

Statistical mapping with Python

Presenting statistical data on maps has become a dissemination standard. Maps are included in publications, communiques, infographics and social media posts of National Statistical Institutes. Many NSIs developed their own geoportals for users to create interactive maps using various methods with customized parameters.

Python scripting on the other hand has proven to be a great tool for statistical and spatial data management: streamlining data loading, enabling geocoding or data aggregation to grids and other territorial division units.

In the “1000 days with geospatial statistics” Eurostat grant project, Statistics Poland decided to dedicate a work package to research the possibilities of creating statistical maps using Python instead of desktop or web tools, as it was done to date.

The project will result in a set of workflows for creating statistical maps: from data preparation to a map created solely by script programming. Along with capacity building in official statistics, this work will diversify the map production processes in Statistics Poland and contribute to their automation.