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eContentplus

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¹ OJ L 79, 24.3.2005, p. 1.

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2 Project Objectives

Short description of the problem addressed by the project and its objectives.

Summarize briefly how the project contributes to the programme objectives.

The EuroGeoNames (EGN) project started successfully on 1st September 2006 and will last for 30 months until 28th February 2009. The total project budget amounts to 1,8M €. It is co-financed by the European Commission (contributing 50% of the total costs) within the eContentplus programme. EGN is coordinated by the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG).

2.1 Objectives and problem addressed by the EGN project

Access to consistent and reliable multilingual geographical names is essential for a number of uses including postal services, emergency services, navigation, tourism, property purchases, the mass media and applications such as Google Earth. In all of these areas, geographic names provide one of the most important keys for geo-referencing and accessing a variety of related information. However, considering the claims of the INSPIRE legislation there is no European standard or service for accessing geographical names, rather a patchwork of heterogeneous national services that are not suitable for the European market.

The EuroGeoNames (EGN) project will address this problem by establishing a European infrastructure and services for the exploitation and re-use of existing public sector heterogeneous geographical names data sources disturbed across Europe. One important deliverable will be interoperable internet services that will link and provide access to the official, multilingual geographical names data, updated in a consistent way and maintained at the source level by the responsible organisations.

Within the EU-funded project duration the “critical mass of content aggregated”, as requested by the eContentplus programme, will be fulfilled by aggregating data for between 5 and 10 European countries – comprising most probably also Candidate as well as EFTA countries – by connecting their national databases in the EGN infrastructure. Currently, national mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs) belonging to 15 countries (Austria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland, France, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, The Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey) presently constitute the ‘EGN Reference Group’ and are the potential data suppliers having declared themselves prepared to make their national geographic names data stocks available for the requirements of the EGN project.

EGN will be targeted primarily at value added resellers (VARs) and service providers to develop specific applications for their customers and deploy value-added GIS products by using the EGN Web Service. The end user will have access to this information at least through a Web GIS reference application which will enable searching in all official European languages, including officially recognized minority languages.

Amongst other deliverables, EGN will provide a sound and robust pan-European gazetteer model for geographical names data. This will provide the basis by which to both harmonise current heterogeneity and also stimulate NMCAs towards better integration of geographical names data within their own national spatial data infrastructures (SDIs). Additionally, EGN will provide links to find and relate variant names, in particular exonyms², to the respective

endonym² and indicate how it is used officially in the country where the geographical feature is located.

Furthermore, EGN will provide a solid proposal for a business model and a marketing concept for the re-use and value-adding of European geographical names data as the rationale for the time beyond the EU-funded project duration.

Last but not least, EGN will also capitalise on the established network and knowledge of the community of European geographical names experts collaborating intensively in the UN Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), with respect to using authoritative geographical names sensitively and appropriately. Sometimes wider political issues are related to them and almost always, linguistic issues have to be taken into account, e.g. regarding questions to the adequate use of main and/or minority languages, exonyms, pronunciation, etc.

To sum up, EGN will set up a full-blown distributed multilingual geographical names data infrastructure and services for Europe, which will help to promote cultural diversity and multilingualism.

2.2 Contribution of the EGN project to the eContentplus programme

The overall aim of the eContentplus programme is to, “*facilitate access to and use of European digital content*”. The EGN project addresses a subset of Europe’s digital content – geographical names – within the targeted area of geographic information and specifically the objective of, “*improving the enabling infrastructure*” to arrive at “*cross border, interoperable and/or seamless geographic information*”. The project will result in quality content (geographical names), aggregated from national, multilingual sources, that can be accessed easily (using ‘state of the art’ technology) by service/product providers and users for a variety of applications.

Apart from the fulfilment of overall aim of the eContentplus programme, the EGN project addresses especially multilingual aspects. EGN will facilitate access to the European geographical names data (maintained at the source level by the responsible organizations). The names data will be provided equally for all languages officially spoken in the European countries, including names data maintained in the officially recognized minority languages. Thus, EGN will also promote the cultural diversity and multilingualism.

