A national perspective on key legal issues in geospatial information management

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Deputy Director General Mr. Petri Korpinen
National Land Survey of Finland

Facts about Finland
The centenary of Finland’s independence in 2017

- Total 338,195 km²
- Population 5.5 million
- 17 inhabitants per km²
  - 67% in towns
- 311 municipalities
- 2.8 million cadastral units
Tasks of The National Land Survey of Finland

• cadastral surveys
• maintaining property information
• producing map data
• handling registrations of title and mortgages
• development of ICT and data systems
• spatial data research
Vision and target for Finland

*Fluent use of spatial data makes operations and decision-making more effective and produces new and varied services. Easily utilisable and reliable spatial data increases participation opportunities and improves safety and competitiveness.*

Finnish national spatial data strategy 2016

Policy Report on Spatial Data Infrastructure

- To be released in January 2018
- Guidelines of who will provide, use and refine spatial data
- Ecosystem of the spatial data community
- Roles of public administration (state government and municipalities) and private sector
- Timescale, about 5–10 years.
Legal and policy developments

- Funding in a changing world
- Open data
- Licensing, pricing and data ‘ownership’
- Data privacy and protection
- Standards and terminology
- Liability and the issue of data assurance
- Disparities between legal and policy frameworks

Why open?

- Open data movement and the policy of the government
  - Public sector data should be open
- Availability and free of charge were important issues for users
  - It’s better to open the national data than to risk the use of it with license fees
  - Any restriction of use makes a hindrance for users and increases the bureaucracy and the costs for delivery
  - Very difficult to make licence- and pricing models for all new service based innovations
All topographic data was opened 1.5.2012

- Laserscanning data
- Aerial photographs
- Topographic database
- All raster maps
- Place names
- Elevation models
- Cadastral index map and purchase price statistics (1.1.2017)

How we prepared the opening?

- We prepared all products
  - Is the data really ours?
    - Much co-operation with the municipalities and other public bodies
    - Some anonymization needed, no personal data (name, social security number and address)
  - We prepared the open licence
    - Changed to [CC 4.0 BY](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0) in 2015, (Finnish public sector recommendation)
    - Licensee has to mention the name of the Licensor, the name of the dataset(s) and the time when the National Land Survey has delivered the dataset(s).
  - National open data service exists [avoindata.fi](http://avoindata.fi)
Conclusions

- Information sharing between the Governmental agencies -> no need for an license agreement
- Open data is a possibility instead of licensing data
- In Finland there’s no specific legislation about licensing data
- Relevant legislation:
  - Personal Data Act (523/1999)
  - Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999)
  - Administrative Procedure Act 434/2003
  - Copyright Act 404/1961
- Is there need for the specific legislation concerning licensing Geospatial data?

More information

www.nls.fi