



Warning: UN Building Geospatial Data Ecosystem To Achieve Sustainable Development Goals

Geospatial technology tracks things that move (ie, people, vehicles, etc.) in the context of why they move and for what purpose. Technocrats seek to track everything in the world, all of the time, for the purpose of command and control over those things. This is the essence of the Science of Social Engineering that Technocracy purports to implement.

□ TN Editor

In today's age of globalization, countries are economically and socially entwined in unimaginable ways and technology lies at the core of this development. As technology becomes integrated into every aspect of our lives, geospatial information and technology is foreseen to be an enabler for developing coherent capabilities to meet the [Sustainable Development](#) Goals (SDGs). To foster economic growth and

development, to ease the process of monitoring and to incentivize the progress of the goals, a comprehensive understanding of the need for geospatial data ecosystem is vital. The exigency of spatial planning was realized when the ambitions set under the Millennium Development Goals could not be met. By precisely missing out on the principal approach of spatial information and technology, the MDGs were not effectively and efficiently tracked, monitored and managed. The stark obliviousness of different stakeholder entities on the use of geospatial information finally led to the incorporation of the same in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It's been a year and a half since the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, however, the understanding of the need *'to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observation and geospatial information'* to achieve the SDGs, is static. The stakeholder entities involved in decision making, creating roadmaps and creating and implementing action items for SDGs, continue to remain unenlightened by the many benefits geospatial information and earth observation data bring to the table. While global organizations such as the United Nations are recognizing the need of robust geographic data for strategic development, it is the development community and policymakers who need to be brought at par with the geospatial community to understand the relevance of geospatial data to formulate effective strategic action plans to meet the SDGs. **Aditya Aggarwal, Director, Data Ecosystems Development, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data**, states, *'Many of the issues that are being dealt with have an inherent spatial component, and this is becoming more and more realized across the different data communities to the extent where geospatial data is almost a fundamental trait in what is needed and how decisions get made.'*

Greg Scott, Inter-regional Advisor for Global Geospatial Information Management, United Nations, also emphasizes the critical role of geospatial industry in facilitating fruitful collaborations to assist governments, development agencies, multilateral agencies and commercial sector to pursue sustainable development goals through the use of geospatial information and knowledge. Stressing on the rising

expectation of citizens globally, Scott underlines the duty and role of the government and the geospatial industry to meet the development challenges with *'easily accessible and affordable geospatial technologies, digital transformation and innovation'*.

Clearly, an exhaustive geospatial data ecosystem is essential to the success of the sustainable development goals. A broad coalition of data sets, spatial and non-spatial in nature, is central to deriving insights and creating actionable plans. *'Measuring each country's progress towards the SDGs will require innovative approaches to collecting data. Data, as the basis for evidence-based decision making, will be critical to the success of the 2030 Agenda,'* comments **Scott**.

While the industry might be aware of the potential of geospatial information and technology, it is the change makers and policymakers who have to persistently be introduced to the value of dynamic visualizations created by the integration of data sources. It is when the development community understands that the geospatial information provides an accurate and reliable picture of the critical challenges facing the earth, such as climate change, food security, and natural disasters, among many others - will there be a quantum leap in how sustainable development goals are implemented, monitored and tracked. As **Nigel Clifford, CEO, Ordnance Survey, United Kingdom**, puts it, *'When geospatial data is visualized as a map and has attribution added to it and/or information layered on top, complex issues are understood within seconds.'*

Anne Hale Miglarese, CEO, Radiant, further adds, that geospatial technology allows nations to map and analyze the *'ecological and social footprints of humanity on the Earth's surface'*, thus developing an understanding and managing the impact of humans on earth. In agreement is **Barbara Ryan, Secretariat, Group on Earth Observations**, emphasizing on data revolution for building a sustainable world, *'A digital and data revolution is sweeping the globe, creating remarkable opportunities to connect, improve, and use data and evidence to inform action that can offer unprecedented levels of impact.'*

Building a geospatial data ecosystem

However, it is unlikely that development of this unprecedented level can be achieved without collaboration. Geospatial data, or integration of spatial and non-spatial datasets, cannot be achieved without a global multi-stakeholder partnership, especially with respect to SDGs. To this end, it is but necessary that a synergy is developed, and reshaped to formulate a geospatial 'data ecosystem' - involving the users, producers, beneficiaries and owners of data. Particularly in the case of Sustainable Development Goals, it is imperative that meaningful partnerships are developed to ensure that the geospatial data revolution reaches the grassroots and is actionable at all levels. *'Only building an interconnected data ecosystem will allow states to properly plan for SDGs implementation, measure progress towards the Global Goals and compare themselves to others,'* **Scott** adds.

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One Year On: Is Finland's Universal Basic Income Experiment Working?

The only people who think that Finland's UBI experiment has any value, are the ideologues who dreamed it up in the first place. Technocrats from Big Tech companies are pushing UBI around the world as a way to mollify displaced workers who have been pushed out of the workforce by robots. □ TN Editor

A routine trip to check the mail took an unexpected turn for Mika Ruusunen in November 2016.

