



Good Quality and Free Basic Data for everyone: "A driver for growth and efficiency"

Here, CLGE publishes a national report presented by Torben Juulsager and Henning Elmstroem from Denmark. In this first edition they give an overall presentation of Denmark's digital approach and stress the need for good quality basic data for everyone. In our next edition they will develop their explanation of the process behind the policy and the importance of Real Property and Geographical data.

Torben Juulsager

1 INTRODUCTION

38



1.1 eGovernment Strategy – Background

"The eGovernment Strategy 2011-2015 – The digital path to future welfare" was drafted by the Danish Government in 2011 as a common strategical and economical agreement within the Danish Regions and Local Government of Denmark. The strategy introduces the development of new digital solutions and a more efficient use of existing ones as tools to improve growth and future welfare.

Two priority main thrusts will pave the way to the overall objective

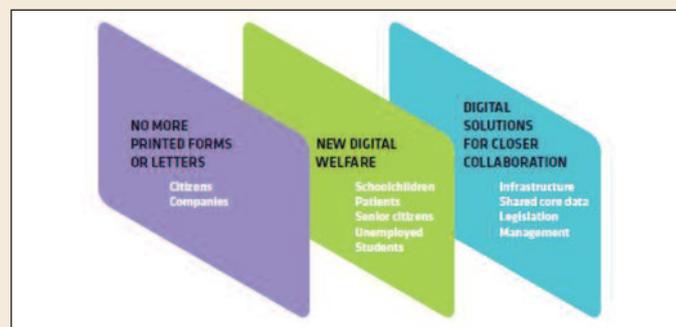
- **A more efficient public administration:** Accelerate the adoption of and optimize digital solutions in the public sector
- **A basis for growth in the private sector:** Simplified digital dialogue with the public sector and free use of basic data

Due to significant investments and developments, the central government sector will be the driving force in the realization phase, but this will be in close cooperation with the private sector. There are high expectations for an innovative interaction between the public sector and the private sector, which will result in the creation of a positive synergy, with a view to increasing growth and business advantage for Danish companies.

1.2 Three main objectives

The strategy is divided into three main tracks, each with different areas and targets:

- **Track 1 No more printed forms or letters:** Digital point of contact between the public sector and citizens and companies
- **Track 2 New digital welfare:** Good public service does not necessarily require face-to-face contact; digital solutions can in many cases provide a more modern and effective service
- **Track 3 Digital solutions for closer collaboration:** Public sector authorities are required to use all relevant public sector data and solutions to promote reuse of data and to avoid the development of parallel systems



The three main tracks in the Danish eGovernment Strategy

1.3 Selected focus areas – from a geodata perspective

In particular, Track 3 "Digital solutions for closer collaboration" is of interest to the geodata sector and especially the four underlying focus areas with related initiatives:

- **Area 1 Robust digital infrastructure:** A shared digital infrastructure that is safe and sufficiently robust to meet future requirements
- **Area 2 Shared core data for all authorities:** Effective and reliable sharing of core data between authorities
- **Area 3 Legislation in support of digital services:** Legislation adapted to the opportunities and challenges of a digitalized society
- **Area 4 Effective management of eGovernment:** Stronger coordination of public sector digitization

