

Abstract for GSDI-5

EuroGeographics : the metamorphosis of CERCO/MEGRIN

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CERCO, the organisation that pioneered collaboration between Europe's National Mapping Agencies (NMAs), celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2000, together with MEGRIN, her operational and commercial daughter, who celebrated its 5th anniversary. The year 2000 was also the term of the life-spans of both CERCO and MEGRIN, as their members unanimously decided that the time was ripe for the merging of the two organisations into a unique structure, that was given the name "EuroGeographics".

EuroGeographics is a continuation of their actions, not a rupture from them, as it has adopted objectives that are a combination of those of both its predecessors. However, by creating a single command structure and administration it will be enabled to operate more efficiently.

The creating of EuroGeographics draws a boundary between the preliminary and pilot phases of the search for a European Spatial Data Infrastructure, and the launching of its actual construction.

The EuroGeographics action plan is ambitious. It includes in the short term the creation of a EuroGlobalMap as a contribution to the Global Map initiative. This is planned to be a harmonised and edge-matched dataset covering a Europe of some 40 countries. EuroGlobalMap will be both the Continental ingredient required by GSDI and, in its own right, a tailored product for the European market.

EuroGeographics is also working to develop European and national policies that allow consistent organisational, financial, and technical arrangements to be adopted. Geographic Information created in this environment should be far more accessible, affordable, and interoperable than that currently available.

Resumé for GSDI-5

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The new organisation that has taken on the combined responsibilities of its two predecessors is planning to be an energetic and enthusiastic contributor to the Global Map initiative. As "the voice of Europe's National Mapping Agencies" it is managing the design and creation of EuroGlobalMap composed of as many as 40 individual national datasets. The task of harmonising and edge-matching these is proving to be significant in both technical and institutional aspects : a building block for the GSDI.

EuroGeographics views this project as part of its wider remit of encouraging the development of European GI that is accessible, affordable, and of the required quality for all purposes, and an integrated part in the global GI.