

## Delivering data to promote peace, prosperity and security

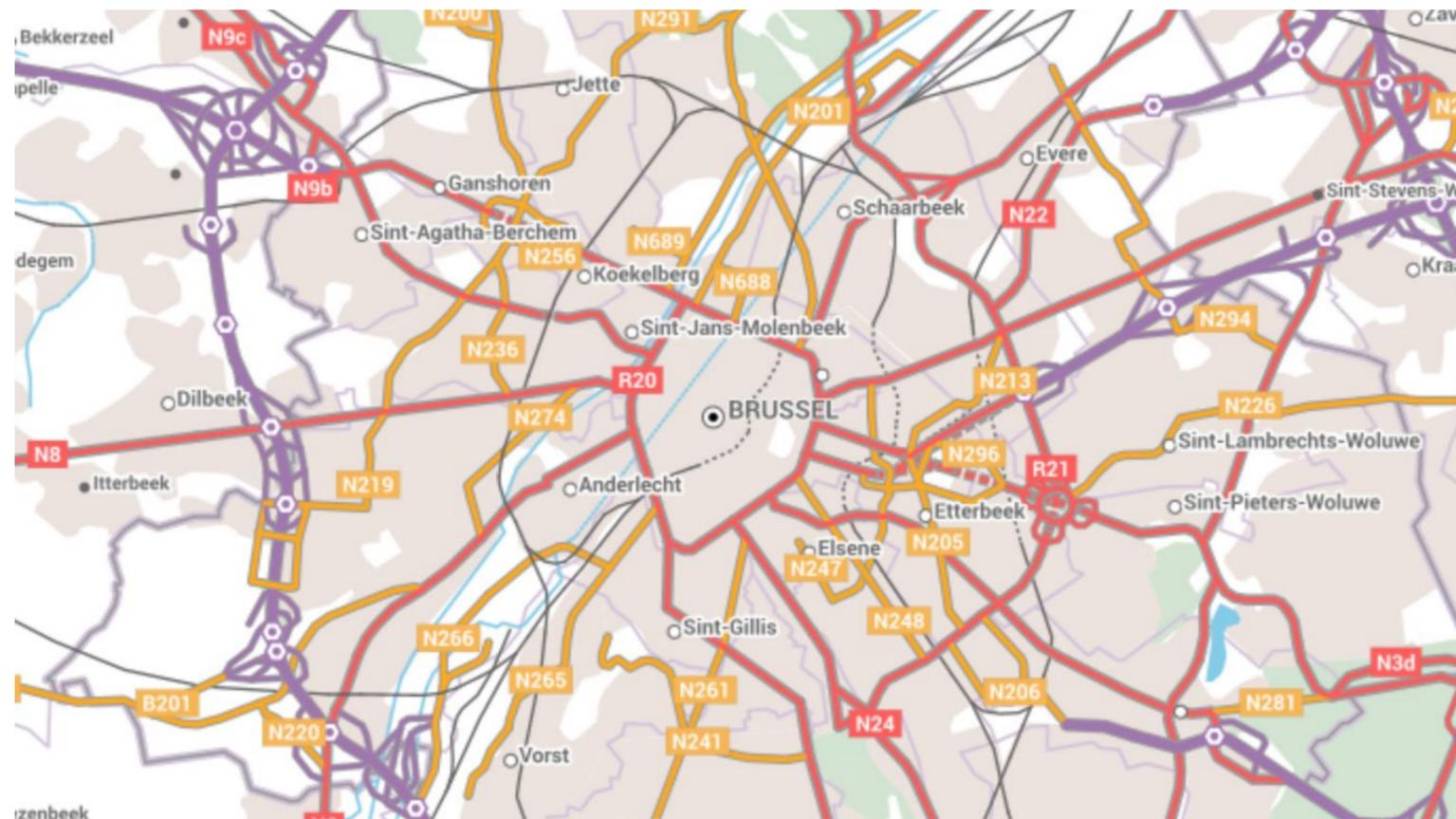
*“We need a coherent database, and we need data that we can trust and rely on. We need authoritative geospatial information, quality controlled, preferably from governmental sources with borders and boundaries that should reflect the EU view. We also need a common place where we can do planning. So, the 1:250 000 scale seamless open data is crucial for us in determining, for example, where we reinforce our bridges so that heavy trucks can cross them without breaking or planning our routing systems.”*

Lieutenant-Colonel  
Soenke Fischhoefer  
Senior Geospatial Officer EUMS,  
EU External Action Service

**The European External Action Service (EEAS) is the European Union’s (EU) diplomatic service, and since 2011 has carried out the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy to promote peace, prosperity, security, and the interests of Europeans across the globe. It uses EuroRegionalMap, a pan-European dataset available through the Open Maps For Europe project, for planning military mobility and investment programmes.**

### Challenge

Security is a priority in the EU’s Global Strategy. In a rapidly changing world however, security challenges have become more complex requiring Member States to collaborate more closely, particularly in delivering trusted and reliable information for planning and field operations.



### Benefits

- Provides access to a coherent database of trusted, quality controlled, reliable geospatial information for defence planning and situational awareness that can be used to be designated for legally binding use of geospatial information.
- Avoids misinterpretation of data by reflecting the EU view of international borders and boundaries.
- Supports the EU’s Global Strategy, in which security is a priority, and the EU’s Common Foreign and Security Policy,
- Provides a common operational picture for planning and field operations.

## Solution

EuroRegionalMap, a multi-themed pan-European topographic dataset available through the Open Maps For Europe project, is used by the EU External Action Service to provide authoritative information for planning and on-the-ground activities. EuroRegionalMap would in that way provide governmental data about Europe – not just the European Union but other group members as well.