EGN will provide interoperable data and populate the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI) [Inspire Directive 2007] through its Web services. EGN will demonstrate how the public sector information [PSI Directive 2003] from European countries’ existing geographical names data can be made available through interoperable services, to be exploited at the European level by public sector authorities and private sector players.

Where applicable, EGN will deploy open standards in services and applications. Hereby, EGN will create a prerequisite for and demonstrate how European geographical names information could make a cornerstone for the production of both commercial and public value-added services (such as topography, traffic and tourism information, trans-national emergency services, location-based services at a pan-European level, environmental analysis).

The EGN project has a concrete and hands-on approach and will open up information that already exists in digital form. The problems faced today are firstly the use of different data models, data exchange formats, etc. in different countries, secondly the lack of visibility of

² Definitions: **Endonym**: Name of a geographical feature in an official or well-established language occurring in that area where the feature is located. **Exonym**: Name used in a specific language for a geographical feature situated outside the area where that language is spoken, and differing in its form from the name used in an official or well-established language of that area where the geographical feature is located.

and accessibility to existing data resources, and lastly the lack of transparency of pricing policies and other conditions to obtain the data. The project will promptly address all problems of the first and the second level. For the last level, at least, some of them will be touched on by providing concepts for an improvement.

The EGN project will unlock and promote the effective pan-European re-use of public sector information via a state-of-the-art infrastructure and services. It will demonstrate how the important public sector names information can be accessed and aggregated on a pan-European level.

Hence, the EGN project is fully compliant with the objectives and the general approach of the eContentplus programme.

3 Consortium

Provide a brief description of the consortium members and their roles in the project.

The EGN project is carried out by an international consortium comprising nine partners from the economy, science and public administration sectors and coming from five countries (Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Slovenia, Great Britain) as well as EuroGeographics, the association of the national mapping and cadastral agencies (NMCAs).

Additionally, the consortium partners represent a wide range of organizations combining the benefits of regional distribution with the benefits of public/private partnership:

- The Consortium partners from organisations/institutions of Germany, the Netherlands and Austria provide long-term experience with regard to the standardisation of geographical names. They are intensively collaborating within the Dutch- and German-speaking Division (DGSD) of the United Nations Group of Experts on the Standardization of Geographical Names (UNGEGN). The original concept for the EGN project was first discussed and developed in the DGSD.

The Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) is the project coordinator and mainly responsible for the overall co-ordination and management of the EGN project. It acts as primary contact person to the EC, arranges contacts with other organisations and executes the technical and financial management.

The University of Utrecht (UU) mainly provides a detailed description of user and business requirements for the EGN infrastructure. This description forms the basis for the development of the EGN data model and provides also use cases for the web services' development, the applications and the business model.

The Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen (BEV) addresses, on the one hand the iterative testing and refinement of the EGN infrastructure and services against the user/business requirements. On the other hand, it evaluates and assesses Component Interface Tests (CIT) which will exercise the server and/or client component software's ability, document and test the EGN web services in different IT environments, in order to properly implement a robust and scaleable infrastructure.

- Slovenia, through its mapping agency (SMA), is in this context representing the Slavic-speaking area and thus also serves as a bridge between the orthographic diversity of Europe. Within the EGN project SMA is mainly responsible for the evaluation and assessment of all aspects of the national repositories of geographical names data that may have an impact on the design of the EGN infrastructure.
- EuroGeographics – the Association of the European national mapping agencies, with Head Office in Paris (France) and 50 members from 46 European countries – is actively engaged

in defining the structure(s) of the reference data for a European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDI) and the provision of reference data specifications and guidelines for the ESDI set-up. Within the EGN project EuroGeographics ensures continuous dissemination of project progress and serves to raise awareness of the project in order to promote the EGN project amongst other potential users and to maximise usage at the earliest practicable juncture.

- The companies Geodan Software Development & Technologies B.V (The Netherlands), PRO DV Software (Germany) and ESRI Geoinformatik (Germany) are involved in building national and European geo- and metadata portals, GI software and system technology for both, the private and public sectors. Drawing upon experiences elsewhere, these companies will be able to expand the market potential for the (multilingual) EGN infrastructure and will assist in the evolution and expansion of a core SDI component for Europe.

