



The need to harmonize spatial data for effective cross-border cooperation Case study: Cross-border zone between Bulgaria and North Macedonia

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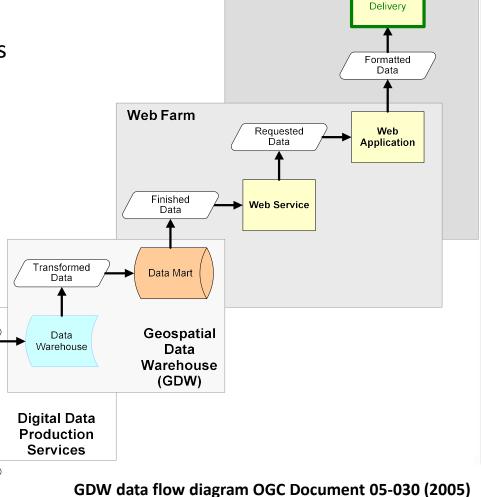
Presentation outline

- Introduction
- Geospatial data in Bulgaria and North Macedonia
- Qualities of geospatial data
- Spatial datasets harmonization between Bulgaria and RN Macedonia
- Recommendations
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Geospatial data and information (SDI and INSPIRE Directive)
- Interested actors and their role producer, provider, customer, end-user
 - ✓ Government, State Agencies
 - ✓ Municipalities
 - ✓ Academia, Universities
 - ✓ Research institutes
 - ✓ Business companies
 - ✓ NGOs, etc.
- Data qualities issues
- Data interoperability,

exchange & added-value



Consumer

Data

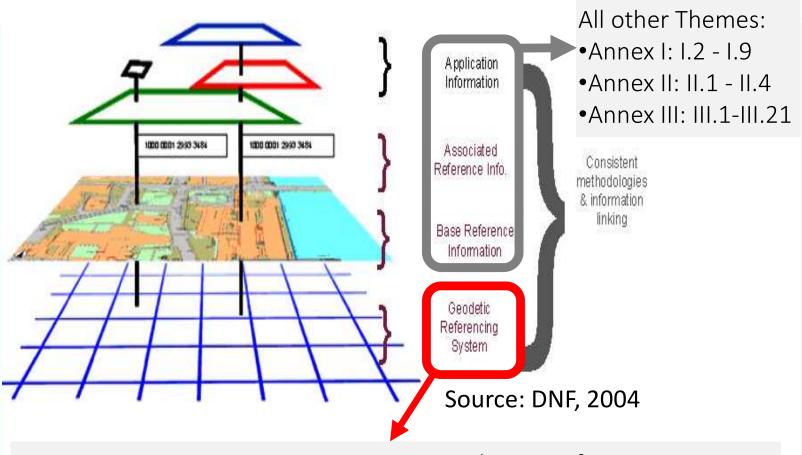
Processed Data

Data Production

> Raw Data

A framework to integrate the geospatial information

https://www.eionet. europa.eu/gemet/en /inspire-themes

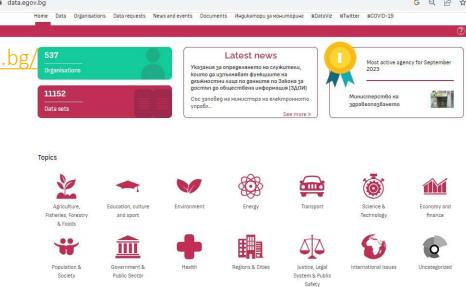


INSPIRE DIRECTIVE

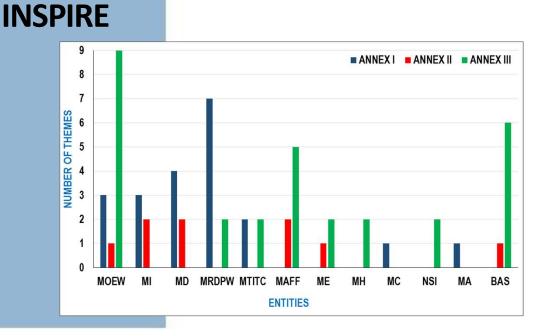
- INSPIRE DIRECTIVE: Annex I.1. Coordinate reference systems
- CRS for EU (incl. Bulgaria):
 - \triangleright ETRS 1989 for coordinates (x, y, z) and/or (φ , λ), (B, L)
 - > EVRS 2007 for height h or H

