

National Geospatial Strategy Related to Natural Hazards and Disasters

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SUMMARY

National geospatial strategy related to natural hazards and disasters.

In my paper I will shortly present the National geospatial strategy towards 2025, with its targets, actions, challenges and measures. Link to the strategy. The strategy was decided by the Norwegian Government first of November 2018. The strategy is based on that "everything happens somewhere" and it shows the direction of the work ahead.

Geospatial information is required to meet social challenges, such as climate change, environmental challenges, transport, resource management, emergency planning and urbanisation. Geospatial information is also part of many commercial offerings and is an integral part of the digital services we all use in everyday life.

Many activities are dependent on access to geospatial information. Navigation at sea, flood and landslide protection, construction and civil engineering activities, and emergency service responses are just a few examples. Norway has an extensive and advanced foundation for access to geospatial information. This is our geospatial data infrastructure. It covers many needs in society and consists of various shared solutions for the management, distribution and use of geospatial information. This infrastructure has been developed to a great extent through the agreement-based administrative cooperation Norway Digital.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) emphasises the importance of a good geospatial knowledge base, in order to achieve sustainable development goals. The United Nations has established guidelines for how the member states should develop geospatial information, including management solutions and infrastructures.

The current Norwegian strategy agrees essentially with the United Nations initiative in this area.

In my paper I will show some examples on best practice and especially emphasise the value of geospatial information for preparedness, resilience and recovery regarded natural hazard and disasters.

New threats and vulnerabilities arise. The requirements for good emergency planning for serious incidents are increasing, and the ability to handle crisis situations is becoming increasingly important. Updated geospatial information is an important tool for the assessment of threat situations and the ability to act quickly and appropriately.

Climate change may increasingly cause landslides, flooding and other weather-induced natural disasters. The prerequisites for food production and food safety are gradually changing. Geospatial information is an important element of work with adaptation to climate change and other environmental challenges, including land-use planning by the municipalities.

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