Geodan is mainly responsible for the technical setup of the EGN infrastructure and services. It includes the elaboration of the technical service requirements, software selection and software engineering for the implementation of the EGN central service and localised components. Geodan takes over the technical support for the web services implementation in the European countries.

PRO DV Software provides the graphical user interface for names searches and for the visualization of the search results, including the selection, development and documentation of the software components and interfaces. Additionally, PRO DV Software estimates the market potential for the EGN infrastructure by conducting a cost/benefit analysis, which provides the information to develop a draft business model and a marketing strategy for EGN.

ESRI is mainly responsible for the design of an application in a commercial context. As an example this application will integrate the EGN central service into a specific client application.

- EDINA, National Data centre based in the University of Edinburgh (Scotland), provides not-for-profit services to the UK higher and further education academic teaching and research communities. It is actively engaged in establishing an SDI for the UK academic sector and provides on-line services delivering a wide range of geospatial data, support and advice, including provision of academic access to the National Mapping Agency's (Ordnance Survey Great Britain) data holdings. Within the EGN project EDINA evaluates and assesses existing European reference data models. The findings here are used as the starting point for the development and documentation of the conceptual and application schemas for EGN, ensuring synergy with other reference data that will underpin the ESDI.

4 Project Results/Achievements

In case of an **annual report**, describe major achievements (e.g. completion of market and user requirements survey, completion of demonstrator design or implementation, initial reactions and feedback from users, first results).

The establishment of the EuroGeoNames (EGN) infrastructure and associated services consists of four periods, the initiation phase (month 1 to 8), the development phase (month 9 to 17), the implementation phase (month 18 to 26) and the completion phase (month 27 to 30). Accordingly, this annual report comprises the *development phase* as well as the major part of the *implementation phase*.

The following figure 1 shows the spiral engineering process necessary to set-up EGN. The tasks and actions which have already been completed were ticked. The tasks and actions which have been started and are currently ongoing are indicated with an exclamation mark:

