Estonia

High quality spatial information available as open data in Estonia

> High quality national spatial information is now available as open data through an initiative launched by the Estonian Land Board in July 2018.

To better meet user demands, the data includes cadastral and topographic data, including LIDAR scanning data and orthophotos.

Since being established in 2006, the Estonian Topographic Database (ETD) has been continuously updated using aerial photogrammetry, LIDAR scanning and stereo mapping. One of its many objectives is to provide state and local government databases with topographic spatial data for the objects managed within them. To date, it has uccessfully met the needs of the Road Register, Address Data System and Environmental Register.

The Land Board, however still faced a major challenge in improving the use of topographic data in the Land Cadastre. As a prerequisite, amendments in legislation were required, as well as changes in work processes and information systems to ensure flawless data exchange. At the same time, the land cadastre underwent a fundamental change by shifting from parcel-based procedures to a point-based cadastre. All cadastral procedures are now paper-free and based on digital files. Digital archive is able to store the full life cycles of electronic documents.

Landowners benefit from the improved data quality and simplified procedures with the point–based system enabling partial surveying of the parcel. Whilst changing the location of a boundary point affects all adjacent cadastral parcels, the cadastral registrar is entitled to correct cadastral data based on the topographic database. Therefore from 2019, the land cover data for each parcel will be determined from topographic data. The aim is that the landowners' feedback on land cover data will launch the largest crowd-sourced spatial data verification project in the history of the topographic database, thus further improving the quality of spatial data.