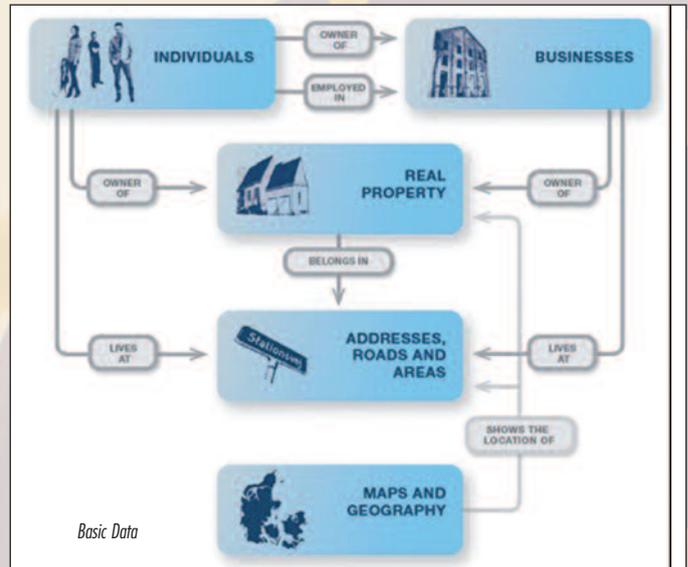
2 GOOD BASIC DATA FOR EVERYONE



2.1 The Basic Data Program – Background

In order to realize the objectives of Track 3 in the eGovernment Strategy, the Danish Government and Local Government Denmark launched, in 2012, a separate Basic Data Program of political and economic cooperation as a part of the strategy entitled “Good Basic Data for everyone – a driver for growth and efficiency”.

Basic data, such as personal data, business data, real property data, address data and geographic data, is the core data authorities register and use in their daily administration and management. High-quality basic data is an essential foundation on which public authorities can perform their tasks properly and efficiently in order to gain benefit from digitization.



GeoSkills Plus under construction

Initiated by the Dutch Geo Employment Market Foundation (SAGEO), GeoSkills Plus is an European Leonardo project aiming to match labour market needs with the geo education offer. Here we report about the second workshop that was organised in Sofia (BG) by the international consortium.

Paula Dijkstra, Project Manager

From 27th to 29th October 2014, the project team of GeoSkills Plus met in Sofia, Bulgaria, for its 2nd workshop. The GeoSkills Plus project is an ambitious project aiming to match labour market needs with the geo education offerings in Europe. In order to address this issue, a consortium was formed by partners from Belgium, Bulgarian, Lithuania, the Netherlands and two European branch organizations, CLGE and EuroGeo.

The aim of this two-year project is to enable European countries to exchange best practices and innovation with each other regarding the mismatch between Europe’s geospatial vocational education and training and the geospatial labour market. The project is divided into 5 work packages. The first three focus on the

challenges, best practices and innovations in Europe. The other 2 work packages are related to the dissemination of the project results and project management. Below the themes of work package 1, 2 and 3 are described:

- **Cooperation Model:** Who are the key players required to take responsibility in order to improve the geospatial labour market?
- **Bridging the Gap:** What are the challenges faced in order to meet the needs of the labour market?
- **Raising Awareness:** What has been done so far in Europe?

The main aim of the 2nd workshop was to inform the national Bulgarian stakeholders about the opportunities the GeoSkills+ project is creating and to discuss the preliminary results of the work packages.



The Golden Pyramid

For Work Package 1, Jean-Yves Pirlot and Wim Broes, Belgium, gave a presentation about the results achieved within their team, concentrating on the description of suited Cooperation Models.

Three outcomes were proposed to be adopted in Sofia:

- The Dutch cooperation mode is based on a “Golden Triangle”, uniting the GI-business sector, the Academic World and the Governmental bodies. It was decided to add a summit consisting of the professional associations, chambers, etc. Moreover, it was stressed that the whole project has to be oriented towards two additional stakeholders: potential candidates and the Society or the Customers. It was proposed



to add them into the “Golden Pyramid”; candidates inside the pyramid, the Environment outside.

- With an eye on future expansion to the ongoing project, it was also decided to suggest the creation of a pyramid at the European level. Of course, educational matters are the concern of the member state or sometimes regional level issues. However, a shadow pyramid at the European level was recognized as useful.
- The project has also shown that it is important to speak about Vocational Education and Training at all levels of the GI profession: Technician (Upper Secondary VET), Bachelor and Master.

The goal is to bring together the Geo community and its stakeholders in a structural way. Informal contacts exist all over Europe, but formalized approaches are lacking and this causes far from optimal outcomes. It's obvious that a structural cooperation within the “Golden Pyramid” will lead to a better understanding between the participants, an increase in job matching and employability, as well as the development of overall cooperation, based on innovative practices.

The Dynamic Professional Knowledge Base, under construction by CLGE, can definitely be used as part of the current Geoskills Plus project, as well as for further expansion. The database was presented during the workshop. The other partners were urged to fill in the database or to check the current entries.

