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The Finnish geoportal and statistical data

The roots of the Finnish geoportal date back to the 1980s, when the first spatial data directory service was released. In the mid 1990s, a MapSite offering browsing of topographic maps was opened on the Internet, and since then the service has been one of the most popular websites in Finland with 100 million map searches annually. In November 2010, the portal won the Quality Innovation of the Year award in a competition organised by Excellence Finland.

Paikkatietoikkuna, as the Geoportal is called in Finnish, currently provides spatial data discovery and view services (WMS), as well as guidelines for implementing the INSPIRE directive and for building the national spatial data infrastructure. The map user interface is the most popular part of the portal, offering approximately 200 different map layers provided by 20 data providers for browsing.

In May 2013, Statistics Finland introduced their first datasets for the service through Paikkatietoikkuna. This was done following the INSPIRE guidelines. My presentation will introduce the Finnish Geoportal and show how statistical data is implemented in it. I will describe how we built the services, how they can be used, and how much they have been used after they were published in May 2013.