

Strategy 2025

knowing where



swisstopo



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Office of Topography swisstopo
www.swisstopo.ch

Glossary

Term	Definition
BIM data	Building Information Modeling (BIM) data form part of a building information model. This can be information about the surroundings or the building. Data concerning the surroundings are often geospatial data, such as the orientation of the plot, the topography or the surrounding buildings. Building data can include information about windows, access or the number of floors.
Future Labs	A form of cooperation that promotes a culture of innovation, creativity and sharing of experiences within a protected working environment.
Intelligent, multimodal mobility	Intelligent mobility is the use of technological progress in mobility. Multimodal mobility is the simple combination of different means of transport for a journey from A to B. Both types of mobility aim to make optimum use of the available transport infrastructure.
National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)	The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is a system of political measures, institutional bodies, technologies, data and people for facilitating the exchange and efficient use of geographic data for Switzerland.
Open Government Data (OGD)	Open Government Data (OGD) is official data that is provided to the public free of charge and in a machine-readable format. Official data is data that is collected, created, managed, processed and stored by the official bodies of all public authorities.
Sustainable	Knowledge geared towards sustainability is valid over a long period of time and is based on reliable sources. It is therefore considered a reliable basis for decision-making.
Unbiased	Unbiased is synonymous with objective. Unbiased knowledge and action are based on purely objective facts and are in particular independent of the commercial or particular interests of individuals.
Up-to-date	Data that is correct and complete at a specific point in time in terms of defined quality features.

Introduction

The significance of geographical and geological information

Official and reliable geoinformation forms a central foundation of a knowledge society. They are a core element of the national infrastructure of every modern country, comparable to the transportation or communication network and are an economic factor of increasing importance. Today, transparent and comprehensible decisions in politics, business and society would be inconceivable without this information: the spatial area available for natural and human uses, processes and procedures is limited. If these uses, processes and procedures are to be modelled, analysed and documented, geoinformation is essential.

Reliable official geoinformation must be available: for a well-functioning democracy – so that citizens can participate in important political decisions – and for the social developments of a modern state.

In-depth knowledge of the spatial area above and below ground is becoming increasingly important: whether it is in energy policy, climate and environmental policy, security of supply, protection of the population or in transport policy.

Official geoinformation is produced at all federal levels. Accordingly, it is important to coordinate activities among the administrative bodies and to create digital, continuous, inter-linked processes.

The tasks of the Federal Office of Topography

The Federal Office of Topography, swisstopo, plays a central role as Switzerland's geoinformation centre. It is responsible for the collection, management and provision of official geo-data and the provision of spatial services. The legal basis for this work is the Geoinformation Act (GeolA).

swisstopo establishes the geodetic foundations of Switzerland, operates a nationwide positioning service, and surveys and documents the landscape and subsoil. The product range is broad: thanks to their quality and accuracy, the National Maps enjoy an excellent reputation at home and abroad. Other important products are elevation and landscape models, aerial imagery, orthophotos, geological data and maps as well as applications on the Internet, smartphones and tablets. These include in particular the Federal map viewer, map.geo.admin.ch.

swisstopo is becoming increasingly important as a service centre for spatial issues. It manages the coordination of geoinformation and geology at a Federal level, and is the service provider for IT in the geoinformation sector. It also operates the Federal Spatial Data Infrastructure, runs the Military Geography Institute, is the national point of contact for satellite image data and carries out rapid mapping in the event of natural disasters on behalf of the Federal command organisations.

swisstopo is also responsible for the overall supervision of official cadastral surveying and the Cadastre of Public Law Restrictions on Landownership (PLR Cadastre). In cooperation with the cantons, municipalities and private sector, it coordinates the harmonisation of Swiss geodata.

The Federal Office operates the international Mont Terri rock laboratory to conduct research into geological repositories in clay-rich rock.

The legal relevance of official geoinformation, the longterm, sustainable availability of different time periods, the neutrality of interests, and secure updating are important features of swisstopo's data and products. In order to be successful in the long term and able to provide services in line with demand for the benefit of Switzerland, swisstopo must continuously take account of social, political and technological developments.

Vision

The digital transformation of society is well under way. Switzerland is transforming itself from an information society to a knowledge society. Without knowledge about spatial areas, without digital spatial data, such a transformation is unthinkable.