"I opened it and I didn't understand it at all, so I gave it to my wife and asked her what the heck is this," Ruusunen said.

It was the Finnish government informing Ruusunen that he would start receiving free money each month as part of a first-of-its-kind experiment.

Ruusunen was among 2,000 unemployed Finns randomly selected from across the country for a trial testing universal basic income. Each month for two years he would receive 560 euros (roughly \$670) from the government, tax-free. He was free to spend the money however he liked.

"I'm not accustomed to that kind of bureaucratic freedom," Ruusunen said.

Less bureaucracy, more flexibility

Reducing bureaucracy in the welfare system is one of the main aims of the universal basic income trial in Finland. The government is testing whether basic income is a more flexible policy than existing welfare programs for providing assistance and work incentives to an evolving workforce.

"It is assumed that this would be a policy that could activate people

through different mechanisms and, well, we want to find out if that's the case," said Miska Simanainen, a researcher at Kela, the government organization overseeing the trial.

Finland's universal basic income experiment launched January 1, 2017 and will run until the end of 2018. Official results from the trial won't be released until it concludes. Experts said it's not surprising the Nordic country known for its generous welfare benefits, like universal free education, is at the forefront of a new economic experiment.

"We have had political discussions on basic income for many years, actually, for a couple of decades in Finland," Simanainen said.

The idea of free money has become more popular in recent years thanks to advocates in Silicon Valley like Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg. They see universal basic as a cushion for workers whose jobs might be replaced by automation or robots. Advocates argue free money could provide workers with flexibility to retrain for a new career, pursue creative interests, or start their own business.

A key goal of the Finland experiment is to give unemployed people incentive to work by providing them with financial assistance even once they're employed. Researchers chose the 560-euro monthly amount because it roughly equals the current level of unemployment benefits.

"One main idea behind this version of basic income that we are testing is that it would replace the basic social benefits or at least basic unemployment benefits," Simanainen said.

A 'win-win situation'

Trial participant Mika Ruusunen had been unemployed for 16 months before he decided to go back to school to retrain for a career in IT. He had just landed an internship at a tech company when he found out he was selected for the experiment.

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US Border Patrol Conducted Record 30,000 Phone Searches In 2017

The number of forced phone searches will continue to skyrocket in the future because Technocrats never have enough data and will always seek more. This is a such a flagrant violation of the Fourth Amendment that no one can even recognize it as such. □ TN Editor

While civil-libertarian minded lawmakers and the ACLU push to tighten restrictions on phone searches of American citizens, particularly when leaving or entering the US, the Customs and Border Protection Agency reported that the number of phone searches executed at the border skyrocketed in 2017, the [Wall Street Journal](#) reported.

The border patrol conducted a record number of cellphones and other devices at US points of entry last year as they intensified their hunt for smugglers and terrorists.

In fiscal year 2017, which ended Sept. 30, the government searched the devices of 30,200 people, the vast majority leaving the country, up from 19,051 in fiscal year 2016. More than 80% of the devices belonged to foreigners or legal permanent residents, with less than one in five owned by a U.S. citizen.

“In this digital age, border searches of electronic devices are essential to enforcing the law at the U.S. border and to protecting the American people,” said John Wagner, deputy executive assistant commissioner for the agency’s Office of Field Operations.

The agency on Friday released a new written policy outlining procedures for searching and seizing electronic devices at the border. The new guidance makes clear that agents can only examine information stored on the device, not data stored “in the cloud” that’s accessible from the device.

The policy makes clear that while agents can ask for passwords to access a device, the passwords aren’t to be retained in any way.

And the policy sets forth standards for agents to do an “advanced search,” which involves connecting the device to a computer to retrieve and copy information. Under the rules, advanced searches are allowed only if there is “reasonable suspicion” and “articulable facts” to support it, and with the approval of a supervisor. The standards for more in-depth searches hadn’t been spelled out before. No such standard exists for basic searches.

*The new policy also requires border agents to notify a traveler when his or her device is to be searched, **unless telling the traveler would harm “national security, law enforcement, officer safety, or other operational interests.”***

Still, the ACLU and its plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the federal government believe these guidelines are still too loose.

Last year, the American Civil Liberties Union and the Electronic Frontier Foundation sued the administration on behalf of 10 US citizens and one legal permanent resident whose devices were searched or seized at the

border. The groups argue in their suit that the government should be required to have a warrant to look at a traveler's electronic devices.

Among the plaintiffs is a NASA engineer who said he was forced to unlock his phone and give customs agents access to its contents when he returned to the U.S. from Chile on Jan. 31, in the midst of chaos at airports from the fallout of President Donald Trump's original travel ban. Sidd Bikkannavar is an American-born engineer for NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California.

Privacy advocates wanted more protections for travelers' rights. "This policy still falls far short of what the Constitution requires—a search warrant based on probable cause," said Neema Singh Guliani, legislative counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union, in a statement.

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