rarely "satisfactory" and exceptionally "good"
- Most of the municipalities state that have a capacity and can serve the citizens with actions related to CM \& CR
- Municipalities (95\%) state that the exchange between the CIS and the municipal administration have to be on-line
- A representative of the municipalities to participate in the control of CM and CR
- Correct completion of the CM is of utmost importance to the municipalities, but CM are completed of $50-60 \%$ in reality


## Problems identified from III group

- Citizens are not aware of the CM \& CR activities
$\checkmark$ Not unaware of their rights and obligations during this process
$\checkmark$ Do not know why the cadastral map is being make and should mark the boundaries of their property
$\checkmark$ Mistrust the accuracy of boundaries of land properties in the CM and the data entered in the CR
$\checkmark$ Many of them are convinced that surveyors deliberately reflect the boundaries in CM with errors to have a work
- All land registration, cadaster and land registry activities should be in one institution
- The issuance of real estate sketch should be done also by the municipalities


## Inferences

 from the survey (Ivanova, 2016)- There are many discrepancies between property boundaries in $C M$ and $C R$ (MRP) and their actual position on the terrain
$\checkmark$ this leads to the errors in detailed Urban development plans
- Issuing documents with false content (cadastral sketch); $\checkmark$ as a consequence of issuing other documents with false content- notary deeds, partition agreements, mortgages, etc.
- Incorrect reflection in cadastral maps of linear objects; $\checkmark$ AGCC to become an initiator for the CIS upgrade with specialized data
- Errors in the properties boundaries in CM will have a negative impact on the creation of specialized maps of underground and over ground pipelines and the whole infrastructure


## Present state of CM\&CR in Bulgaria

- CM\&CR cover almost 97\% of the territory of Bulgaria https://kais.cadastre.bg/en
$\checkmark$ Detailed information on the stages of production of CM\&CR updated every month
$\checkmark$ All services and references are electronically provided $\checkmark$ Users can visit, get information and monitor the status of their requests

- Upcoming upgrade of Cadastral information system
$\checkmark$ plan to provide online access to historical and project data in the cadastral map
$\checkmark$ users can receive online information about the status of the cadastral map at a selected past time
$\checkmark$ it will be possible to see the current projects for the amendment of cadastral objects


# Monitoring \& Reporting Dashboard Bulgaria (2022) <br> https://inspire.egov.bg/ 

-National INSPIRE Report (2022)
Bulgaria -
https://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/mr2022.htm
Metadata

| 166 | 37 | 0 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dataset | Services | Series |

$\checkmark$ Bulgaria declares values equal or close to $100 \%$ for all the indicators on the conformity of datasets and services.

Overview statistics of the harvested metadata
Dataset: 166
Series: $\mathbf{0}$
Services: 37

Results of evaluation using INSPIRE Reference Validator []

Metadata Dataset

Conformant: 62 NoT Conformant: 104
(1) Click to download the test reports of failed records

Metadata Services

Conformant: 19 NOT Conformant: 18
[1) Click to download the test reports of failed records

| country | MDIT, 1 | MDil. 2 | DS12 | DS12.1 | DS12.2 | DS12.3 | NS12 | NS12.1 | NS12.2 | NS14 | NS14.1 | NS14.2 | NS14.3 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| AT | 99\% | 99\% | 86\% | 88\% | 98\% | 70\% | 60\% | 61\% | 97\% | 97\% | 100\% | 96\% | 98\% |  |
| BE | 95\% | 63\% | 73\% | 96\% | 71\% | 71\% | 79\% | 93\% | 80\% | 92\% | 83\% | 93\% | 91\% |  |
| BG | 37\% | 51\% | 96\% | 100\% | 100\% | 98\% | 34\% | 46\% | 34\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% |  |
| CH | O\% | 0\% | 2\% | 7\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | $2 \%$ | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | 0\% | $0 \%$ |  |
| CY | 0\% | 0\% | 2\% | 0\% | 25\% | 0\% | 81\% | 93\% | 88\% | 0\% | ONA | 0\% | 0\% |  |

