



GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: NEED TO KNOW

Welcome to the first issue of the [GI-N2K](#) project newsletter.

Introducing the GI-N2K project

The project [GI-N2K](#) ('*Geographic information : Need to Know*') aims to make the geospatial education and training system in Europe more demand-driven and flexible by developing an agreed ontology for the GIS&T domain. The project is built around a network of 31 academic and non-academic partners from 25 countries, and is funded under the [Lifelong Learning program](#) - Erasmus Multilateral Networks.

The main objective of GI-N2K is to develop an up-to-date dynamic Geographic Information Science & Technology BoK (Body of Knowledge) which is in line with the latest technological developments and takes into account the European dimension.

To achieve this objective, the following core activities will be undertaken:

- ✓ Analysis of the current situation with focus on the demand of private and public sector as compared to the existing academic and vocational training offer;
- ✓ Revision of the content of the BoK to bring it in line with technological developments, emerging new knowledge areas and European context;
- ✓ Development of toolsets and guidelines that allow to manage and use the GIS&T BoK for defining vocational and academic curricula, defining job profiles, etc.
- ✓ Testing of the GIS&T BoK, its toolsets and guidelines through real world use cases, with participation of target groups from the private, public and academic sector;
- ✓ Promoting and disseminating the use of the dynamic GIS&T BoK, toolsets and guidelines;

More information about the project can be found at www.gi-n2k.eu.

Report on the GI-N2K surveys

In the first phase the GI-N2K project wanted to analyze the market demands in Europe with regard to the knowledge and skills and compare them with the current training offer in the GIS&T sector.



Therefore, the project has launched [two surveys](#).

The aim of the GI-N2K Survey on 'Workforce demand in GIS&T' was to evaluate current workforce demands in GIS&T and identify presumed future directions.

In the GI-N2K Survey on 'GIS&T Teaching supply' information was collected about the GIS&T courses and programmes in Europe, and on the awareness and use of the GIS&T BoK among professionals and organizations involved in GIS&T education and training.

The report entitled 'Integrated analysis of the demand for and supply of geospatial education and training' discusses the results of both surveys. The report describes the situation in 2014 with regard to the demand for and the supply of education and training in the domain of GIS&T. The analysis in the report focuses on three aspects: the awareness and use of the GIS&T BoK, the GI knowledge domain reference document; the possible gap between needed competences and teaching on offer; and the incompleteness of the GIS&T BoK.

The report can be downloaded below

[GI-N2K surveys report](#)

Cooperation with U.S. colleagues

GI-N2K builds upon the [existing Geographic Information Science and Technology Body of Knowledge](#) that was developed by the American University Consortium for Geographic Information Science and published in 2006 by the Association of American Geographers.



As GI-N2K wants to benefit from the experiences gained in designing the original GIS&T BoK but also wants to align with recent initiatives in the US to update the BoK and make it more dynamic and usable, cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information with the US colleagues are

considered absolutely essential.

The American University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS), the GeoTech Center and the Center for Advanced Research of Spatial Information (CARSI) are involved in the GI-N2K project through their participation in the advisory board. Two experts that are playing a key role in the update of the GIS&T Body of Knowledge and the development of related tools in the U.S., were invited to the GI-N2K workshop that was organized after the [AGILE 2014](#) Conference in Castellón (Spain).

John Wilson (University of Southern California) presented the GIS&T Body of Knowledge 2.0 initiative of UCGIS to update the 2006 Geographic Information Science & Technology (GIS&T) Body of Knowledge. André Skupin (San Diego State University) gave a presentation on the development of an Operational Knowledge Ecosystem for the GIS&T Domain, showing several tools that can be used for updating, managing and using the Body of Knowledge.

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