Geospatial data available in Bulgaria

- Creation of digital SD in Bulgaria since 90s
- Numerous GIS projects
 - ✓ implemented by ministries, municipalities, research institutes, etc.
 - ✓ using the EU and national funds
 - ✓ following the strategy "bottom-up"
- Law on Access to Spatial Data (2010)
- NCP MTITC, State E-Gov Agency (2016), Ministry of e-Gov (2022)
- National & other geoportals
 - https://data.egov.bg/
 - √ https://kais.cadastre.bg/
 - ✓ http://gis.mrrb.government.bg/
 - ✓ and others



- State e-Gov Agency /2016/; Ministry of e-Governance (2022)
- National Geoportal: https://inspire.egov.bg/
- Key stakeholders
 - ✓ Ministries
 - ✓ State Agencies
 - ✓ Municipalities
 - ✓ Research institutes
 - ✓ Others



INSPIRE		ANNEX I	ANNEX II	ANNEX III
Themes Entity		9	4	21
	MOEW	3	1	9
	MI	3	2	
	MD	4	2	
MINISTRIES	MRDPW	7		2
IST	MTITC	2		2
Z	MAFF		2	5
	ME		1	2
	МН			2
	MC	1		
24	NSI			2
OTHER	MA	1		
0	BAS		1	6
	SUM	21	9	30

Holders of

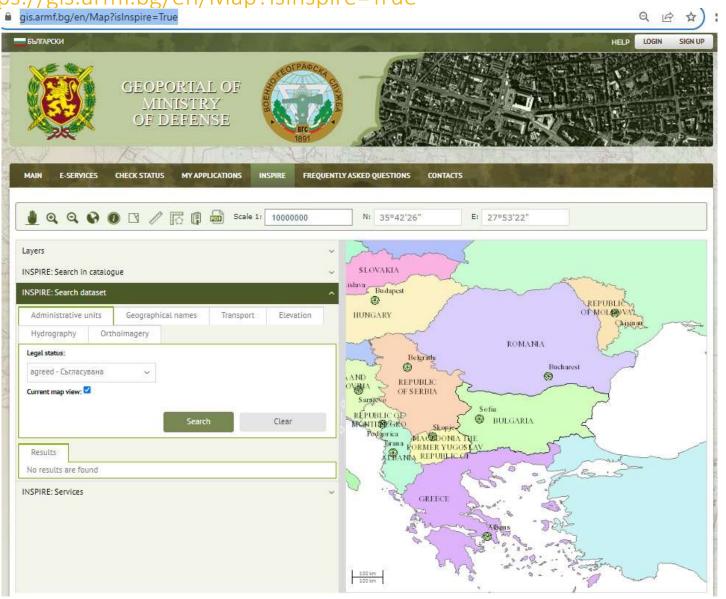
reference

spatial data -

■INSPIRE datasets

https://gis.armf.bg/en/Map?isInspire=True

Spatial data
MTS Bulgaria
https://inspire.egov.bg/



Inferences for spatial data quality in Bulgaria

- According to SDQ in Bulgaria:
 - ✓ Geospatial databases developed in digital form are:
 - in most cases not subject to common rules
 - are not covered by uniform national information systems.
- ■The need for serious joint multidisciplinary efforts to:
 - ✓ evaluate available databases and their quality
 - ✓ harmonization of SD in accordance with national and European legislation
- According to establishing NSDI:
 - ✓ Policies, people, advanced technology, criteria, and standards
 - ✓ Need of a National strategy that reflects the interests of all parties, users and suppliers of geospatial data
 - ✓ Indicators to account the INSPIRE implementation