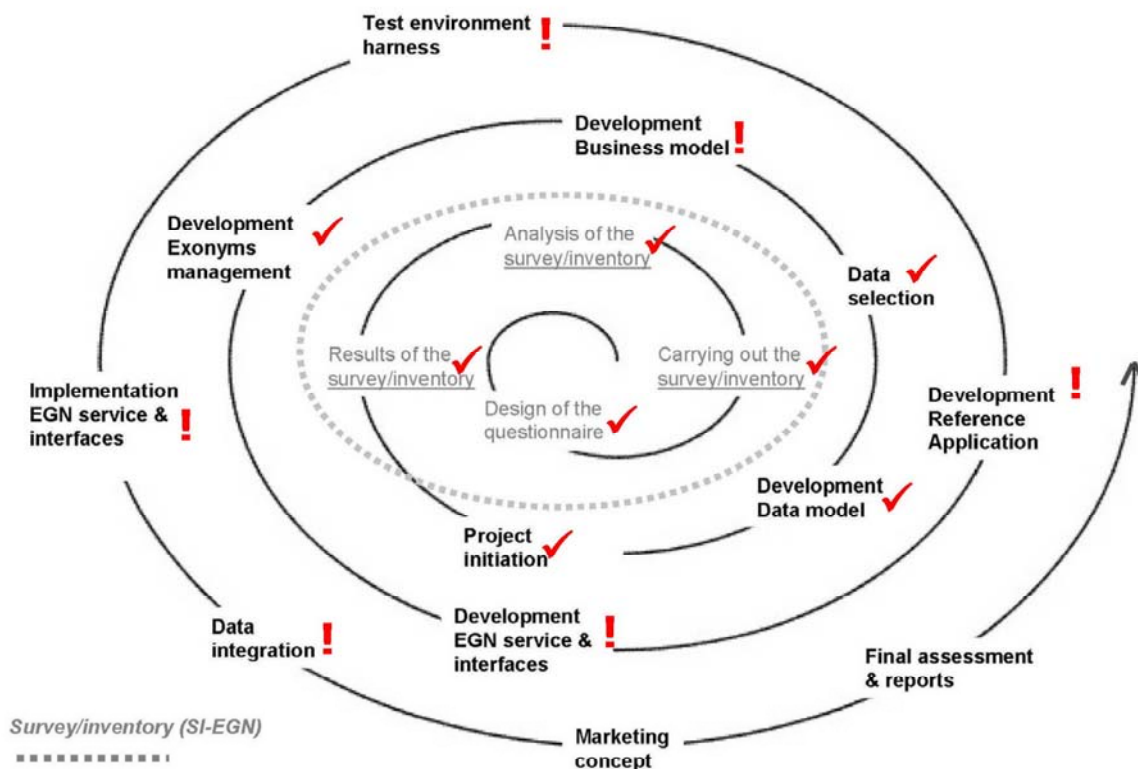


Figure 1: Spiral engineering process necessary to set-up EGN; ✓ = Tasks accomplished; ! = Tasks in progress; SI-EGN tasks (rendered in grey tone) are not part of EGN, but are a necessary prerequisite.

The outcomes as well as all other deliverables of status ‘public’ are available through the EGN website: www.eurogeonames.com

As for the second part of the second period, the *development phase* (month 13 to 17), two major efforts tackled by the EGN Consortium can be identified. On the one hand the further development of the **EGN conceptual gazetteer schema**, against which the national data models have to be converted to. On the other hand, the endeavour of developing a **concept for an EGN web services architecture** was further elaborated by the EGN Consortium.

All dissemination activities led to a **dissemination plan** covering the project lifetime. It will be regularly expanded and maintained as part of the dissemination activity. The already existing EGN section in the EuroGeographics website was continuously extended.

Generally, the EGN Consortium aimed at being as much compliant as possible with findings of the **INSPIRE initiative**. Nevertheless, subsequent developments within INSPIRE and the implementation of the EGN services in 2008 may necessitate further amendments of EGN project deliverables in order to keep in step with INSPIRE.

The interdependencies between EuroGeographics, the association of the European National mapping and Cadastral agencies, the INSPIRE initiative of the European Union and the UNGEGN were safeguarded through the involvement of these groups in document review processes or the invitation of members to specific **meetings and workshops**, three of them having been organized since the last reporting period [D1.5]: in New York (USA) in August 2007, in Paris in November 2007 and in Freising, Germany in June 2008. The main outcome of the latest workshop is that the EGN infrastructure & services has a very good position

within INSPIRE to provide the whole service architecture for a real service needed for Europe. The EGN data model (which can be considered as a gazetteer profile) supports the major concept of the ISO 19112 standard and is compliant with the INSPIRE requirements.

The objectives and outcomes of the meetings and workshops are available through the EGN website: www.eurogeonames.com

Within the first part of the third period, the *implementation phase* (month 18 to 24), the EGN Consortium came up with a design for a **web services architecture** as the rationale for the compilation of the **web services interface specifications**. Using the latter document, the national data providers can decide whether they want to create their own (local) web service or whether they want to use the (local) web service that will be provided by the consortium.

Associated with the conceptual schema a **feature classification** was developed under the aegis of the Reference Group with substantial input from the Spanish colleagues.

Furthermore, a definition of a **metadata profile** for metadata of the national contributions according to common standards was completed.

An **exonyms and other variant names and database prototype** was developed. An **online-service for editing** the database was developed and further elaborated.

A concept for the **reference application** was compiled and the software implementation of the reference application has been started. The reference application will finally be the end-user interface for names searches and for the visualization of the search results, but within the testing phase used as front end for the user tests.

The **online user forum** was launched in March 2007 [D1.5] and is since then maintained by BKG. It is accessible through the EuroGeoNames website for the purposes of information dissemination and the publication of project progress and results to all stakeholders interested in the EGN project.

5 Target Users & their Needs

Provide a summary of your user groups, research on user/customer requirements and the resulting user profiles, and how the project results will respond to these requirements/profiles.

5.1 User groups [D2.1], [D1.5]

Within the *initiation phase* of the EGN project, the market in terms of potential applications and related business actors and stakeholders from both public and private sectors was analyzed as well as user and business requirements based on the outcome of the market analyses described [D2.1].

In the first annual report [D1.5] the result of the user and business was summarized how names data are collected and how names files need constant updating and maintenance in the European countries. It then distinguishes between different **use functions** and different **user groups** and determines specific **user group needs**.

