Sweden

Implementing a National Geodata Strategy in Sweden

Lantmäteriet, the Swedish Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authority, continues to collaborate in the implementation of a new National Geodata Strategy.

For 2017, the Geodata Council defined an action plan with eleven prioritised actions. Four of the actions focused on defining the most basic national geodata and how that data can be financed and made openly available. Another group of actions developed the National Geodata Strategy further in the areas of forestry, civil contingencies, green infrastructure and climate adaptation in coastal areas. One of the eleven actions also provided the Geodata Council with information about the need for developments in the urban planning process.

As a result of the action plan, the Government allocated an additional 12 MSEK annually for continuous laser scanning to establish a freely-available surface model for forestry. The plan is also developing a common understanding of trends in urban planning, initiating a review of national responsibilities related to INSPIRE and furthering cooperation in geodata production planning.

Lantmäteriet has been tasked by the Government to secure a solid digital urban planning process in cooperation with other authorities and organisations. Whilst there are several good examples of digitalisation, an immediate finding was that the overall digital maturity within Swedish authorities is low and varied. Information is, in many ways, still analogue although in some municipalities the process itself is partially digitalised but not fully connected, either internally or with other authorities. A number of dialogue and decision documents are still analogue, and automatic methods are very rare. The most fundamental need is to include all nationally standardised, available geodata in the process, which will also require the development of legislation.

In addition to the standardisation of information, the next step will be the development of a national platform for the most requested geodata which will be done in close cooperation with the Geodata Council. The plan also includes activities scaling up good examples of smart digital solutions to a national level. It is of great importance that these provide solutions for the urban planning process and can be re-used in other important processes for society.

In 2017 the Swedish National Space Board launched Swea, a system for distributing Copernicus data, mainly from the Sentinel satellites, to which the Swedish satellite data archive Saccess is being transferred. Lantmäteriet's participation in the fourth update of the Corine Land Cover project used the satellite images in Saccess and Swea to identify the changes that have occurred since the last update in 2012.