

Strengthening NSDI in Georgia - Using IGIF to Support the Process

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SUMMARY

Over the past 5-years, Georgia has been progressively working towards establishing NSDI to strengthen geospatial data management and increase the use of geospatial information for evidence-based decision-making. The National Agency of Public Registry (NAPR) under the Ministry of Justice of Georgia is the coordinating authority for the NSDI, responsible for the collection and management of fundamental geospatial data and implementation of geospatial-related laws and policies.

Georgia has considerable volumes of geospatial information. However, the quality (accuracy, completeness and currency) is variable, interoperability between government systems is limited and the need for access to high-quality geospatial information has significantly increased.

As a consequence, Georgia required a road map to articulate the steps needed to create an NSDI, with a particular emphasis on establishing longer-term financial sustainability, multi-stakeholder approaches, capacity and capability development, innovation, and communication, as well as providing technical solutions for ongoing data maintenance, standards and interoperability.

The Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), adopted by United Nations and World Bank, aims to support the development of national infrastructures for geospatial information management in developing countries and move towards e-economies, e-service, e-commerce, and other services to improve services to citizens in support of the implementation of national strategic priorities together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Therefore, NAPR started introducing IGIF with support of the Norwegian Mapping Authority (Statens kartverk). Since 2014, the Norwegian Mapping Authority has been implementing

Norwegian Government funded projects in cooperation with NAPR, including producing basic digital up-to-date geospatial data; building the technical and professional capacity of NAPR, and promoting efficient use and sharing of geospatial data in the country.

Supported by international consultancy under the Norwegian project, the baseline country report, Geospatial Alignment to Policy Drivers (SEIA), Socio-Economic Impact Assessment (SEIA) and NSDI Action Plan were developed.

The IGIF has already facilitated starting/resuming implementation of the NSDI-related activities provided in the Action Plan, including improvement of data accessibility through new map portal, revision of the NSDI draft law and pending its adoption in the near future, address registry completion, etc.

The implementation of the activities defined under the NSDI Action Plan, developed with the IGIF methodology, is expected to have positive impacts on many parts of the Georgia economy, including; improved public sector efficiency, land administration, strategic planning, national security, public safety, disaster risk management and emergency services, national infrastructure, regional development, agriculture, environment, as well as private sector and citizens.

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