

# Crowdsourcing in National Mapping 2017

## An International Workshop

Leuven, Belgium April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 2017

### Call for Participation

We are delighted to announce an open call for participation at the 2nd Crowdsourcing and National Mapping Workshop funded by EuroSDR which will take place in Leuven, Belgium on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017. This is an exciting time in the development of Volunteered Geographic Information (VGI), Crowdsourcing, and Citizen Participation. The use of crowdsourced geographic information and VGI and crowdsourced spatial data and information by National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCA) and the Geomatics Industry is a very current, challenging and topical subject. Today we see very rich potential for collaboration and integration of NMCAs, the Geomatics Industry and citizen-based crowdsourcing (such as OpenStreetMap, Ushahidi, Geonames, Galaxy Zoo, GeoWiki, Flickr, GeoWiki, etc). We have seen some limited examples of where collaboration and integration has happened. However, for a myriad of reasons realising this potential for collaboration is not very easy.

The goal of this workshop is to engage with stakeholders from NMCAs, the Geomatics Industry, academic research, software developers, citizens involved in geographic crowdsourcing and VGI, leaders or managers of crowdsourcing or VGI projects over 1.5 days to develop a set of the most prominent and pressing questions related to crowdsourcing and national mapping in Europe (and beyond) today. The outcomes of the workshop will be synthesised and summarised into a report which will be delivered to EuroSDR in May 2017 for immediate consideration for future funding of research and development projects into tackling some of these questions.

**The topics for discussion** in the workshop will include (but are not limited to) the following:

- What are the key sources of VGI and how do they complement each other? How are they relevant?
- How can these sources of VGI be successfully combined?
- How can VGI and crowdsourced spatial data compliment or assist in the work of NMCAs and industry?
- How do we then improve/measure the quality of VGI for NMCA and industry applications?
- European-wide SWOT analysis of VGI in NMCAs - by survey? Interview?
- What can VGI be used for (and not used for) in NMCAs or in Industry?
- Investigation of Geographic Information services for facilitating VGI
- What are the precise needs of NMCAs for VGI?
- What are the precise needs of the VGI community from NMCAs?
- In practical terms how can NMCAs and the VGI community work together?
- Semantics and Interoperability of VGI for use by NMCAs and Industry
- Development of business models for VGI at NMCAs
- Privacy, legal and ethical issues related to the use of crowdsourced information and VGI by NMCAs and industry.
- The future of VGI - sustainability, attracting contributors, etc.

This workshop follows on from a very successful workshop and short funded projects (funded at short internship level) in 2012/2013 managed by Peter Mooney and Jeremy Morley with the support of EuroSDR, AGILE, ESRI Europe, and several participating National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies.

## Who can participate?

We are looking forward to encouraging participation from a very wide range of interested parties and stakeholders. These include, but are not limited to: academic researchers, policy makers, active members of VGI or crowdsourcing projects, open source software users and developers, open data providers, experts from National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCA), SMEs and companies from the Geomatics Industry, local, regional and national government agencies and ministries with an interest in the use of Crowdsourced geospatial data, and anyone with an interest in the use of VGI or crowdsourced spatial data and information.

## How can you participate?

This is not a traditional paper-based submission workshop. This workshop is very much focused on the discussion of ideas, the setting of research agendas and the development of research and innovation ideas. We welcome participants who are willing to share their experiences, knowledge, expectation, use-cases, future plans, etc. for VGI and crowdsourced geospatial data and information. When participants have confirmed their attendance we will kindly ask for a short document (maximum 1.5) pages outlining the participant's: experience of VGI/Crowdsourcing/NMCA, current projects, publications related to this area, interest in the topics areas outlined etc. A recent photograph would also be very useful. All of these documents will then be compiled into an electronic document which will be distributed to all participants during the workshop helping participants to get to know each other better.

## Questions about Registration

To encourage a broad and large attendance there is NO registration fee for participation in the workshop. Lunches and coffee breaks will be sponsored by EuroSDR. However all other expenses: hotel accommodation, air travel, public transportation, evening meals, travel related costs, etc will be at the expense of the individual.

**\*\*\*\*\*Registration will open soon\*\*\*\*\***

There will be the option of choosing your accommodation within the workshop venue. However participants are free to choose their own hotels or accommodations anywhere in the Leuven city region.

## Workshop Venue and Workshop Location

The workshop will be held in The Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe in heart of the beautiful city of Leuven, Belgium. Leuven is very easily accessed from all over Europe. The city is very well connected by train from Brussels and other major cities around Belgium. There is a direct train connection from Brussels Airport of only around 13 minutes.

We look forward to welcoming you to Leuven in April 2017. If you require any further details or indeed have any suggestions about the workshop please contact us using the email addresses below.

Peter Mooney, Joep Cromptvoets and Rob Lemmens (Workshop leaders and co-chairs)

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**WORKSHOP WEBSITE** <http://www.cs.nuim.ie/~pmooney/eurocdr2017>

The workshop will include several invited expert speakers from NMCAs, Industry, Academic and the VGI/Crowdsourcing communities to set the scene on their view of Crowdsourcing in National Mapping. These speakers will be announced in early 2017.