## Geospatial data available in North Macedonia

- Creation of digital SD in the Republic of North Macedonia since 2007 with Strategic Plan of AREC 2007-2011
- Numerous GIS projects implemented by ministries, municipalities, research institutes and universities, NGOs, private companies and other institutions using the EU and national funds and following the strategy "bottom-up"
- Law on Real Estate Cadaster - 2008
- Law on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (24.02.2014); amendments (03.06.2016, 21.06.2023)
- National Contact Point - AREC, nipp@katastar.gov.mk




# Holders of spatial data in North Macedonia <br> https://nipp2.k atastar.gov.mk: 5003/geonipp/ \#re3gistryPanel 

- Agency for Real Estate Cadaster - 140 layers
- Crisis Management Center - 9 layers
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy - 7 layers
- Ministry of Internal Affairs - 4 layers
- Spatial planning agency - 4 layers
- Geological Institute of the Republic of North Macedonia - 1 layer (example)
- Ministry of Interior - 1 layer
https://nipp2.katastar gov.mk:5003/geonip p/\#searchPanel


## NSDI Catalogue \&

Map viewer


Map OAny O intersecte O Within Results
Results
By Title
159 items


Topic category
Dataset themes
Publication date
Format distribution
Authorised institution

Keywords
$\leftarrow \rightarrow \mathrm{C}$ nipp2.katastar.gov.mk:5003/geonipp/\#mapPanel


- Thematic categories of NSDI of North Macedonia


## http://nipp.katastar.gov.mk

nipp.katastar.gov.mk

## Holders of reference spatial data INSPIRE



## - Themes of spatial data collections

## http://nipp.katastar.gov.mk

$\rightarrow$ C A Not secure | nipp.katastar.gov.mk

THEMES OF SPATIAL DATA COLLECTIONS

## Holders of spatial data in North Macedonia



* mineral resources
- Data transformation
$\checkmark$ Geometry
$\checkmark$ Semantic
- Requirements for data
$\checkmark$ FAIR principles
$\checkmark$ measurement level
$\checkmark$ Map scale
$\checkmark$ Topological information

Geospatial data changes

- Requirements of users
$\checkmark$ Data governance
$\checkmark$ Stages of transformation
$\checkmark$ High EU level
$\checkmark$ National level
$\checkmark$ Governmental institutions
$\checkmark$ Keeping up to date level of:
- Consistency
- Conformity
- Integrity - positional uncertainty location


# Qualities of geospatial data 

- Components of data quality - spatial, temporal, and thematic $\checkmark$ Accuracy
$\checkmark$ Precision or resolution
$\checkmark$ Consistency
$\checkmark$ Completeness
- Data quality standards $\checkmark$ SDQ standards USA-SDTS (1992), ICA (1995), CEN/TC287 (1998), ISO/TC211I (2002)
$\checkmark$ Meta-data standards: accepted in the USA in 1998 and by ISO in 2003
- Lineage
- Positional accuracy
- Attribute accuracy
- Logical consistency
- Completeness
- Semantic accuracy
- Purpose of usage
- Constraints
- Temporal quality
- Variation in quality
- Meta-quality, etc.
- Preliminary evaluation of the Data quality - QA/QC of raw data
- Joint geospatial data harmonization and mutual exchange $\checkmark$ Transformation and conversation into internationally agreed standards and nomenclatures - using open source technology
- Use upper-level standards - OGS, ISO/TC 211

Spatial Data harmonization different approaches

- INSPIRE Reference Validator


## (https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/validator/home/index.html)

$\checkmark$ Joint harmonization and transformation between two governmental responsible institutions following national standards
$\checkmark$ Separate harmonization following convinced procedure and flow chart of activities - after than comparative analysis of data from both countries and check of transformed data


## Map design of TM 1:25,000

North Macedonia
https://eurogeographics.org/app/uploads/2018/04/Picture3-575x900.png

