

GIS-Sofia Data Base

Vanya Petrova

GIS-Sofia Ltd., Sofia, Bulgaria

Founded seven thousand years ago, Sofia is the second oldest city in Europe. It has been given several names in the course of history and the remains of the old Thracian and Roman cities can still be seen today. The city became known as Sofia from the beginning of the 15th century. In 1879 Sofia became capital of Bulgaria.

Nowadays the territory of Sofia Municipality is 1349 sq. km and includes the areas of 4 towns — City of Sofia (around 200 sq. km), three other towns: Bankya, Novi Iskar, Buhovo and 34 villages. The City of Sofia with 1.3 million population includes 24 administrative and territorial districts.

The main function of creation and maintenance of the cadastral information system of Sofia Municipality is in charge of GIS SOFIA Ltd. (Geographical Information System – Sofia), established in 1999, as a Sofia Municipality company. Starting with 25 persons the staff of GIS SOFIA has grown to 130 highly qualified, proven specialists in the field of geodesy, cadastre, spatial planning, photogrammetry, cartography and a team of lawyers, specialized in the field of property relationships. GIS SOFIA Ltd. is one of the largest surveying companies in Bulgaria. The company is certified according to International Standard ISO 9001:2008.

GIS SOFIA Ltd. has created own geographic information system - SOFCAR - including cadastral and urban plans, as well as other geographical data also orthophotoplans, from aerial and satellite images, over the territory of the municipality. The SOFCAR information system meets all modern requirements and trends in this area, allowing efficient use and management of the data. This is the most significant project and achievement of the company.

There is an internet application on our site through which you get reliable real-time information about the cadastral plan of Sofia — IsofMap. For the territory or property you have chosen the system enables you to load additional thematic maps with information on regulation, spatial development zones, noise sources, cultural monuments, orthophotoplan also data on the

location, boundaries and features of the property.

In the family of geographical information system one of the main positions holds photogrammetry — the fastest and the most modern way to acquire up-to-date information of the Earth's surface. Photogrammetry Department at GIS SOFIA applies digital photogrammetric software PHOTOMOD in projects based on aerial and satellite images. During the years 2000-2013 different kind of sources were used — analogue film cameras (RMK A 15/23, RMK TOP 30), digital cameras (DMC, UltraCamXp), various high resolution satellite sensors (IKONOS, QuickBird, KOMPSAT, GeoEye-1).

The first of its kind, in Bulgaria, orthophotoatlas of Sofia Municipality at a scale of 1:5000 was printed, using aerial images with 10 cm GSD — a luxurious, limited edition. In 2013 on the celebrating of the World GIS Day in Bulgaria, GIS SOFIA Ltd. was awarded in category of successful GIS projects within local authorities for "Applying of innovative GIS approach in the development of an Orthophotoatlas of Sofia Municipality".

Cartography Department at GIS SOFIA produces cartographic products in various formats, size and content for the territory of Sofia and Sofia Municipality. There are lots of interesting thematic maps - map of polling stations and voting sections within an administrative area; with the location of sirens for warning of the population; with stations for protection of the population in case of disasters or emergencies; with places for walking pets etc.

One of the recent activities in GIS SOFIA is the Professional Training Centre, established in 2010. The Centre organizes courses and seminars for increasing qualification levels in the several occupational areas - Cadastre, Regulation Planning, Digital Photogrammetry, Remote Sensing, Cartography and Legislation related to geodesy. The main goal of the centre is to organize very specialized training that meets the specific needs and requirements of participants. The center is licensed by the National Agency for Vocational Education and Training.