

Austria

Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying

Describing the topography of Austria with a new land cover service

“In Autumn 2024, BEV launched a new service allowing access to nationwide land cover information. This product is the outcome of an ongoing programme of digitisation at Austria’s national mapping agency. In addition to improving the efficiency of internal processes, we also expect it to have a significant impact on the quality of analysis and products using this data for environmental monitoring.”

Wernher Hoffmann
President, Federal Office
of Metrology and Surveying,
Austria

Easy-to-use really high-resolution land cover information is now available for Austria via a new service from the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying (BEV).

Launched in Autumn 2024, BEV-Land Cover allows access to nationwide land cover information for six classes: water body, high vegetation, medium vegetation, low vegetation, building and ground area.

The service is based on digital orthophotos with 20 cm ground sampling distance and a Digital Surface Model derived from the ident set of aerial images.

It also incorporates an airborne laser scanning-based Digital Terrain Model. An accurate separation of the regions covered with vegetation is achieved by calibrating the threshold of the Normalized Digital Vegetation Index (NDVI) in a few test areas within each flight block. Object-based image analysis is then used to classify the land cover information.

The data, which has a planned three-year update cycle, is available to users as a Web Map Service (WMS) or download from the BEV geoportal.

Benefits

- Provides an easy-to-use service that delivers really high-resolution land cover information.
- Improves efficiency as part of the digitalisation of BEV’s core processes.
- Enables the detection of land cover classes without any presuppositions.
- Plays an essential role in the detection and monitoring of soil use.
- Provides information to improve the accuracy of greenhouse gas balance.
- Incorporates land cover information into a modern national geodata infrastructure.

Graz city centre: digital orthophoto and BEV-Land Cover

