

Report to EUREF 2000 on CERCO & MEGRIN

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This is not a presentation. It is what Hermann Seeger will call a "blah-blah"!

But first I want to demonstrate that geodesists are not the only ones who can display confusing formulae on the screen:

$\text{CERCO}_{1980}^{(\text{XXXVII})} + \text{MEGRIN}_{1993}^{(\text{XX})} = \text{eurom@pping}_{2001}$

CERCO (The Voice of Europe's official map-makers with its 37 national members) and its daughter MEGRIN supported by 20 of those 37 are planning a marriage (if you are allowed to marry your daughter!) to form a single more effective organisation - effective by being more administratively efficient, and by being better understood by its Members and by those we seek to influence. The decision whether or not to make this change will be taken in September in Malmö at our annual General Assembly (and 20th birthday party).

CERCO and MEGRIN exist for a number of reasons - to enable collaboration and mutual benefit between Members, to exchange lessons learned, to study subjects of common interest and concern, and to influence the potential users of our geographic information to make best use of it. MEGRIN is our production unit, preparing and marketing pan-European products and services.

In the area of joint study I can report that much work is being done by CERCO's 4 Work Groups - on Legal Issues, on Database Maintenance, on Quality Management and, of course, on Geodesy. I attend their various meetings when I can and am always impressed not only by their level of

expertise, but by their enthusiasm and the benefits and enjoyments they seem to get from international collaboration. Even so, it has been a surprise for me to see the number of you who have journeyed to the far north for this meeting, but no surprise for me to witness the complexity of your deliberations.

The business of influencing the potential users of GI is a frustrating one - to politicians there is nothing so attractive as a major project - a new road, hospital, or school. The infrastructure behind these developments is invisible to the average politician so we spend a lot of time trying to demonstrate to him in his language how you cannot have successful projects without the all-important framework of information.

Curiously he (the politician) is often more impressed when we talk a little about the process of creating that framework - he is excited by the concept of new technology, of satellites etc. So we have a real achievement with which to persuade him that investments and policies are essential if a pan-European solution is to be achieved - and that achievement is yours - the European geodetic reference frameworks, accurate enough for all known applications. It is an amazing achievement which has depended not only on skill and science, but on international collaboration of the highest order. On behalf of CERCO and MEGRIN I salute you and your work, and may you continue to "keep us in the right place".

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