

# **Cartographic Research and Development serving the Needs of the NMAs – the European Perspective**

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Since the 1990ies NMAs do act not only as contributors to their nations but also to the regions they belong to. In order to serve both purposes research and development in the fields of setting up national and regional Geographic Information Infrastructures (GII), homogenisation of various data sets, updating the data bases, deriving good products from the data bases, and disseminating the products is necessary.

This paper's focus is on the R&D agenda being under development within the R&D Forum of EuroGeographics, the Association of 37 European National Mapping Agencies (NMA). EuroGeographics has established such a forum in order to co-ordinate the R&D efforts of the NMAs in Europe, to help to avoid duplication and to benefit particularly the smaller NMAs in developing legal and technological solutions for creating, maintaining and disseminating their GI.

In the paper the following points will be addressed:

- The R&D Forum being established by EuroGeographics.
- R&D in order to establish and up-date reliable, timely and user-oriented Geographic Information Infrastructures (GII) on both the national and European level
- R&D in order to facilitate the dissemination of user-oriented cartographic products derived from the GIIs using traditional (e. g. paper maps) and modern media (e. g. Internet).

The presentation will also include a brief report dealing with the set-up of the R&D Forum which will mainly operate as a WEB-based forum. This approach is supposed to share information between NMAs about current R&D programmes, to identify duplications and gaps as well as common interest areas, and, furthermore, to find competent and interested R&D organisations willing to co-operate with the NMAs. Additionally, it is intended to arrange workshops on R&D fields of specific interest to several NMAs, the first one being organised by BKG in Feb 2001.