

Social and Regional Statistics
Ref: 87280003

Technical Summary

GISCO - Lot 5

Cartography

Technical Summary - GISCO LOT 5

According to the objectives set for the first year of the contract and the break down of the project into tasks and sub-tasks, the National Technical University Cartography Laboratory, carried out an in depth evaluation of the GISCO maps and database. The evaluation phase was followed by the implementation, where concrete proposals and recommendations for the resolution of problems - identified in the evaluation phase - were submitted. The evaluation methodology consists of the identification and analysis of factors influencing each sub-task - according to the theory of Cartography, the technology of Geographic Information Systems, the existing international standards and the current Cartographic practice - and the examination of those against the content and characteristics of GISCO maps and database. The relevant reports reflect in detail the findings of the evaluation as well as the proposals for implementation.

The structure of the reports is standard, consisting of the theoretical background related to each sub-task, the justification and description of the methodology applied and the conclusions - proposals. We believe that this structure will assist the GISCO staff to utilize the results of this project, efficiently.

The scope of this report is to summarize them and to give an overall idea of the actions which should be taken, towards the improvement of GISCO maps.

Although Lot 5 focuses on GISCO maps, it is apparent that map characteristics cannot be improved without examining the content, accuracy, completeness and consistency of the database(s) used for their production. The evaluation of the database(s) has been limited to the above mentioned factors, without addressing database design issues, being subject of another Lot.

All tasks have been carried out and the relevant reports have been submitted according to the accepted work-plan. These reports enabled the GISCO staff to come up with general conclusions concerning the status of the GISCO maps and to decide on the kind and the extent of the modifications required.

NTUA Cartography Laboratory contributed towards the implementation of recommendations of Lot 5, with the computation of the map extent of the regions portrayed on maps [taking into account the new map limits and the proposed projection parameters], the improvement of amls in order to comply with the revised specifications and the creation of annotation coverages for seas and oceans.

As it has been pointed out in the Summary Report submitted in September 1998, it is indispensable for the content of the reference database to be reviewed. Suggestions for this kind of revision are included in the report for the "Implementation of Thematic Content" as well as in the supplementary report for the same task.

The final phase of the project was devoted to the development of the aml code for the production of the NUTS [version 7] brochure. This concluded the work for the first year of the project.

We do believe that the proposals elaborated in the respective reports - when implemented - will result to the improvement of the overall appearance and quality of the GISCO maps, in order to be used as efficient communication tools. Most of the proposed modifications, do not require major changes of the relevant composition routines [amls] and they can be applied gradually in accordance with the GISCO production requirements. It is indispensable though, that the content of the reference database be reviewed and suggestions for its modifications be implemented.

The following table contains a summary of the content of the tasks carried out, highlighting the major issues addressed during the evaluation phase along with the proposals for implementation to either map composition or database content.



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