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18 June 2018

To: Heads and Permanent Correspondents of EuroGeographics members

**Concerns: Call for the contribution to the production of the Core Reference Dataset (CRD)**

Dear colleagues,

The proposal to produce the Core Reference Dataset (CRD) was introduced to you in my letter of 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018. Since then we had a number of webinars and meetings on this topic, and a workshop discussing the CRD proposal at the EuroGeographics Extraordinary General Assembly 2018 in Leuven. All interactions and responses both from members and the European stakeholders confirm the clear and urgent demand for such a product. We believe that the CRD will meet this demand, and potentially the demands for in-situ reference data for the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation of Corine Land Cover products (in particular CLC-Backbone).

The CRD production process is being arranged. I am pleased that the Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy of Germany (BKG) has agreed to act as Technical Production Manager for CRD and is ready to proceed to combine your national data into the pan-European CRD. EuroGeographics Head Office will undertake overall project management and coordination, product management and marketing.

We will target three themes in the first version of CRD: Hydrography, Road and Rail Transport Networks. The CRD composition is based on the INSPIRE requirements, but for easier use of the data the complex INSPIRE data model has been flattened into a database structure. See more details about the CRD content requirements in the CRD technical specification and guidance (which is attached). This will allow to maintain a link to the INSPIRE compliant national data and services, also to benefit from the European Location Services developments in the longer-term. We also intend to add further themes in future: at this stage a demand has emerged for a pan-European digital elevation model / digital surface model that we will explore further to clarify the specification, develop the production methodology, and explore data availability from our members.

At this stage the intention is to provide the CRD only to the European Commission and its related institutions, most probably through the Eurostat contract. A proposal is currently under preparation. We will write to our members again to outline any proposal for a commercial product.

CRD licensing is consistent with the existing Framework License Agreement (FLA) and principles, following the same approach as for the production and maintenance of all current EuroGeographics pan-European products (EGM, ERM, EBM...). The FLA annex (also attached) grants EuroGeographics the right to proceed to use your data for the creation and supply of CRD.

In order to enable EGHO to make a viable proposal to Eurostat I would be grateful if you could do the following:



- 1) Please sign and return to me the copy of the Annex to FLA: Core Reference Dataset (CRD).  
Contact person for the licensing questions:  
Angela Baker, EGHO, [angela.baker@eurogeographics.org](mailto:angela.baker@eurogeographics.org);
- 2) Please compile (extract) the national data as required by CRD technical specification and/or arrange an access to the data for download following the described procedures.  
Contact persons for technical questions:  
Saulius Urbanas, EGHO, [saulius.urbanas@eurogeographics.org](mailto:saulius.urbanas@eurogeographics.org) and  
Sonja Werhahn, BKG, [sonja.werhahn@bkg.bund.de](mailto:sonja.werhahn@bkg.bund.de)

In order to meet the challenging CRD production target of spring 2019 it would be appreciated if we could receive the signed Annex to FLA and the national data as soon as possible. Please let Saulius Urbanas know by 21 June 2018 if there is any issue in delivering the CRD national contribution.

Also do not hesitate to contact EuroGeographics Head Office staff members: Saulius Urbanas ([saulius.urbanas@eurogeographics.org](mailto:saulius.urbanas@eurogeographics.org)) for technical matters and Angela Baker ([angela.baker@eurogeographics.org](mailto:angela.baker@eurogeographics.org)) on licensing if you have any particular questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M J Cory".

M J Cory  
Secretary General & Executive Director  
EuroGeographics AISBL

*Attachments:*

1. *Annex to Framework License Agreement (FLA): Core Reference Dataset (CRD).*
2. *Core Reference Dataset (CRD). Guidelines for data provider.*
3. *Core Reference Dataset (CRD). Specification and Technical Guidelines.*