5.2 Needs and requirements

The EGN web services architecture as well as its business model proposal (BM) were presented and discussed at several occasions, amongst others within the EuroGeographics “**Business Interoperability Group**” (**BIG**) meeting in November 2007 at BKG in Frankfurt am Main. Further details of the BM were discussed during the half-day Workshop on Business Models in November 2007 at EuroGeographics Head Office, Paris, too. Following this workshop an email questionnaire was sent to the members of the EGN Reference Group

and the BIG asking for their opinion concerning different options for the time beyond the funded project period of EGN and the need for a target group specification.

In December 2007 the EGN web services architecture was presented and discussed within “Gazetteer”-session of the **DIGMAP³ workshop** in Lisbon. DIGMAP is also an eContentplus-funded project.

Furthermore the EGN web services architecture as well as its business model proposal (BM) was presented and discussed within the EuroGeographics **Interprojects Meetings** as well as the EuroGeographics **Value Added Resellers (VARs) meeting**, both held in June 2008.

The ‘**EGN Group of Interest**’ was invited to join, comment and shape the project activities from the beginning and to provide ‘**customer feedback**’ by participating in workshops and the online user forum.

All these attendances at workshops or meetings and networking activities do help focussing and adapting the needs and requirements for the EGN web services architecture.

6 Underlying Content

The quality and quantity of the digital content (and related metadata) contributed to the project, as well as the criteria for its selection, must be clearly identified.

6.1 Underlying content in terms of quantity

The quantity of the geographical names data in the respective countries is quite different and depends on the general shape of the country, the map scales used as the basis for data acquisition as well as on the level of information detail required in the countries themselves. Within the *initiation phase* of EGN remarkable time was required for analyzing the data to be aggregated during the project.

Information on available data had already been gathered during the SI-EGN phase [SI-EGN 2005]. Since then contact to the EGN Reference Group has been maintained and consolidated. As an outcome further details of the data were compiled and documented as an important source of information, which had relevance to large parts of the project, e.g. development of the EGN conceptual schema, the EGN services architecture and interfaces as well as for determining priorities for the web services implementations. In the first annual report [D1.5] the documentations and findings were summarized.

Within the *development phase* of EGN a **metadata profile** was completed. This metadata profile will be referred to the “dataset” as a whole, i.e. in Germany to the German geographical names dataset GN-DE. This metadata profile will be a list of elements/attributes to be filled out by each EGN Reference group member (NMCA) according to ISO19115 and the requirements stated by the INSPIRE Implementing Rule on Metadata (June 2008). Thus, within the EU-funded project duration of 30 months 15 NMCAs will fill out this profile, which will then be stored and maintained in the metadata system provided by EuroGeographics. Each profile will contain information about the “dataset character set used”, “dataset responsible party”, “keywords”, “dataset language(s)” an “abstract” etc.

6.2 Underlying content in terms of quality

³ DIGMAP – Discovering our past with Digital Maps, is proposing to develop solutions for geo-referenced digital libraries, especially focussed on historical materials/maps. The final result shall consist in a set of services, mainly reusing metadata coming from European national libraries.

A survey of current free commercial geographical names services on the web shows seven providers (Geonames, GEOnet Names Server (GNS), Getty thesaurus of geographical names, the Fuzzy Gazetteer, the ADL Gazetteer service, Earth Search and World gazetteer).

Apart from Fuzzy Gazetteer all of them mainly use the names taken from the GNS, maintained by the US National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) and the US Board on Geographical Names. The Fuzzy Gazetteer was maintained by the European Commission and the European Joint Research Centre.

Attribute data all these services had in common are names, coordinates, feature codes, country codes. The functionality they all shared was the location of the named objects on the map. Half of them worked with unique name or object/feature identifiers (IDs).

The **unique selling points** (usp) of the EGN infrastructure and services for Europe and its **quality** are that,

- the names data provided are from a primary source,
- it is continuously updated,
- it is more detailed than GNS data,
- it is closer to the experts that collect the names,
- there is a better quality control through official cooperation,
- it is based on European standards,
- the data is generated by trustworthy institutions providing unbiased products.

