Democratising data and driving global sustainability with Open Maps for Europe

INTRODUCTION ⌄

EuroGeographics is an international, not-for-profit organisation representing Europe's National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities representing around 90% of the official bodies responsible for mapping, surveying and land registration in Europe.

EuroGeographics aims to empower users by providing easy access to data and encouraging greater use of datasets to boost the development of innovative services to drive market development, accelerate economic growth and increase competitiveness by reducing costs.

The Open Maps for Europe project commenced in 2021, funded by the European Union and supported by the Open Data Directive, with thinkWhere being appointed by EuroGeographics to create the primary deliverable - a new online geoportal providing free-to-use geospatial data, mapping and services from more than 40 European countries.

SOLUTION ⌄

thinkWhere - who are part of the Idox group, undertook a significant discovery exercise determining that the online interface had to drive the user experience with simple journeys that would maximise the use of the core datasets.

thinkWhere's solution, built on its powerful geospatial platform, theMapCloud, provides a secure and scalable data infrastructure with a highly intuitive online interface for discovering, viewing, licensing and accessing the open datasets.

The datasets are available both as downloads and OGC compliant web services enabling the convenient and direct integration of the mapping services into third party business systems and applications.

The solution can be accessed here:
https://www.mapsforeurope.org

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Open Data

Standards

Customer Experience

THE ROLL OUT ⌄

Open Maps for Europe now drives a broad range of applications helping work towards sustainability, safety and environmental improvements for Europe and the world. The United Nations uses the open datasets for decision making including the development of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and for their crisis response.

By December 2022, there were over 4,000 registered users with around 4,700 dataset downloads and 6 million web service transactions. The solution has been through several releases to continually update and improve content and enhance key features and capabilities following user feedback.

LOOKING FORWARDS ⌄

Following the successful launch of the Open Maps for Europe project the Open Maps for Europe 2 programme was launched in January 2023 and aims to reinforce useability of Europe's National and Cadastral Mapping Agencies' data by delivering an open large-scale High-Value Dataset.

The continuation of open and accessible data will maximise the use and re-use of the European mapping agencies' rich national data, extending the value and benefits of the first project.

thinkWhere and EuroGeographics will continue to explore user journeys together to ensure high accessibility of the new large-scale datasets, continuing on their journey to democratise data and striving to achieve full data utilisation.

> " *thinkWhere has helped us in our goal to increase data accessibility for the benefit of society, liberating the use of authoritative, reliable, verifiable, high-value data driving applications for European and global sustainability, safety and environment.* "

Victoria Persson,
*Project Manager –
Data Access and Integration,
EuroGeographics AISBL*

Find out more here.

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thinkWhere
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