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Images available please contact EuroGeographics Head Office for details

EuroGeographics adds to expertise with two new members

EuroGeographics – the association and official voice for Europe’s national mapping and cadastral agencies – has welcomed two new members, Geoinformation Service of the Hungarian Defence Forces (GEOS HDF) and Registers of Scotland (RoS).

They join mapping and land registration organisations from 43 countries who share data and expertise to help inform European policy and decision-making. An important part of this is the development of the definitive pan-European location framework which will enable them to meet the requirements of the Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community (INSPIRE) Directive.

“As the sole holder of responsibility for the provision of topographic and other, internationally accepted mapping products for the entire Hungarian armed and law enforcement forces, GEOS HDF is happy to be part of a community, which is creating modern, up-to-date and accurate pan-European products that can efficiently be used by the above organisations to the benefit of all nations in Europe,” said *Colonel Laszlo Tóth*, Head of the GEOS HDF.

James Meldrum, Keeper and Chief Executive of the RoS added: “RoS is delighted to have joined Eurogeographics and looks forward to being an active participant in the work of the organisation which we believe will help us delivery our part of the pan - European spatial data infrastructure.”

“We are delighted that GEOS HDF and RoS are adding to the wealth of knowledge offered by our members,” said EuroGeographics’ President Magnus Gudmundsson. “They join us at a particularly exciting time as work has just begun on our e-Contentplus project, Underpinning the European Spatial Data Infrastructure (ESDIN) with a Best Practice Network. This will help member states, candidate countries and the European Free Trade Association to prepare their data for INSPIRE.”

The project, co-funded by the European Union, will test INSPIRE specifications and focuses on overcoming the technical and business obstacles which currently make it difficult to find, assess and join-up data across national borders. The collaboration between mapping and cadastral agencies, academic institutions and technology providers will also investigate ways to reliably and cost-effectively download, use and re-use geographical information from the public sector.

ESDIN is being managed by Stephen Evans who is on secondment to EuroGeographics from Land and Property Services Northern Ireland.

For more information about the ESDIN project please visit www.esdin.eu.

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Notes to Editors

EuroGeographics is the membership association and official voice for the European national mapping and cadastral agencies. It brings together 52 members from 43 countries, from Portugal to the Ukraine and Iceland to Turkey. New members are elected at the association's annual general assembly.

EuroGeographics' members invest around €1.5 billion in the development of geographical information each year and use cutting-edge technology to create, manage, maintain and make available authoritative national databases.

They are developing an infrastructure to integrate their national data – including topographic and land information – to deliver the definitive pan-European location framework for a wide range of uses. By sharing best practice and creating standard data specifications and policies to ensure that their individual geographical databases are compatible and can interact with one another. This will provide

Europe with the high quality geographical information it needs to develop policies and legislation for the environment, business competitiveness, public services, legal systems, security and more.

To find out more about EuroGeographics, please visit www.eurogeographics.org. To see our members' geographical information in action, please visit our showcase at www.youtube.com/eurogeographics.