The current geographical names web services reviewed score as follows in comparison with EGN regarding these usp's (see table 2):

Unique selling points	EGN	current geoname services	current route planners
primary data	yes	no	?
official data	yes	?	partly
high quality data**	yes	?	yes
up-to-date data	yes	no	yes
complete coverage	not yet*	no	depends on category
according to European standards	yes	?	yes
including street level data	no	no	yes
coverage	Europe	whole world	Europe +

Table 2: Comparison between EGN infrastructure and services, current name servers and route planners. *) complete coverage is envisaged. **) comparable to 1:50 000, coordinates to 10m

7 Summary of Activities

Draft a short section for each substantial area of work completed/started, tailored to reader needs rather than revolving around work packages.

The **annual** report should also describe where the project is 'positioned' for the next year, describing which are the activities that will be completed and the results that are expected.

7.1 Status-quo of the EGN project

EGN Data model conceptual schema [D4.2d]

The EGN Conceptual gazetteer schema (a map of concepts and their relationships) was updated several times. In its current version of June 2008 [D4.2d] it represents the result of an iterative process of development under the auspices of the EGN Project. It has been produced by the EGN Consortia in league with its wider EGN Reference Group (data providers) and within the context of INSPIRE best practice guidance. This deliverable formed the basis for the development of an Application profile/schema which is the rationale for the development of the web services interface specifications.

EGN infrastructure and services requirements [D6.1], [D6.2]

A set of functions that the EGN infrastructure and services should support was elaborated and defined [D6.1]. The EGN web services will make use of the Web Feature Service (WFS) specification as defined by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) [D6.2]. This specification allows for all proposed EGN functions.

The EGN Consortium started to deploy a WFS at each National Mapping and Cadastral Agency (NMCA). Those EGN Local Services will be accessible through an EGN Central Service (also WFS). Two scenarios are proposed for deployment and maintenance of local services: In the first scenario, NMCAs are fully responsible for building and maintaining the service, according to EGN specifications. In the second scenario, the EGN consortium will implement and deploy the necessary software. The purpose of the EGN infrastructure is to provide information on geographical features in response to queries that use a toponym (an endonym, variant name or exonym). In May/June 2008 some Reference Group members already started with the EGN Local Service development – amongst others, Slovenia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Austria and Germany. The EGN Consortium focuses an individual "work plan" for each NMCA considering the aforementioned scenario which has been chosen by the NMCA.

EGN Web GIS Reference Application [D7.1], [D7.2]

The conceptual design of the EuroGeoNames Reference Application was compiled [D7.1]. The reference application will finally be the end-user interface for names searches and for the visualization of the search results, but within the testing phase used as front end for the user tests. So far, the software implementation of the reference application has been started and an application prototype has been launched [D7.2].

EGN business and pricing model as well as marketing strategy [D10.1], [D10.2]

Within the *development phase* of EGN a draft for a potential business model was prepared based on the cost/benefit analysis [D10.1]. A pricing scheme as proposed in the cost/benefit analysis still has to be discussed and agreed upon with the EGN Reference Group members (NMCAs). The business model proposal was presented and discussed at the EuroGeographics "Business Interoperability Group" (BIG) meeting. It was decided that it constitutes the rationale for further elaborating the licensing issues of web services within Eurogeographics.

7.2 Next steps, activities and results expected for Year 2

The next year of the EGN project will comprise the last part of the *implementation phase* (month 25 to 26) and the *completion phase* (month 27 to 30).

It will be focussed mainly on the **implementation of the software components**, the web services and interfaces and the applications.

A major effort will rely on the **implementation plan** for subsequently phase in the national databases of the 15 EGN Reference Group members across the project duration and for the time beyond the funded period as well as on facilitating easy and rapid **linkage of inquired variant names (exonyms)** with their corresponding endonyms and vice versa.

Aiming at extending the EGN infrastructure & services successfully beyond the funded period, further **strategic actions** will be taken within the funded period by the EGN Consortium, particularly addressed to the NMCAs not yet involved. These actions will comprise further publications and presentations at different GI events.

Last but not least, especially **agreements on technical issues** (service level, distribution, etc.) as well as on **a solid business model and marketing concept** for the re-use and value-adding of European geographical names data for the time beyond the EU-funded project duration will be tackled.