The vision of swisstopo is derived from these considerations:

Geoinformation for a Changing Society

swisstopo is the National Geoinformation Centre and the central office for spatial knowledge in Switzerland. The Swiss Federal Office of Topography ensures that up-to-date, reliable, easily accessible knowledge about spatial areas is made available in a sustainable unbiased manner.

Strategic fields of action 2025

Based on the vision and tasks specified, swisstopo is committed to the following six fields of action within the framework of the legislative goals and current federal strategies:

1. Digital Transformation of Switzerland
2. Security, Defence, Disaster Relief
3. Mobility, Environment, Energy
4. Land Ownership and Construction
5. Economy, Innovation and Education
6. Working Environment swisstopo

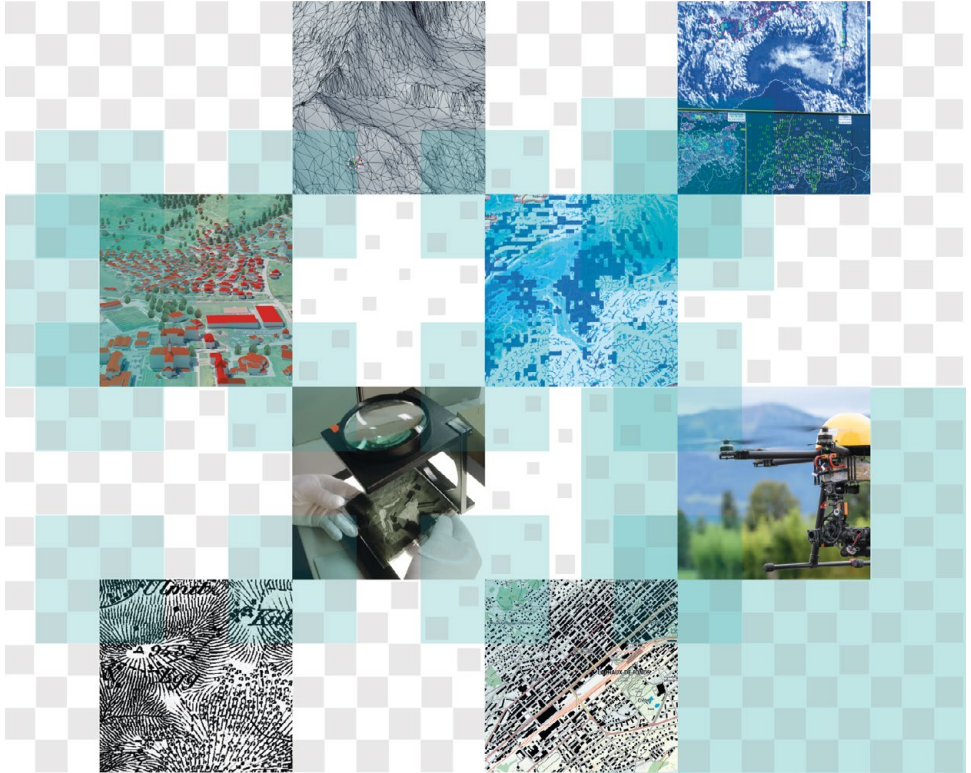
Digital Transformation of Switzerland

A digital society needs knowledge about spatial areas that are up-to-date, reliable, sustainable, easily accessible and unbiased.

swisstopo, as the National Geoinformation Centre, is an important driver of Switzerland's digital transformation.

swisstopo...

- ... ensures that spatially-related questions can be answered adequately.
- ... makes current geo-reference data available nationwide and in the required quality.
- ... modernises the altitude and position reference frame to meet changing requirements.
- ... creates the geodata sets in three dimensions and in the form required.
- ... in cooperation with the cantons and other partners, provides basic data and corresponding services which are indispensable for a national geo-register.
- ... together with the cantons and other Federal agencies, optimises and modernises the division of tasks and responsibilities in the field of geoinformation.
- ... ensures the establishment and operation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure NSDI.
- ... is the landscape memory of Switzerland and makes its cultural heritage available for digital use.
- ... promotes the use of modern data science methods to increase efficiency and effectiveness.
- ... aligns its products with future generations and their user behaviour.



Security, Defence and Disaster Relief

Effective security policy, ongoing disaster prevention and rapid assistance in the event of a disaster requires knowledge of the spatial area that is up-to-date, reliable, sustainable, easily accessible and unbiased.

swisstopo is a reliable partner in the Swiss Security Network and in national defence.

swisstopo...

