

„Cadastral Maps Network” Meeting

Einsiedeln, 26.06.2012

Minutes

1. General information on the working group

- Cadastral Maps Questionnaire Survey: 20 institutions from 11 countries (PL, CZ, HR, RS, ME, SI, IT, AT, DE, ES, HU) provided already input. 15 partners from 10 countries (5 national, 8 territorial or municipal, 2 special archives) declared themselves interested in cooperation and joint project. Other countries which may be interested: SK, RO
- Main interests: Digitization of cadastral maps, online publication, publication on a common internet platform
- Only 5 partners declared interest in georeference and GIS applications, Mr. Sipos pointed out that especially georeference would have a lot of use for the project, but perhaps is a too big step for the partners
- Presentation of a solution for the internet platform: www.archivportal.hu with an integrated joint database and presentation in GIS system of the cadastral maps of the counties of Hungary.

2. Challenges and current status in Hungary

- The cadastral maps of Hungary are kept in the national and many county archives incomplete. The Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing also keeps a considerable part of the maps missing from the archives, but it has not been ready to cooperate, however there is a chance that the cooperation starts to get better and seems to be ready for conversation.
- Lot of maps are still missing and there is much work to do. The challenge is to find the missing sheets, digitize them and integrate them into the online database.
- Owing to the georeference the maps of whole counties can be put together easily from the individual sheets, and make it possible to “walk” through the whole county on the Cadastral Maps section of archivportal.hu. Andras Sipos pointed out that georeference is needed also to make it possible to connect sort of information to the pixels of the digitized maps using the geocodes.
- In Hungary a database of toponyms have been connected with the geocodes of the settlements. Hungarian Archives Portal includes a database of settlement names the records of which are connected to the georeferenced cadastral maps. In the case of some counties field names, owners’ lists are also connected in this way at parcel level.
- A project has to exhibit some innovative elements. One option could be to look at the possibility of the automatic computer interpretation of cadastral maps. The cadastral maps contain many important pieces of information embedded in the map as legends, color or text.

Extracting this information would allow these maps to be used as baseline maps for 19th century GIS visualizations, spatial measurements, etc. There are known methods that allow us to extract regions and lines from digitized maps and create vector representations that can be imported into geographic information systems, can be used to generate metadata descriptions of the maps and allow us to create land-related statistics automatically. Practical uses of such a system include extracting house and parcel information automatically, or identifying key objects (religious or municipal buildings, bridges, mills, etc.).

3. Proposals

- Integrate georeference in the project planning of the Network. The conditions of using geodata should be clarified in all countries.
- Organize a work group which should work on the application for the EU CP.
- Defining clear complementary roles of the project partners, to explain clearly, how the outcome will differ from the sum of the initiatives at national level, in this spirit all partners should think about their roles
- The project should integrate some activities fostering the intercultural dialog - for example building an international database of toponyms of East-Central Europe in different languages and make the maps searchable by this database.
- Work out dissemination methods to catch the attention of the general public beyond specialist researchers
- Try to find new partners (even from the fields of IT and GIS applications)

4. Discussion:

- Input Herbert Wurster (DE): Many linguists are already dealing with toponyms - very good historical databases already exist, so it's no need to invent new databases but to try to get linguists into the project
- Input Herbert Wurster (DE): Also in the field of georeference and GIS many people are already active and have put together much data, state property administrations should be asked to put in their know-how. The project should be explained to them because they are not aware that the archives want their data, perhaps georeference - input can come from them, in G it would be possible but of course it differs from country to country
- Input Josko Katelan (ME): Property authorities in Montenegro are also very interested in linking together the data.

5. Final remarks

- Mr. Sipos will sum up the proposals and send it via email
- All partners should think about their project roles until end of 2012. More concrete ideas are needed to create an application for the EU culture program next year (deadline to hand it in October 2013)