Estonia

Improving data quality to support preparations for the 2021 census

The Estonian Land Board's Address Data System (ADS) fulfils a vital social function and will also play a pivotal role in the forthcoming population and housing census.

The census takes place in 2021 and will mostly be based on data from different registers. It is therefore important for the data to be accurate, complete and up-to-date. The Land Board is collaborating with other institutions to prepare by improving the data quality and efficient use of all relevant databases.

The Land Board helps to improve data quality by providing additional information. This includes updated orthophotos and linked data for other registers such as the register of construction works, population register and business register.

In addition, it is coordinating the efforts of local governments in improving address data quality. In 2019, data for more than 60,000 objects, mostly the addresses of residential buildings, were fixed. This helps to eliminate cases where a substation, shed or garage has been registered as a place of residence, or the residential building is no longer standing.

All proven residential or work buildings are assigned a unique address by the local governments who are supported by Land Board specialists, its X-GIS map application and photo warehouse. It is essential that the information is collected only once and then reused, and to ensure that changes made in one register are automatically made in the other registers.

The Address Data System contains more than 2.4 million objects, including 1.1 million buildings, 526,000 apartments and 692,000 cadastral parcels. For viewing the Estonian address data, a new public service at xgis.maaamet.ee/adsavalik was created.