Moving beyond the map
Ireland’s geospatial transformation, enabling a smarter society

Colin Bray, OSi CEO

EuroGeographics represents a diverse number of organisations. The smallest employs just nine people whilst the largest has more than 10,000 staff.

Top Level Government
Environment
Research/Innovation/Business Development
Defence
Construction/Infrastructure
Finance/Economy
Interior
Justice/Law
Agriculture
Mapping and Cadastre

Members invest over €1.5 B each year in the development of geo-information

Relied on by European Commission Businesses & Citizens

Share best practice through expert knowledge exchange networks

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63 members
46 countries
from the whole of geographical Europe

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Irish National Mapping Agency

- Established in 1824
- State Body since 2002, mandated under the OSi Act 2001
- To create, maintain and provide the definitive national mapping, related geographic records and services for the State
- Under the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- 230 staff (330 in 2008)
- Headquarters in Dublin

Traditional map making

Our primary role was the creation of cartographic representations

- Traditionally focused on ‘map sheets’ and cartographic representation
  - Now about intelligent real-world features
- Traditionally focused on geographic referencing (Easting/Northing, Lat/Long)
  - Now about uniquely referenced database objects
Our world has changed

Building smart societies requires smart national geospatial data infrastructure (moving beyond the map)

Moving beyond the map

Key challenges we addressed (an Irish perspective)

› Cultivating a mind-set change from traditional cartographic practices to a systems approach for modelling and maintaining the real world

› Ensuring our fundamental reference data is fit for modern use (compatible with emerging technologies, Internet Of Things and smart societies)

› Adopting a federated approach for national geospatial systems and data integration to remove duplication & complexity

› Building strong collaborative relationships, supported by national strategy and policies, to deliver effective national geospatial infrastructure
Modelling the real world

Creating an authoritative ‘real-world, object orientated’ geospatial platform

› Developed new real-world data model
› Reengineered legacy cartographic data
› Created a single source of national topographic truth (scale-independent)
› Over 50 million uniquely referenced objects (Unique Geographic Identifier - UGI)
› Maintained object life-cycles

Delivering smart geospatial data

Adoption of industry standards to ensure interoperability

Implementation of rule-based data management to persist quality

Publication of Linked Data as the next generation of geospatial referencing
Ireland’s national geospatial data hub

Smarter use of societal data
Geospatial and Statistical leadership

*OSi and Irish Statistics Office are developing the national data infrastructure*

OSi is adopting the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

- Ordnance Survey Ireland Statement of Strategy 2019-2021

Aligning national strategy with global frameworks
In summary

We’ve moved **beyond the map** to enable geospatial play a more significant role in developing a **smart nation** for the benefit of Ireland’s citizens, business and policy-makers.

Thank you for your attention.