End-users needs: case study analyses

Sociological
Survey on the
quality of
CM&CR in
Bulgaria

- The survey is performed by Dr. Ilinka Ivanova (2016)
- Survey is concerted with the AGC, USLM, CGE, CEID
- Three groups were interviewed:
 - ✓I group: Private geodetic companies (18 questions)
 - 32 questionnaires
 - ✓ II group: Specialized municipal administrations (17 questions)
 - 110 (from 175 municipalities with approved CM&CR)
 - ✓ III group: Citizens (13 questions)
 - from several cities

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№	Въпроси		Отговори (относителен дял, %)	
		Да	He	
1.	В разяснителната кампания при открито производство за изработване на кадастрална карта и кадастрални регистри трябва да участват: а) СГКК; б) СГКК и правоспособното лице; в) СГКК, общината и правоспособното лице.		90% са посочили – - буква "в" и - 10% буква "б"	
2.	Като собственик на поземлен имот, наясно ли сте защо трябва да означите границите му?	5%	95%	
3.	Като собственик на недвижим имот, наясно ли сте защо трябва да представите на фирмата, която изработва кадастрална карта, документа за собственост?		90%	
4.	Трябва ли всички дейности, свързани с поземлената регистрация (кадастър, карта на възстановената собственост, специализирани данни за земята и за имотите, ограничения и др.), да бъдат в една администратичения структура (поземлена администрация)?	70%	30%	

Problems identified from I group

- Poor organization in preparing and conducting the awareness campaign in the process of CM and CR production
- Lack of engagement of the property owners due to unawareness of their rights and obligations
- Errors in CM
- Detecting errors in CR
- No current control when creating CM and CR
- The time for field measurements is not is not good enough for quality work of CM
- Administrative structures for CM and CR should be only one administrative structure

Problems identified from II group

- Municipalities (70%) did not mark the boundaries of the municipal ownership on the terrain
- Co-operation between municipalities, AGCC and contractors is rather "poor", rarely "satisfactory" and exceptionally "good"
- Most of the municipalities state that have a capacity and can serve the citizens with actions related to CM & CR
- Municipalities (95%) state that the exchange between the
 CIS and the municipal administration have to be on-line
- A representative of the municipalities to participate in the control of CM and CR
- Correct completion of the CM is of utmost importance to the municipalities, but CM are completed of 50-60% in reality

Problems identified from III group

- Citizens are not aware of the CM & CR activities
 - ✓ Not unaware of their rights and obligations during this process
 - ✓ Do not know why the cadastral map is being make and should mark the boundaries of their property
 - ✓ Mistrust the accuracy of boundaries of land properties in the CM and the data entered in the CR
 - ✓ Many of them are convinced that surveyors
 deliberately reflect the boundaries in CM with errors to
 have a work
- All land registration, cadaster and land registry activities should be in one institution
- The issuance of real estate sketch should be done also by the municipalities

Inferences from the survey (Ivanova, 2016)

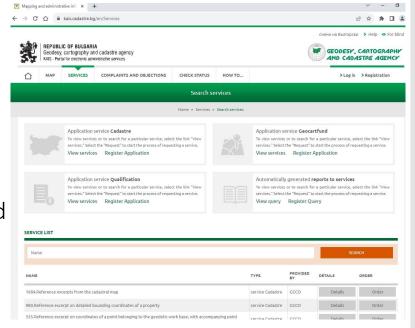
- There are many discrepancies between property boundaries in CM and CR (MRP) and their actual position on the terrain
 - ✓ this leads to the errors in detailed Urban development plans
- Issuing documents with false content (cadastral sketch);
 - ✓ as a consequence of issuing other documents with false content- notary deeds, partition agreements, mortgages, etc.
- Incorrect reflection in cadastral maps of linear objects;
 - ✓ AGCC to become an initiator for the CIS upgrade with specialized data
- Errors in the properties boundaries in CM will have a negative impact on the creation of specialized maps of underground and over ground pipelines and the whole infrastructure

