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REVIEW OF THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN CARTOGRAPHIC DATA ACQUISITION, MANIPULATION, STORAGE AND PRESENTATION, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: AUTOMATED MAPPING PROJECTS: DEVELOPMENT AND APPLICATION OF DIGITAL CARTOGRAPHIC DATABASES, INCLUDING DIGITAL TERRAIN MODELLING

Uniform, reliable map data sets for the Baltic Sea Region (MapBSR Project)

Paper submitted by Finland**

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Abstract

The purpose of the MapBSR project is to provide basic map data sets for the Baltic Sea drainage area and the countries in its sphere of influence in the nominal scale of 1:1 million. The MapBSR Project will provide the first uniform, reliable map data sets for the Baltic Sea drainage area and the countries within its sphere of influence. The users for the database will include natural resource management, environmental impact assessment, administration, transnational planning, research and map production.

The project's coordinator is the National Land Survey of Finland. The participants of the project are the National Mapping Agencies of the 14 countries around the Baltic Sea (the Russian Federation, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, Poland, the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland).

Uniform, reliable map data sets for the Baltic Sea Region

The demands for geographic information are growing. Important areas where GI technology is providing new opportunities include critical trans-national areas, such as the Baltic Sea region, which require different kinds of information to be brought together.

The Vision and Strategies around the Baltic Sea (VASAB) 2010 project was initiated in 1992 by the Baltic region Ministers of Physical Planning. At the conference held in Karlskrona, Sweden, it was stated that a coordinated map data system should be created covering the entire Baltic Sea Region with basic geographic information. Since 1992 two international seminars have been arranged (Sweden 1994 and Finland 1995), which further identified the need for such a cartographic database.

The purpose of the MapBSR project is to provide basic map data sets for the Baltic Sea drainage area and the countries in its sphere of influence in the nominal scale of 1:1 million. The elements included in the database are boundaries, hydrography, transport, settlements, geographical names, elevation, nature and land use. When completed, the database will form a base map for geographic information systems (GIS), in which any kind of data item can be located and represented, as long its coordinates are known. Different kinds of thematic information can therefore be added to the database, such as statistics on population density or data on water quality.

The National Mapping Agencies of each of the participating countries will produce the map elements for the areas of their respective countries. These will then be combined into one cartographic database.

MapBSR Project covers the Baltic Sea drainage area and the countries in its sphere of influence.

- Countries as whole:
  Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Slovak Republic.
- The administrative units that intersect the Baltic Sea drainage area in:
  The Russian Federation:
  Murmansk, Karelia, Leningrad, Arkhangelsk, Pskov, Novgorod, Tver', Smolensk, Kaliningrad and Vologda oblasts
  Germany :
  Schleswig-Holstein, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Hamburg, Berlin, Brandenburg and Regierungsbezirk Dresden in Sachsen
  The Czech Republic:
  North-bohemian, East-bohemian and North-moravian regions

MapBSR data will be produced by groups of themes so that ready parts can be published and distributed when ready. The first two themes, which are under construction at the moment, are hydrography and boundaries.

Timetable:

Hydrography	under construction (1997)
Boundaries	under construction (1997)
Transport	1998
Settlements	1998
Geographical names	1998
Elevation	1999
Nature	1999
Land use	1999

National databases will be prepared to ARC/INFO format as seamless coverages and updating will be done on a regular basis when the database is ready. Copyright of the database is owned by the participating National Mapping Agencies.