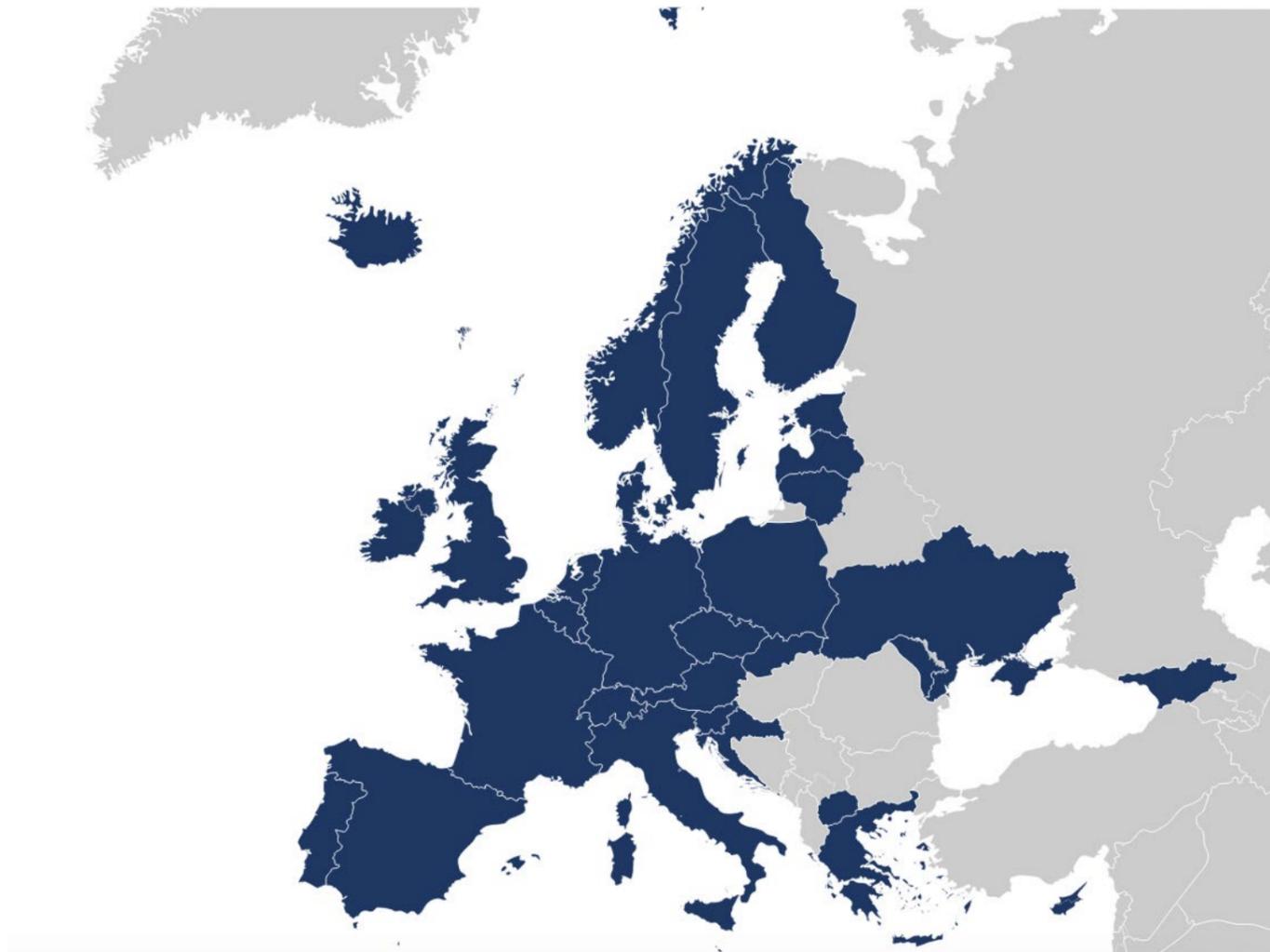
Created using official map, geospatial and land information from 31 European National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities (NMCAs), the dataset is developed through a unique production system which harmonises and quality assures national data to standard specifications so users can be confident that the information provided is consistent, comparable and easily shared.

Lieutenant-Colonel Soenke Fischhoefer, Senior Geospatial Officer EUMS, EU External Action Service explains: “I need to give a high rank general good information for planning which is also connected to the infantry man on the ground. So, I need a coherent database, and I need data that I can trust and rely on. That is the reason why we are using Open Maps For Europe because it provides authoritative harmonised pan-European data from governmental organisations.”

“We’re interested in roads and bridges, vegetation, forests, waters, and populated areas but we need all data visible from all member states. Data should be as complete as possible, but we do not need a 24-hour updates, as this is something that we can do on our own. What we need is reliable data, built on authoritative geospatial information, quality controlled, and showing borders and boundaries that reflect the EU view.” Open Maps for Europe provides easy online access to harmonised pan-European geospatial open data from official sources.

The Open Maps For Europe project is co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union. It is coordinated by EuroGeographics, the membership association for European NMCAs, in partnership with the National Geographic Institute (NGI) Belgium.

This is the first time that the datasets, created using EuroGeographics’ unique data integration process, have been easily discoverable, accessible, and released as open data. They include topographic data, a digital elevation model, imagery, a cadastral map, and a gazetteer.



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.mapsforeurope.org](http://www.mapsforeurope.org)



**Co-financed by the Connecting Europe  
Facility of the European Union**