Present state of CM&CR in Bulgaria

CM&CR cover almost 97% of the territory of Bulgaria

https://kais.cadastre.bg/en

- ✓ Detailed information on the stages of production of CM&CR updated every month
- ✓ All services and references are electronically provided
- ✓ Users can visit, get information and monitor the status of their requests



- Upcoming upgrade of Cadastral information system
- ✓ plan to provide online access to historical and project data in the cadastral map
- users can receive online information about the status of the cadastral map at a selected past time
- ✓ it will be possible to see the current projects for the amendment of cadastral objects

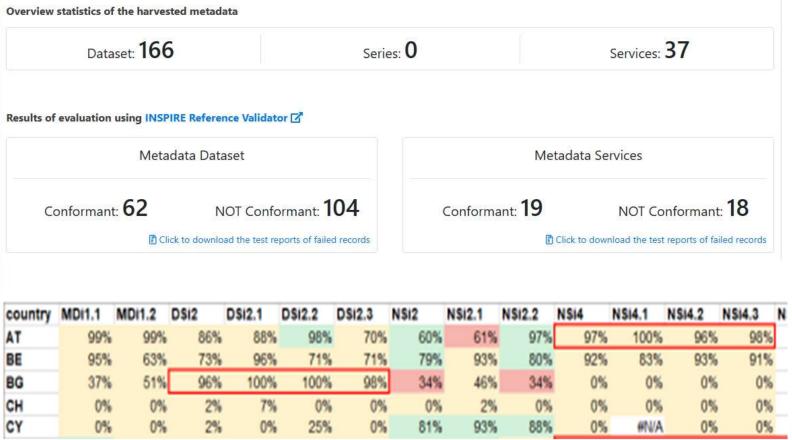


■National INSPIRE Report (2022)

https://inspire-geoportal.ec.europa.eu/mr2022.htm

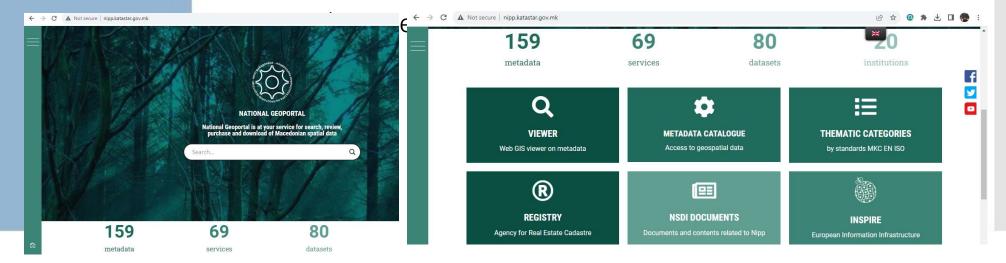
✓ Bulgaria declares values equal or close to 100% for all the indicators on the conformity of datasets and services.





Geospatial data available in North Macedonia

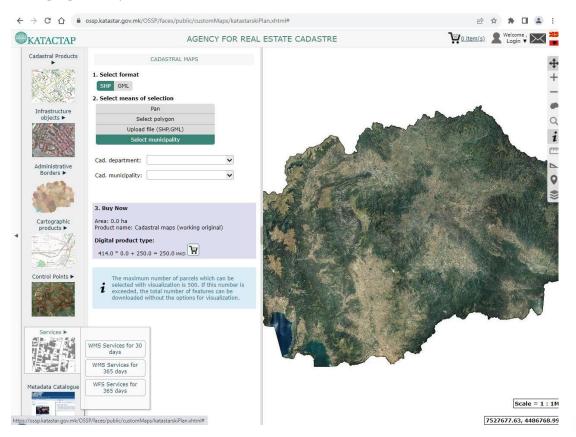
- Creation of digital SD in the Republic of North Macedonia since 2007 with Strategic Plan of AREC 2007-2011
- Numerous GIS projects implemented by ministries, municipalities, research institutes and universities, NGOs, private companies and other institutions using the EU and national funds and following the strategy "bottom-up"
- Law on Real Estate Cadaster 2008
- Law on National Spatial Data Infrastructure (24.02.2014);
 amendments (03.06.2016, 21.06.2023)
- National Contact Point AREC, nipp@katastar.gov.mk



- Working group on economic issues
- Working group on institutional and legal issues and capacity building
- Public relations and communications working group
- Technology working group (standards, metadata, services, etc.)