8 Impact & Sustainability

This section should highlight the European dimension of the project and why and how it has an impact on the target market (*e.g. due to the critical mass of content aggregated, the improved accessibility of the content*), including information on market prospects (*provide a summary of your market research, giving an overview of the market situation, future trends in your target markets.*)

8.1 Market prospects of the EGN project

The results of the market analysis indicate a high level of interest and needs, as well as a simple structure and cost model of services wanted. In short all **market prospects** agree to the communicated service-types and service levels.

Although the number of use cases is high, the required functionality of the services is relatively simple and the same over all usage-types.

Common statements resulting from the market analysis are that EGN should:

- offer standardized services, at least in two types (free of charge, commercial);
- be online, especially to be integrated in prospects own applications, portals and/ or processes;
- be offline, in a format that can easily be read;
- define and offer payment and billing mechanisms;
- field and market the services as soon as possible.

The analysis shows that a break-even can be reached in a very short time, and that the EGN infrastructure is generating a reasonable input to expand the range of services and strengthen the implementation of a Spatial Data and Services Infrastructure in Europe.

It is important to stress that EGN refers to the overall addressable market with a market penetration of 100% - which is of course not possible. As a common measure usually 10-20% of the overall market is seen as accessible for a single player (market share). Competition has to be taken into consideration here.

8.2 Sustainability of the EGN project

The agreed understanding for the EuroGeoNames project is – comprising the hosting and operating of the web services infrastructure for EGN – to be supported and extended by EuroGeographics together with the German Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG) beyond the end of the project. The sustainability of the EGN project beyond the end of the Community funding will be ensured in a number of ways. These include, amongst others:

Sustainability starts with adequate and careful preparation in advance of the start of the project. The EGN project represents the conclusion of a survey [SI-EGN 2005] during which the technical and some business aspects of delivering an EGN infrastructure and services were investigated. This survey as well as all conducted market analyses showed that not only was it technically possible to build a geographical names infrastructure and services but also that there was clear demand for it. This already provides confidence that the results of the EGN project will be sustainable.

Central to achieving sustainability is to bring together the **key stakeholders in a partnership** of complementary skills and roles. Already, many of the key stakeholders were brought together during the survey stage of EGN and this has been carried forward as the Consortium for this project. The Consortium brings together the complete ‘value chain’ from data providers, through system developers, service delivery, value adding and distribution to end users. All partners in the Consortium, therefore, are used to working with each other, have complementary skills and a shared vision of what EGN will deliver.

The **methodology and approach** proposed in the project is also the key to sustainability. The ‘spiral engineering’ approach ensures that the EGN infrastructure to be developed will be based on a clear understanding of user and business requirements and involvement of the key stakeholders.

Dissemination and awareness activities combined with an appropriate **organisational framework**, including the establishment of various ‘**user groups**’ - the ‘EGN Reference Group’, the ‘EGN Group of Interest’ and technically, the ‘Online-user forum’ - ensure appropriate involvement of the key stakeholders and the wider GI community during the project and ensure their interest in and involvement beyond the end of the EU-funded project period.

The EGN project is **accelerating standardization** of geographical names data between all participating European countries, by making a substantial contribution to the creation of standards for the storing and maintaining of homogeneous, up-to-date, and quality assured geographical names data on a pan-European level that can be used by both the public and private sector.

The EGN project strictly observes and follows the claims made by the **INSPIRE legislation** to set up a European Spatial Data Infrastructure.

9 Further Information

If relevant, list here whatever else you deem necessary/appropriate for the understanding of the work you have done, the results you have achieved and/or the objectives you have reached.

- **Project website & online user forum**

The extended project website provides project overviews and highlights; up-to-date information on intermediate and project results; project events, including e.g. meetings, conferences and workshops; contact details etc. www.eurogeonames.com

An online user forum was developed and launched in March 2007. It is accessible through the EuroGeoNames website for the purposes of information dissemination and the publication of project progress and results to all stakeholders interested in the EuroGeoNames project.

- **EGN flyer/brochure**

To raise further awareness on the EGN project a new EGN flyer/brochure was created, describing the project for general communication (more simple and for general purpose). It is available through the project website under 'Downloads': www.eurogeonames.com

10 References / Related Documents

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