GEOSPATIAL DATA USE CONTINUES TO GROW IN LATVIA

Use of geospatial data continues to grow in Latvia as a result of improvements to the Geospatial Reference Data Information System (GRIS).

Created with the financial support of the European Regional Development Fund, the government information system was completed in October 2012 but is continuously enhanced with new features.

During 2014, a new version of the map browser was launched in view mode and the functionality of e-services improved. As a result, the number of requests received by the Latvian Geospatial Information Agency (LGIA) via e-services grew by 47% and the number of contracts concluded with customers rose by 43%. In addition, use of the map browser increased by 11%. As web mapping services become more popular, the Agency plans to provide web feature services through the GRIS infrastructure.

GRIS comprises orthoimagery, a digital elevation model and topographic data 1:2000 to 1:250 000 scale and provides access to information, metadata and geospatial information services. It also contains the National Geodetic Network Database, the Database of Toponyms and the Significant Objects Database of tall vertical objects, bridges, healthcare and educational institutions.

The public section, which includes the map browser, e-services and metadata for the geospatial datasets, can be accessed free of charge at http://gpis.lgia.gov.lv. Data is available as a standalone dataset or web service. The GRIS map browser contains data of the administrative borders, the State Addresses Register provided by the State Land Service and land cover data from CORINE Land Cover 2012. It also provides a calculator for converting elevation data to the new vertical coordinates of the European Vertical Reference System which was introduced in Latvia on 1 December 2014.

GRIS reference information is used by a wide range of government institutions, local authorities and enterprises as well as in the Latvian geospatial information portal at https://geolatvia.lv/geo/mapviewer.