Bulgaria
https://gis.armf.bg/bg/Services

## Case study: Topographic maps in scale 1:25,000







Data format of TM 1:25,000

## Case study: Topographic maps in scale 1:25,000

## Bulgaria

Vector data: ArcGIS ESRI Coverage
Raster data: GeoTIFF
Spatial resolution: 0.5 m
Sheet: $5^{\prime}$ of latitude by $7^{\prime} 30^{\prime \prime}$ of longitude ( $10 \mathrm{~km} \times 9 \mathrm{~km}$ )
Nomenclature: К-34-47-Г-а(б, в,г)

North Macedonia

## https://www.katastar.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/tk/specifikaciia tk25.pdf

- Vector data: ArcGIS ESRI Coverage
- Raster data: GeoTIFF
- Spatial resolution: 0.5m
- Sheet: 7'30" by 7'30"

- Implemented project until now
$\checkmark$ missing projects related to the spatial data harmonization
$\checkmark$ Three cross-border leveling lines have been measured and the state leveling networks of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia are connected.
$\checkmark$ Through the network of the RS Macedonia is aligned in the European vertical reference system in 2019.
$\checkmark$ The precise leveling measurements are initialized by the Real Estate Cadaster Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia and Agency for Geodetic Cartography and Cadaster of the Republic of Bulgaria.

- To explore the good experience of cross-border cooperation on a European scale - INSPIRE KNOWLEDGE BASE
- Stakeholders to be more active both in looking for opportunities to finance activities and to create capacity
- To follow international standards, INSPIRE recommendations
- Drafting and provision of a cross-border spatial management protocol that supports the implementation of the cross-border data harmonization process
$\checkmark$ to formulate common goals and responsibilities of all parties involved
$\checkmark$ to determine a framework for the implementation and duration of the agreement
$\checkmark$ to regulate commitments and rights for all participating parties regarding the harmonization, exchange, use and maintenance of data
$\checkmark$ to coordinate access rights to harmonized territorial data in border areas
$\checkmark$ to settle the issue of sustainable maintenance, management and monitoring of the data harmonization process
$\checkmark$ joint cross-border training courses and exchange of good practices
$\checkmark$ - discussing topics of mutual interest regarding geospatial data, information, instructions for using transboundary spatial data, etc.


# Recommendations 

- Issues to resolve
$\checkmark$ Metadata records with XML (ISO 19139) encoding errors failed to be indexed by the GeoNetwork
$\checkmark$ To include INSPIRE metadata records in national catalogues
$\checkmark$ To correctly provide services serving thousands of data sets
- Issues to resolve on a national level
$\checkmark$ to ensure compliance of national data according to the requirements of the INSPIRE directive
$\checkmark$ Bulgaria effectively uses the INSPIRE Reference Validator and achieved some improvements in all indicators compared to 2021, but not substantial
$\checkmark$ North Macedonia - information on the EU INSPIRE portal from 2021 is missing and needs to be added
- Creating SD with high quality: ones obtained - many usage
- Observe the international standards (ISO, OGC, ICA, etc.)
- Using a standard approach to assessing SDQ
- Perform regular SDQ control
- Maintaining communication between the different actors involved in creating, managing, updating, using and sharing of SD, incl. through SDI geo-portals
- Validating data, metadata or services by common INSPIRE validator Ver. 1.0.0
- Using SDI Diagnostic Tool (Kelm et al. , 2017)


## Thank you for your attention!

For contact:<br>Assoc. Prof. Lyubka Pashova, PhD<br>National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy<br>and Geography<br>BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES<br>E-mail: Ipashova@geophys.bas.bg, Ipashova.niggg@gmail.com<br>URL: http://www.niggg.bas.bg/<br>Assoc. Prof. Bashkim Idrizi, PhD<br>Geo-SEE Institute Skopje<br>E-mail: bashkim.idrizi@yahoo.com<br>URL: https://geo-see.org/

