

The new Geospatial Reference Architecture of Statistics Finland

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Statistics Finland started creating a reference architecture for geospatial data in February 2018 because lack of awareness of the compilation of statistics containing geospatial data made it difficult to fully utilise, manage and develop geospatial data and related processes.

The Geospatial Reference Architecture determines the policies for achieving interoperability and joint use of geospatial data. The objective of the Geospatial Reference Architecture is that

- Statistics Finland has a centralised operating model for managing and producing geospatial data and services.
- Geospatial data is only produced once and the data are centralised in a geospatial database environment.
- Geospatial data are available to statistical processes and can be utilised through Web services.
- From a technology architecture viewpoint, geospatial data and services intended for their processing and utilisation are produced uniformly.
- Statistical objects are protected by centralising and limiting their use with user authorisations that are based on individuals' roles.
- Statistics Finland's reference architecture for geospatial data utilises national and international geospatial data infrastructure and follows national and international standards.

The Geospatial Reference Architecture was carried out in accordance with the national enterprise architecture recommendation (JHS 179). The end result was the first version of Statistics Finland's Geospatial Reference Architecture. It must be specified as the development work progresses and be updated regularly. This matter is still being processed and future measures are being organised at Statistics Finland.