During the workshop it was stressed that you need human and financial resources to get this Golden Pyramid up and running. Based on the Dutch experience, it is of utmost importance to start with the human resources and to address the financial questions in a second phase. Think big, start small.

The workshop also resulted in very lively discussions during which the Bulgarian partner was able to explain many details about their current situation.

State of play in Bulgaria

For Work Package 2 GCCA (the Bulgarian Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency) teamed up with educational experts for the activities. The experts were representatives at university level of architecture, civil engineering and geodesy in Sofia, Bulgaria. Their team included Assoc. Kostadin Kostadinov and Assoc. Todor Kostadinov, both of whom have been teachers in the university and have accumulated a great deal of experience in the field of Geodesy and related subjects.

Their directive was to create suitable questionnaires in order to define the current status of students in the technical schools (secondary education) and in the universities (higher education). They prepared an additional survey, which aimed to define the gap between schools and the world of work. Schools and geodetic companies in three major cities in Bulgaria, Sofia, Plovdiv and Stara Zagora, were visited and, after the surveys were conducted, there was enough information available to develop reports about the current situation in Bulgaria and to identify key issues in the field of education, business and state administration. It became apparent that in order to create a sustainable “pyramid”, the relationship between state administration, schools, associations and businesses needs to be improved.

During the workshop in Sofia Assoc. Todor Kostadinov presented his results to GCCA, the project partners and other participants at the event from local organizations, representatives from schools and stakeholders.

Two presentations were prepared, which summarized the information collected from the surveys. These are shown below:

Cooperation and differences between education and geodetic practice in Bulgaria; Vocational Education and Training in geodesy in Bulgaria.

Defining the Gap

For Work Package 3 – Arunas Buga, Lithuania, gave a presentation about the results achieved from the team from Vilnius Gediminas Technical University. VGTU carried out a study and defined the gap as a combination of a number of mismatches:

- Imbalance between the number of students and demand from the labour market,
- Discrepancy between expectations of the job market (employers) and students' professional abilities (qualification, knowledge, practical skills etc.), (lack of motivation for life learning)
- Variance between fast technological development and a delay in the improvement of study curriculums,
- Dissonance between narrow geo-specialized study programmes and multi-disciplinary needs of market
- Inadequacy between locally educated students and internationally widening market (internationalization of the geo-market).
- VGTU (Vilniaus Gedimino technikos universitetas) is working on and asking partners

for contributions in:

- Identification of stakeholders involved in the Geo employment sector.
- Identification of gaps between the supply of GEO jobs and the demand for qualified graduates in every country involved in GeoSkills+ project:
- Completion of the survey among GEO jobs suppliers and pre-graduates (bachelor and master degree) in every country taking part in the project

By using the Analytic Hierarchy Process a hierarchy of gap origin factors was suggested. The factors leading to the gap were divided into three main components: factors dependent from GEO market, external factors and factors dependent on the education system. Later these three components were split into 4 sections. The accumulation of all these factors are creating an impact on gap origin and progress. Lithuanian experts using the Analytic Hierarchy Process performed pair-wise comparison of the factors listed in the created questionnaire. Project partners from Belgium, Bulgaria and the Netherlands were sent the questionnaire and asked to fill in it for their countries.

3rd Workshop in Vilnius (Lithuania)

The results of the 2nd workshop and the subsequent reports will be used to define implementation plans for each of the partner countries. These plans will contain steps on how the pyramid model can be established and how the gaps can be bridged, with awareness-raising examples from the partner countries as well as other European countries. During the 3rd workshop, the first results from the implementation plans in Lithuania, Belgium, Bulgaria and the Netherlands will be presented. The 3rd workshop will take place in the first week of May and it will be hosted by VGTU in Vilnius Lithuania.

The dissemination partners in the project, CLGE and EuroGeo, will ensure that the results of this project are not limited to the countries involved. Furthermore, the project will be presented during several international conferences and meetings and the first results will be discussed.

All project partners are committed to contributing to a better understanding between the requirements of the labour market and the skills of the graduates with a geospatial background in Europe.