- ... contributes to the security of Switzerland in normal, special and extraordinary situations with rapidly available, up-to-date, reliable, unbiased and crisis-resistant geodata and services.
- ... supports the prevention and management of crises with spatial information.
- ... as Switzerland's military geography centre, is able to secure parts of its operations in extraordinary situations and to militarise them if necessary.
- ... operates a crisis-resistant positioning service.
- ... provides basic data for monitoring movements on the Earth's surface.



Mobility, Environment, Energy

A further development of the country in the areas of intelligent mobility, sustainable use of resources and a climate neutral economy requires knowledge about spatial areas that are up-to-date, reliable, sustainable, easily accessible and unbiased.

swisstopo makes a substantial contribution to the development of infrastructures and protection of the basis of life.

swisstopo...

- ... provides data and bases for monitoring spatial development and the state of Switzerland's natural resources.
- ... participates in the Federal monitoring programmes.
- ... provides spatially related, unbiased foundations for intelligent, multimodal mobility.
- ... ensures the availability of satellite-based geoinformation for users in Switzerland.
- ... documents the geological bedrock of Switzerland digitally, in three dimensions and nationwide for an orderly use of the underground.
- ... provides digital geological bases for the energy sector, for underground infrastructures and on the availability of Switzerland's mineral resources.
- ... promotes research into the safe storage of radioactive waste and CO₂ storage.



Land Ownership and Construction

Property security, spatial planning and structural development of the country requires knowledge about spatial areas that are up-to-date, reliable, sustainable, easily accessible and unbiased.

swisstopo ensures the publication of all legal information relating to spatial areas and land from a single source.

swisstopo...

- ... in cooperation with the cantons, modernises the cadastral processes and increases their efficiency.
- ... coordinates documentation of the use of underground areas with authorities and partner organisations, in particular by establishing a uniform utilities cadastre throughout Switzerland.
- ... in cooperation with the cantons and the representatives of the land register, ensures the digital documentation of condominium ownership and geometrically separable easements.
- ... participates in the coordination and standardisation of interfaces between BIM data and geodata.
- ... is prepared to position itself as the Federal data and service centre for BIM data and works management.



Economy, Innovation and Education

Knowledge about spatial areas that are up-to-date, reliable, sustainable, easily available and unbiased form an important basis for decisions in political, economic and private life and is therefore an important driver for innovation.

swisstopo supports innovations and digital business models so that value creation, economic growth and prosperity can be achieved in the best possible and sustainable way.

swisstopo...

- ... maintains contact with user groups, educational institutions and politics and actively involves them in the further development of products and services.
- ... publishes its digital geodata in accordance with the strategy for open government data in Switzerland OGD, in order to enable broad usage.
- ... develops "Future Labs" in close cooperation with experts from science and industry to develop solutions for current challenges in geoinformation.
- ... enables the networking and linking of its data with the data of third parties in order to create added value for the economy.
- ... is actively involved in basic vocational training and the promotion of young professionals in the geoinformation sector.
- ... promotes knowledge about and interest in geoinformation among the general public.
- ... creates innovative, high-quality products for tourism, sport and leisure.



Working Environment swisstopo

An organisation in a technical environment must enable digital and flexible forms of work in order to attract and develop motivated and qualified employees.

swisstopo creates a contemporary and attractive working environment with future-oriented tasks.

swisstopo...

- ... promotes flexible forms of cooperation as well as working independently of time and place.
- ... strengthens the skills of employees in view of new challenges and creates the conditions for lifelong learning.
- ... promotes an open, participative and flexible management culture and relies on active employee participation.
- ... strengthens the culture of dialogue and targeted, constructive, mutual feedback.
- ... creates the framework for the compatibility of a private and professional life and ensures equal opportunities for all employees.
- ... relies on lean, effective, digital business processes and designs them without media discontinuity.





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Gender neutral terms are used throughout.

The Swiss Federal Office of Topography swisstopo is Switzerland's geoinformation centre. We provide accurate, updated and reliable fundamentals for the surveying of Switzerland, collect data on the landscape and its subsurface and document them over time. Thanks to swisstopo, every location in Switzerland can be determined down to a centimetre. swisstopo thus fulfils a federal task. Our products include national maps, elevation and landscape models, aerial images, orthophotos as well as geological data and maps Online and as mobile phone apps. The Federal Geoportal at map.geo.admin.ch in particular plays a central role for our products.
