

HUMBOLDT Application Scenario

Border Security

In the times of open borders of the EU, terrorist attacks and other catastrophic events make the public more and more realize the need for public safety and security systems. These systems should support and help everyday work of police, fire-fighters and other public authorities engaged during abnormal events. Thousands of lives depend on proper and right decisions based on real-time data and geoinformation. The HUMBOLDT project will provide tools helping to prepare harmonized spatial data needed for decision-making, thus increasing efficiency and timeliness.

The Border Security scenario project partners aim to contribute to data harmonization problematic with knowledge gained from border security solutions developed and used on external and internal borders of the Schengen-space. Security and public safety solutions operate with different types and formats of data from different sources including various topographic, sensor and real-time data. The need of public authorities to use cross-border spatial data within their geographical information system raised a big variety of problems. These problems and others identified within different scenarios inspired the HUMBOLDT project, with the aim of developing an online system for spatial data harmonisation.

The Border Security scenario's testbed and knowledge base is settled on the border between Slovakia and Hungary. One of the events which made the scenario partners' work more complicated was Slovakia's and Hungary's entry to the EU's Schengen-space, changing the whole system on the countries' borders. These changes influenced requirements for the security system, standards and overall thinking of public safety solutions. The next issue making the system's analytical phase more difficult was the fact that data owned and used by the government for military and public safety purposes are restricted.



The intention of the Border Security scenario is to support the HUMBOLDT framework development and implementation in this specific field. The first step made to achieve this goal was the analysis of present systems in Slovakia and Hungary. The work carried out within the analytical phase was done with the help of a small group of potential users at the Ministry of Interiors in Slovakia and Hungary. Outcomes of this phase were used to define user requirements and explore spatial data schemas to create a data schema for border security applications.

The Border Security scenario, as one of the HUMBOLDT scenarios, would like to point out the need and demonstrate the possible solutions for spatial data harmonisation as a basis for good cooperation among different user groups using various data formats, data types, coordinate systems, etc., in this specific application area.

All nations and countries in Europe can be proud of their respective own solutions and systems to solve everyday problems, but there are moments when everybody needs to speak one language.

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