

Highlights of EuroSDR/EuroGeographics Workshop on AI for National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies

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SUMMARY

This presents the highlights of a Joint Virtual Workshop organised by EuroSDR and EuroGeographics on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs) that took place 3-4 February 2021. The event brought together staff members and researchers of NMCAs, academic institutions and policy makers; around 250 people participated in this successful workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to raise awareness and understanding of Artificial Intelligence within the context of National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies. The insights gained at the workshop helped the participants to appreciate the impact, benefits, limitations and effects of AI on the business processes of European NMCAs. These objectives were achieved by sharing policy frameworks, research trends and practical experiences of implementing AI through presentations and organised panel discussions.

The main outcomes of the workshop are that AI is perceived as an opportunity for NMCAs, for example in cost/time savings and more efficient business processes. While AI is not considered a threat for NMCAs, there are some concerns about ethics and overuse. In general participants at the workshop believe that the AI-Maturity of NMCAs in Europe is rather low as most applications are still at Proof-of-Concept stage. Another finding emerging from the discussion is that there is not the expectation of miracles and radical changes for NMCAs by making use of AI. The presentation will also present the main results of the polls that were carried out during the workshop to direct and facilitate the panel discussions.

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