NSDI Working Groups

https://nipp2.kat astar.gov.mk:500 1/nipp2/en/clen ovi-rabotni-grupi



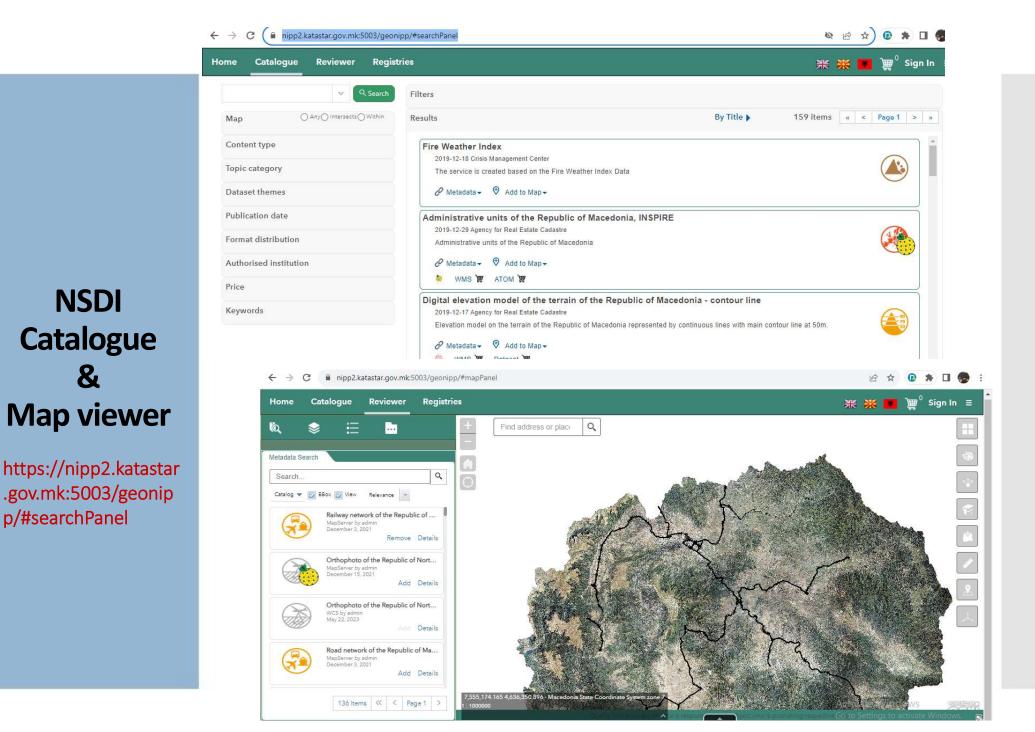
Holders of spatial data in North Macedonia

https://nipp2.k atastar.gov.mk: 5003/geonipp/ #re3gistryPanel

- Agency for Real Estate Cadaster 140 layers
- Crisis Management Center 9 layers
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy 7 layers
- Ministry of Internal Affairs 4 layers
- Spatial planning agency 4 layers

Ministry of Interior – 1 layer

- Geological Institute of the Republic of North Macedonia 1 layer (example)



Thematic categories of NSDI of North Macedonia

http://nipp.katastar.gov.mk

nipp.katastar.gov.mk

Holders of reference spatial data - INSPIRE



Themes of spatial data collections

http://nipp.katastar.gov.mk

→ C A Not secure | nipp.katastar.gov.mk

THEMES OF SPATIAL DATA COLLECTIONS

Holders of spatial data in North Macedonia

coordinate reference systems		
geographical grid systems	▶ orthoimagery	_ _
geographical names	► geology	
administrative units	► statistical units	population distribution and demography
> addresses	▶ buildings	area management / restriction / regulation zones & reporting units
cadastral parcels	▶ soil	▶ natural risk zones
transport networks	land use	atmospheric conditions
hydrography	human health and safety	▶ meteorological geographical features
protected sites	utility and gov. services	▶ bio-geographical regions
elevation	environmental monitoring facilities	▶ habitats and biotopes
land cover	• production and industrial facilities	species distribution
	agricultural and aquaculture facilities	• energy resources
		▶ mineral resources

