

8 June 2022

International evaluation of Finnish Geospatial Research Institute FGI

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

- Finnish Geospatial Research Institute FGI is a part of National Land Survey of Finland (NLS)
- FGI/NLS was established in 2015 by merging former Finnish Geodetic Institute (FGI) (established in 1918) with NLS
- FGI/NLS belongs to the administrative sector of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
- FGI conducts innovative research and expert work within the field of spatial data
- FGI has around 150 staff (around 100 man years of research)
- FGI is based in Espoo, Otaniemi campus area
- FGI manages Metsähovi research infrastructure in Kirkkonummi
- FGI has four research departments and one research support service group
- Previous evaluation in 1998
- Major changes in the operation environment in the last 20 years: funding landscape, organization structures, technological development – new evaluation of FGI is needed
- More information: www.fgi.fi

Scope of the evaluation

- Quality of research and expert work
- Societal impacts and relevance to society: public sector, private companies, citizens
- Activity and leadership in research collaboration and networks
- Foresight and innovativeness

(Organizational matters are not in the scope of the evaluation)

Outcomes of the evaluation

- Description of FGI's strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities
- Suggestions and recommendations for further development of FGI's research and expert work

Guiding questions

Quality of research and expert work

- How does research project portfolio and scientific activities match FGI's research strategy?
- How does FGI's scientific competence compare with similar (European) institutes?
- Which areas/topics are the most important for maintaining scientific competence in the future?

Societal impacts and relevance

- How well the present research project portfolio and expertise of FGI matches the demands of society?
- Does FGI's research have untapped potential for new business opportunities, products, services and/or other applications?
- How does FGI's societal impacts and relevance compare with similar institutes?

Collaboration and networks

- How does collaboration and networking activities match with FGI's research strategy?
- How does FGI's collaboration and networking activities compare with similar institutes?
- How could FGI's collaboration and networking activities be improved?

Foresight and innovativeness

- What is the level of foresight of FGI's research strategy?
- Does FGI's research produce novel approaches and innovations?
- How could FGI's foresight and innovativeness be improved?

Organization of the evaluation work

- The evaluation is assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM), contact person is Research Director Mikko Peltonen
- The evaluation will be conducted by a team of esteemed experts representing various disciplines relevant for geospatial research and with background in comparable research institutes in Europe and in Finland, as well as experts representing FGI's knowledge users from Finland and Europe
- The evaluation panel members are:
 - o Keijo Hämäläinen (Chair of the evaluation panel), Rector, University of Jyväskylä
 - o Dieter Fritzsche, Professor Emeritus, University of Stuttgart
 - o Anna Jensen, Process Coordinator, Danish Property Assessment Agency/ Consultant, AJGeomatics
 - o Sandra Verhagen, Professor, Delft University of Technology
- The evaluation will be facilitated by Juho Hellsten and Leena Sukselainen, FGI
- The evaluation report drafts will be viewable only by the facilitator and the evaluation team, and the final draft will be shared with FGI's management team for correcting potential misunderstandings
- The final evaluation report will be public

Timeline

- The evaluation work is expected to be finished by the end of January 2023 (tbc)
- The full set of written background material will be provided for the evaluation panel by the end of August 2022 (some material will be available earlier)
- The evaluation will be conducted mainly off-site, and through facilitated tele-meetings and interviews of stakeholders.
- A two-day site visit will be organized for the evaluation panel in October-November 2022
- The evaluation panel can use virtual meetings (e.g. Teams) for discussion and preparation of the evaluation report