

Belgium

eGovernment-award for the collaboration of the emergency services in Belgium

The NATO summit in July 2018 was an event of unparalleled security proportions in Belgium.

To provide a common operational picture for all the services involved, the National Geographical Institute (NGI) provided a digital basemap for real-time viewing of vital information.

This multidisciplinary and unambiguous overview of events in Brussels was indispensable to the Crisis Centre and the other services, such as the police, fire brigades, FPS Health, NATO, Foreign Affairs, the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, and Defence. It was the first time all strategically and operationally relevant information, including the real-time location of the 60 heads of government and VIPs, police, fire brigade, ambulances, incidents and their spatial impact, travel routes and perimeters, had been brought together on the NGI's digital basemap to enable collaboration between command centres and other organisations in the city.

NGI managed overall project management and governance by defining the functional requirements of the system with stakeholders. It also adapted its digital basemap for use in a dense urban environment; provided a paper version and index, which was used intensively by the reinforced police; searched for and uploaded relevant thematic information layers; and created the test plan and tested the solution.



In addition, NGI made the necessary hardware available and organised training courses in the use of the geotool, the tracers and its management.

NGI was relied upon to provide this essential tool for logistics and safety as it had already proven that it could involve such stakeholders in a complex setting through the Cartography for Wildfires project. Although developed initially for the NATO summit, the award-winning solution demonstrates that multidisciplinary collaboration is possible thereby refuting the arguments against such cooperation. NGI and Crisis Centre continue to collaborate, in order to achieve a fully geo-enabled resilience approach.



Image courtesy of NATO