Geospatial data changes

- Data transformation
 - ✓ Geometry
 - ✓ Semantic
- Requirements for data
 - ✓ FAIR principles
 - ✓ measurement level
 - ✓ Map scale
 - ✓ Topological information
- Requirements of users
 - ✓ Data governance
 - ✓ Stages of transformation
 - ✓ High EU level
 - ✓ National level
 - ✓ Governmental institutions
 - ✓ Keeping up to date level of:
 - Consistency
 - Conformity
 - Integrity positional uncertainty location

Qualities of geospatial data

- Components of data quality spatial, temporal, and thematic
 - ✓ Accuracy
 - ✓ Precision or resolution
 - ✓ Consistency
 - ✓ Completeness
- Data quality standards
 - ✓ SDQ standards USA-SDTS (1992), ICA (1995), CEN/TC287 (1998), ISO/TC211I (2002)
 - ✓ Meta-data standards: accepted in the USA in 1998 and by ISO in 2003
 - Lineage
 - Positional accuracy
 - Attribute accuracy
 - Logical consistency
 - Completeness
 - Semantic accuracy
 - Purpose of usage
 - Constraints
 - Temporal quality
 - Variation in quality
 - Meta-quality, etc.

Spatial Data harmonization - different approaches

- Preliminary evaluation of the Data quality QA/QC of raw data
- Joint geospatial data harmonization and mutual exchange
 - ✓ Transformation and conversation into internationally agreed standards and nomenclatures – using open source technology
 - Use upper-level standards OGS, ISO/TC 211
 - INSPIRE Reference Validator (https://inspire.ec.europa.eu/validator/home/index.html)
 - ✓ Joint harmonization and transformation between two governmental responsible institutions following national standards
 - ✓ Separate harmonization following convinced procedure and flow chart of activities after than comparative analysis of data from both countries and check of transformed data

Bulgaria EU member state https://epsg.io/7801

North Macedonia
Candidate EU member state
https://epsg.io/6204

Spatial Data harmonization

Coordinate reference system

✓ETRS (1989), EVRS 2007 ✓ Hermanskogel

Geographical grid systems

✓EPSG:7801 ✓EPSG: 6204

✓BGS2005 / CCS2005 ✓ Macedonia State Coordinate System

✓ Datum: BGS 2005
✓ MGI 1901

✓ Ellipsoid: GRS 1980 ✓ Ellipsoid: Bessel 1841

✓ Prime meridian: Greenwich

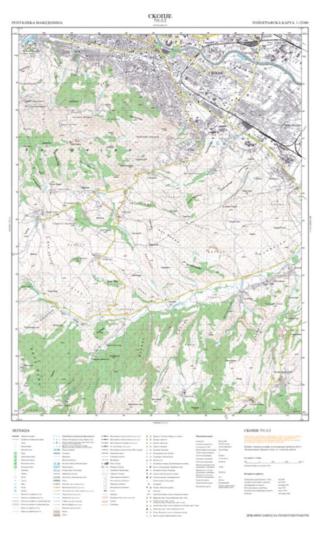
✓ Data source: EPSG
✓ Data source: EPSG

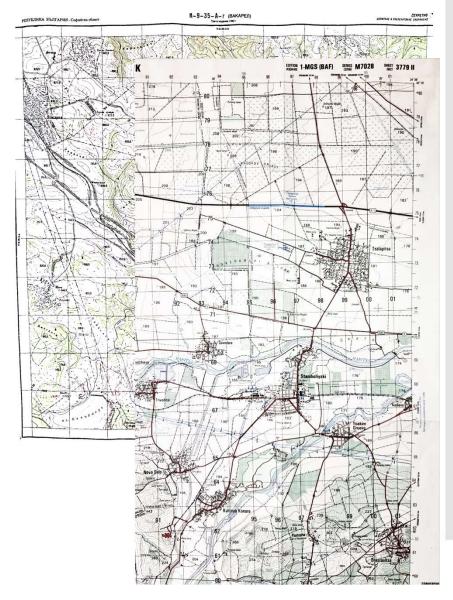
✓Info source: AGCC (2016) ✓Info source: AREC (2019)

