

Minutes of the workshop “Volunteered Geographic Information – A Survey of National and Regional Mapping Agencies”

IGN France, Paris, France, 28 of March 2014.

1. Welcome to participants

The participants were welcomed by Ana-Maria Raimond (Local Organizer and member of WG3). Each participant briefly introduced themselves. The context and the goal of the meeting were reminded by Ana-Maria Raimond. The DC Rapporteurs Prof. Janos Bito (HU) and Prof. Dr Michael Mente (DE) provided few general comments about Cost program.

Attendance: 29 people (23 people from the COST Action) representing 17 countries attended the meeting; 11 mapping agencies were represented to the meeting.

2. Context and Goals of the meeting

1. This meeting was part of the WG3 activity from Cost Action “Mapping and Citizen Sensors”.
2. As part of the Action, the WG3 has already proposed an online survey to the National Mapping agencies (NMA) on existing survey specifications and VGI engagement in order to understand whether any VGI activity is already organised.
3. The aim of the meeting was to share information to better understand practices of map production and updates and the use of VGI in map production community, notably the mapping agencies.
4. The program of the day was divided into two parts: the first part concerns presentations on the survey results and NMAs practices and the second part consists in opening discussion about the topic.

3. Presentation of the survey carried out by the WG3, Glen Hart, Ordnance survey

1. The invitations were distributed to EuroSDR and EuroGeographic member Organisation. On 41 invitations, 39 responses were collected and only 23 were used for the analysis mostly due to duplicate answers. 9% of responses come from regional mapping agencies and 91 % for national agencies.
2. Results concerning the VGI
 - a. Engagement : 48% do not use VGI, 13% harvest VGI (OSM and Geonames), 39% collect VGI
 - b. Purpose : change detection, error detection, new content, photo interpretation
3. Survey limitation
 - a. depth limited
 - b. inconsistencies in the way where questions were interpreted : for example between collected VGI and harvested VGI
 - c. did not explore perceived obstacles
 - d. did not really explore motivations

Thus, the goal of the meeting was to have additional information and discuss about obstacles, motivation, etc.

4. Invited speakers presentation

The most of the invited speakers making a presentation belong to a national mapping agency. Presentations are available for 30 days on the site of IGN France: (Host: ftp2.ign.fr; Identifier: WG3_CostMapping; password: wem9Hiw4)

Some interesting information to retain concerning the VGI engagement:

1. The most of the NMA have partnerships (in general local authorities) to update data and the changes are not verified.
2. OSM did not completely change the way NMAs produce and update data. Nevertheless, different projects were carried out to test the feasibility of detect changes from the crowd.
3. Generally, NMAs prefer to propose their own systems to collect data than to use VGI produced in different contexts (e.g. OSM, Geonames, etc).

5. Open discussion

The following topics were discussed:

1. The obstacles for NMA in using VGI
 - a. Fears that quality of data is not good enough
 - b. Copyright
 - c. Crowd background end trust
 - d. No continuity of VGI and short cooperation
 - e. Internal and external obstacles : people are afraid to lose jobs
 - f. Validation of changes coming from VGI. How to validate?
2. How VGI are considered by the mapping agencies?
 - a. Like a possibility, but they expressed reservation about the quality of the data
 - b. Good but difficult to motivate people: people are motivated when the mapping is in them best interest or when they are involved emotionally.
 - c. Good but fears concerning the stability and the duration
3. Legal issue
 - a. Many mapping agencies have in charge the cadastre, which is very sensible
 - b. Responsibility if errors are introduced in the databases
 - c. Using OSM means that mappings agencies mixed two licences
4. Heterogeneity
 - a. The mapping process proposed by NMAs use homogeneous data as input. Using VGI means that they are obliged to change all the automatic processes
 - b. VGI work very well at a local level; people are very reacted where there is about things near to them
5. Prof. Michael Mente remarks:
 - a. The mapping agencies should work on legal issue
 - b. Go further and work on the quality of VGI
 - c. NMAs could open a second layer for data collected from crowd sourcing which are non qualified data. Final users are inform about the risks linked to the quality of data
6. Prof Janos Bito remarks
 - a. Try to make more links between different NMAs
 - b. Propose a review on good and bad practices

6. Closing

The meeting closed at 4pm. Sebastien Mustiere, head of GIS research laboratory from IGN, mentioned that IGN France can host students, contact us (sebastien.mustiere@ign.fr). Ana-Maria Raimond asked the permission of the invited speakers to distribute presentations to all in the Action. Some participants asked the list of attendees.

List of attendees

Andreas	Hadjiraftis
Ana	Velasco-Tirado
Ana-Maria	Raimond
Bénédicte	Bucher
Bianka	Fohgrub
Chris	Phillips
Cidalia	Fonte
Cyril	de Runz
Giovanni	Rabino
Glen	Hart
Guillaume	Touya
Janos	Bito
Jusper	Hogerwerf
Linda	See
Loic	Gondol
Lucy	Bastin
Magdalena	Grus
Marco	Minghini
Marie	Laasko
Matteo	Caglioni
Olivier	Dorie
Michael	Mente
Oana	Popescu
Pär	Hedén
Peter	Penev
Peter	Hellinckx
Sébastien	Mustière
Tobias	Kellenberger
Yolene	Jahard