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**PROJECT PROGRESS**

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**EuroGeoNames, which provides an INSPIRE compliant gazetteer service for Europe, successfully completed the EU-funded phase of the project on 28<sup>th</sup> February.**

At the EuroGeoNames (EGN) Closing Workshop, 4th and 5th February 2009 in Brussels, some 60 participants from 30 organisations were shown the EGN infrastructure which, from the technological perspective, provides the complete service architecture for a service needed for Europe within the context of INSPIRE.

The workshop was organized to coincide with a meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Toponymic Data Files and Gazetteers ([UNGEGN](#))

Within the EU-funded period (September 2006 until February 2009) the EGN Consortium, led by BKG has implemented a gazetteer web service infrastructure to provide the official geographical names data for Europe from the definitive data held by NMCAs. The infrastructure allows the names data to be kept in the NMCA's but linked to and searchable via a Web Feature Services (WFS). The data maintenance and updating process remains the responsibility of the organisations who collect and maintain them.



The main objective of the EGN Closing Workshop was to present the results of the EU-funded project period and to explain to potential data providers, value added distributors and users the functionality of the EGN infrastructure. A key message for the NMCA was for those not already involved to connect to the EGN infrastructure.

Slovenia, Latvia, The Netherlands, Austria, Lithuania, Norway and Germany are already providing their data through EGN. Belgium, Hungary, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Czech Republic, Spain, Greece and France will finish their implementation before the end of 2009 at the latest.

During the coming period the EGN project coordination will be transferred to EuroGeographics. The aim within the following "implementation phase 2009 - 2012" is then the connection of at least "EU27", i.e. EU Member States.

Synergies to the INSPIRE initiative have been intensively demonstrated within the EGN Closing Workshop. The participants obtained a good overview on the current developments within the implementation of the INSPIRE directive.

All workshop presentations as well as further information about the project are available at the <http://www.eurogeonames.com>.

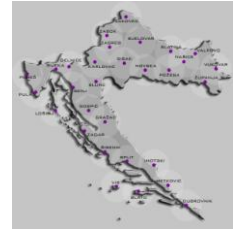
**Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Sabine Afflerbach**

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Stakeholders & Reference group meeting was held on 12th February at IGN-F in Saint-Mande. More than 60 participants from over 20 countries took part at this successful event. Representatives of the European Commission, regional and local governments, military and national postal services, and software suppliers and the project partners. If you aren't yet involved in the project contact [Antti Jakobsson](#) Presentations here.

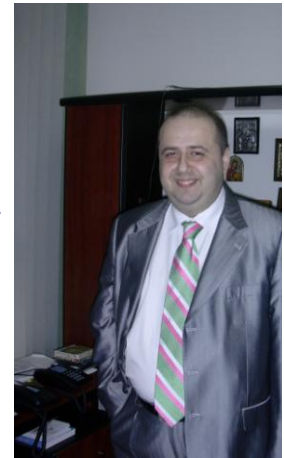
**A new GPS network for Croatia CROPOS** (Croatian Positioning System) was launched by the State Geodetic Administration at the Mimara Museum in Zagreb last December. Guests were welcomed by Director-General Prof. Željko Bačić, Ph.D., and Mr. Vincent Degert, Head of the Delegation of the European Commission to Croatia which co-financed the development of this modern system for positioning in space More....



**INSPIRE Annex I data specifications** workshop was held on 13th February at IGN-F in Saint-Mande. The aim of the workshop was to provide information on the Annex I data specifications and to discuss the NMCAs views on the specifications. The event was well attended by NMCAs INSPIRE experts and data specification experts, and by EuroGeographics Expert Group Chairs and members. Presentations here.

**New General Director of the National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration in Romania (ANCPI)** Mr. Mihai Busuioc, a jurist by profession with extensive knowledge and practical experience in the field of land registration. His previous positions within ANCPI during the last years have allowed him to gain significant managerial expertise.

Mr. Mihai Busuioc's objective is to consolidate the credibility and efficiency of the institution he is running. "We are experiencing an unstable economic environment, tormented on a global scale, and this is the reason we have to join our efforts in order to be more efficient; we ought to offer better products and services that should observe the European standards of quality. No doubt, the partnerships developed in the last years with international relevant organizations will play their role in achieving these goals".



**Geographic Standardisation activity in CEN.** EGHO participated in the CEN TC 287 meeting in Madrid 26/27th February. The main duty of CEN has been adaptation of ISO 19100 standards from ISO TC 211.

The National standardisation body of Netherlands who has been providing the secretary and chairmanship of the CEN has announced that it will give up this role later this year. As a result there will be a call to fill the secretariat role. If there is no offer to provide the secretariat it is possible that CEN TC 287 will become dormant.

The meeting decided to create an ad hoc group to update the business plan. Part of the work is to make a questionnaire on the needs of European standardization activity on geographic information. EuroGeographics will participate in this activity. The other main decision was to start updating the technical report 15449 Standards, specifications, technical reports and guidelines, required to implement Spatial Data Infrastructure.