Map design of TM 1:25,000 North Macedonia

https://eurogeographics.org/app/uploads/2018/04/Picture3-575x900.png

Bulgaria
https://gis.armf.bg/bg/Services



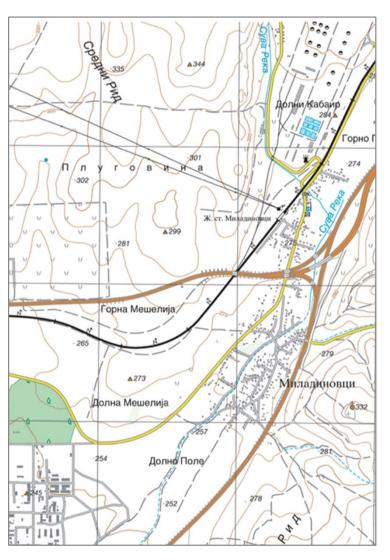


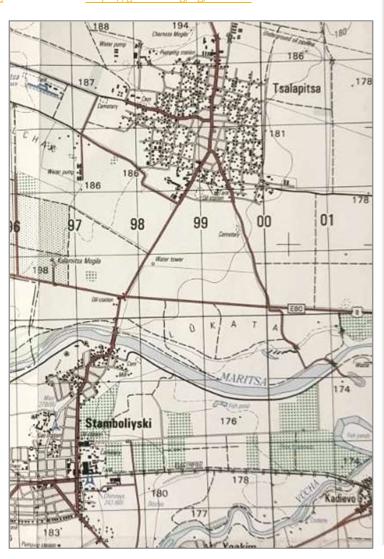
Map design of TM 1:25,000 North Macedonia

https://gis.armf.bg/bg/Service

Bulgaria

https://eurogeographics.org/app/uploads/2018/04/Picture3-575x900.png

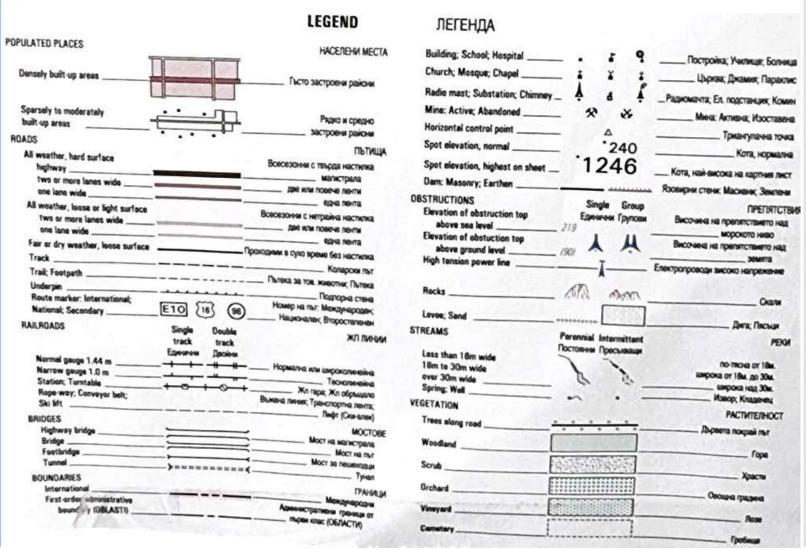




Map symbols of TM 1:25,000 North Macedonia



Map symbols of TM 1:25,000 Bulgaria



Data format of TM 1:25,000

Bulgaria

Vector data: ArcGIS ESRI Coverage

Raster data: GeoTIFF

Spatial resolution: 0.5m

Sheet: 5' of latitude by 7'30" of longitude (10 km x 9 km)

