

OPEN DATA RELEASED IN NORWAY

Increased government funding has enabled the Norwegian Mapping Authority to release its central national datasets as Open Data with a government strategy setting out plans to release even more in the future.

The national place name database was the first to be made available for free download in Spring 2013, followed by 1:50 000 to 1:1 million scale topographical land data and road networks, administrative boundaries and the national land-based elevation models. At the same time, the Authority simplified its pricing models for paid-for datasets by introducing a fixed cost based on the number of clicks made by users. As a result, prices for property data have been reduced by around half. A facility to enable commercial trials of new products and services based on its data has also been introduced.

To compensate for the loss of revenue resulting from the move to open data, the 2014 national budget has increased funding for the Norwegian Mapping Authority by 25 million kroner.



Kartverket



From 2015, it is planned that the Norwegian Polar Institute's map data for Svalbard and the Antarctic as well as the Mapping Authority's orthophotos will be made available for free. There will also be a reduction in the prices for its nautical data and positioning services with the cost of property data from the land register and Cadastre property register also to be further reduced.

Government plans to release the most detailed map data, which is held in a shared database compiled by the Mapping Authority, the municipalities and a number of other agencies and companies require negotiation and clarifications with regard to rights. It is hoped however that they will be released in 2017.

