





Geographic information in crisis communication

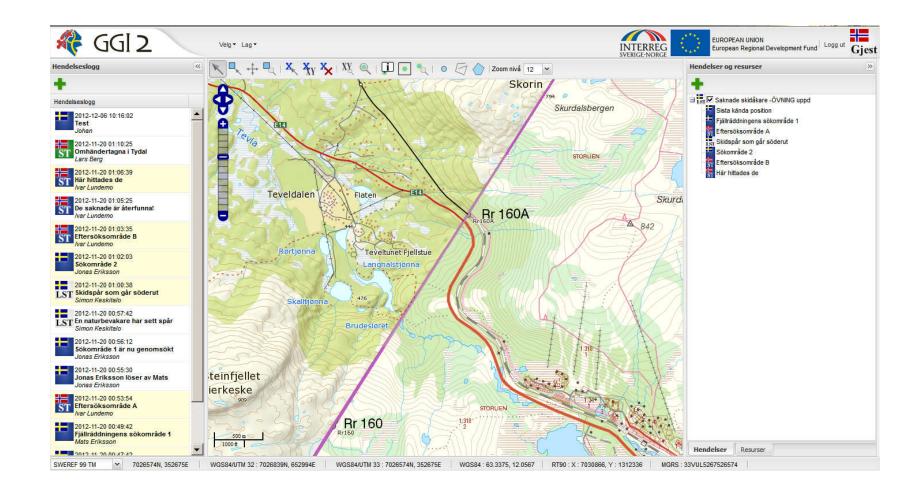
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Emergency response across border:

- What functions does geographic information have in emergency response communication?
- Lessons learned about emergency response communication in the project?

GSS

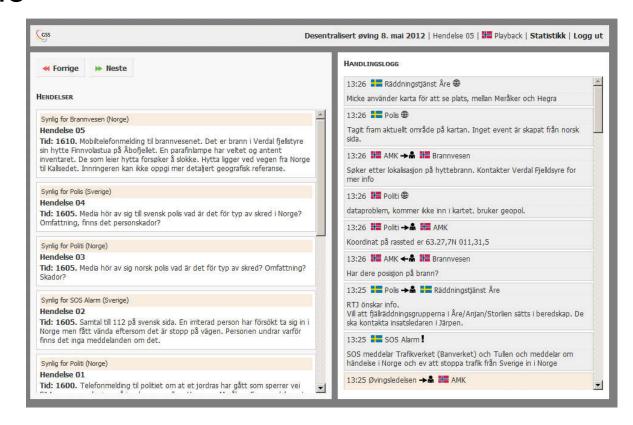
INTERREC SVERIGE-NORGI



GSS's Øvingssystem

Emergency management training system

- Presents scenario
- Logs
 - response
 - communication between participants
 - decisions
 - map use









Communication of geographic information

Text

«Loch Lomond, the largest of Scottish lakes. It is about 23 m. long; its width varies from 5 m. towards the south end to 1/3 m. at the narrows to the north of the Isle of the Vow; its area is 27 sq. m.It contains 30 islands»

The map communicates more information, with less effort.



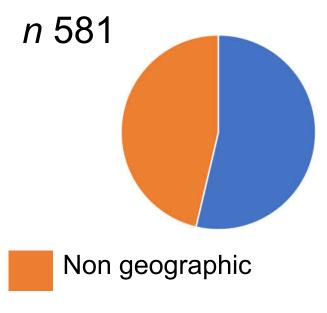






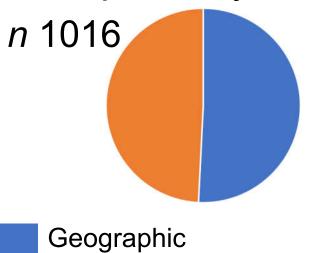
Geographic content in emergency communication

2013 exercise table top, text communication



2016 exercise

full scale, radio communications interoperability test

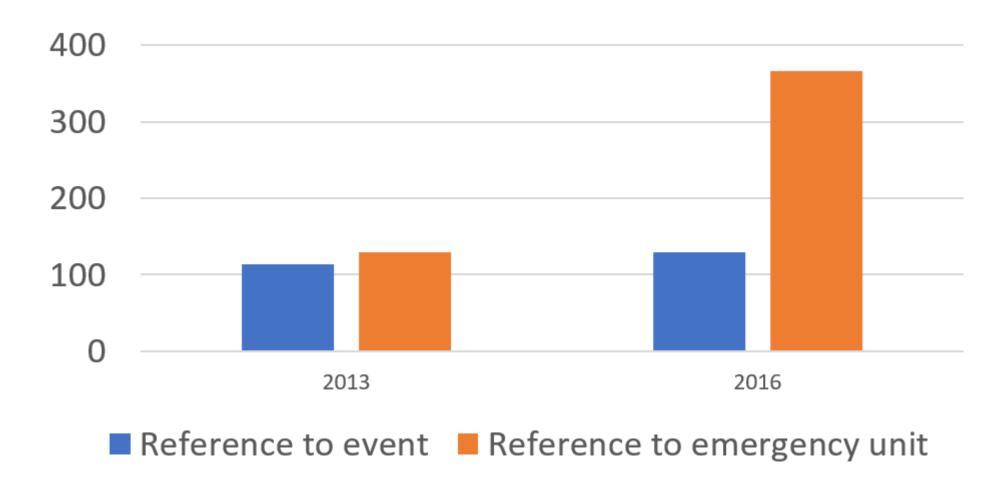






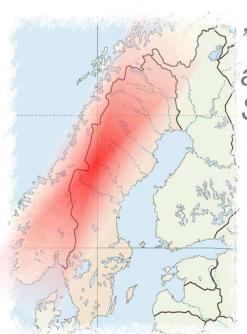


Type of geographic content









"two persons missing in border area between Norway and Sweden."

"widespread flooding i

Jämtland"



"the two persons set out from Olden in Sweden towards Sørli in Norway"



"road E14 closed from Sjørdal to Meråker because of flooding"

Geographic information have different geometric properties (reference to area, line, or point) and varying presicion.



"oil leaking from petrol tank truck at crossing betweeen roads E14 and E45"





Functions of geographic information

- Communicate analyses
 - exposure to hazard
 - potential events
 - potential search areas
- Communicate information about events
 - locations
 - search areas
 - contribute to overview

emergency units

- communicate location of units

Direct and coordinate

- in direction of event, search area
- where to take affected people, patients
- gathering points
- communicate responsibilities

Geographic information as part of emergency unit name/ID (e.g. "Trondheim Ambulance 3") eases coordination

Questions and answers about locations, places, areas



Challenges I

Geographic information is in general communicated orally

- → imprecise transmission of geographic information
- → place names instead of locations/delimited areas
- → time lost due to insufficient/imprecise information
- → place names are accurate if the persons who communicate have same spatial knowledge





Challenges II

Map systems exist but...

- → not possible to mark off places and location of events
- → not possible to communicate geographic event information from map to map
- → lack of access to detailed maps
- → incompatible geo reference systems (across border)
- → insufficient search functionality (especially across border)
- → map stops at border (but improved from 2011)
- → digital map systems for vehicles, not for use in terrain





Questions?