Nomenclature: $K-34-47-\Gamma-a(6,B,\Gamma)$

North Macedonia

https://www.katastar.gov.mk/wp-content/uploads/tk/specifikacija_tk25.pdf

Vector data: ArcGIS ESRI Coverage

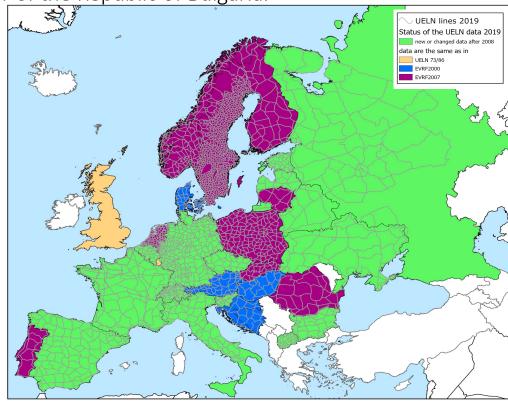
Raster data: GeoTIFF

- Spatial resolution: 0.5m

Sheet: 7'30" by 7'30"

Program
2021 – 2027
Bulgaria North
Macedonia

- Implemented project until now
- ✓ missing projects related to the spatial data harmonization
- ✓ Three cross-border leveling lines have been measured and the state leveling networks of Bulgaria and the Republic of Macedonia are connected.
- ✓ Through the network of the RS Macedonia is aligned in the European vertical reference system in 2019.
- ✓ The precise leveling measurements are initialized by the Real Estate Cadaster Agency of the Republic of North Macedonia and Agency for Geodetic Cartography and Cadaster of the Republic of Bulgaria.



Where to start?

- To explore the good experience of cross-border cooperation on a European scale - INSPIRE KNOWLEDGE BASE
- Stakeholders to be more active both in looking for opportunities to finance activities and to create capacity
- To follow international standards, INSPIRE recommendations https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/InspireMIG/INSPIRE+work+programme+2021-24
- Drafting and provision of a cross-border spatial management protocol that supports the implementation of the cross-border data harmonization process
 - ✓ to formulate common goals and responsibilities of all parties involved
 - ✓ to determine a framework for the implementation and duration of the agreement
 - ✓ to regulate commitments and rights for all participating parties regarding the harmonization, exchange, use and maintenance of data
 - ✓ to coordinate access rights to harmonized territorial data in border areas
 - ✓ to settle the issue of sustainable maintenance, management and monitoring
 of the data harmonization process
 - ✓ joint cross-border training courses and exchange of good practices
 - ✓ discussing topics of mutual interest regarding geospatial data, information, instructions for using transboundary spatial data, etc.

Issues to resolve

- ✓ Metadata records with XML (ISO 19139) encoding errors –
 failed to be indexed by the GeoNetwork
- ✓ To include INSPIRE metadata records in national catalogues
- ✓ To correctly provide services serving thousands of data sets

Issues to resolve on a national level

- ✓ to ensure compliance of national data according to the requirements of the INSPIRE directive
- ✓ Bulgaria effectively uses the INSPIRE Reference Validator and achieved some improvements in all indicators compared to 2021, but not substantial
- ✓ North Macedonia information on the EU INSPIRE portal from 2021 is missing and needs to be added

Recommendations

Recommendations & Conclusion

- Creating SD with high quality: ones obtained many usage
- Observe the international standards (ISO, OGC, ICA, etc.)
- Using a standard approach to assessing SDQ
- Perform regular SDQ control
- Maintaining communication between the different actors involved in creating, managing, updating, using and sharing of SD, incl. through SDI geo-portals
- Validating data, metadata or services by common INSPIRE validator Ver. 1.0.0
- Using SDI Diagnostic Tool (Kelm et al. , 2017)





Thank you for your attention!

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