



Media release

## ***www.geo.admin.ch*: The Federal geoportal is now online**

**The Swiss Confederation is launching a publicly accessible Internet platform for geographical information. This “geoportal” is there for everybody to use, not just professionals and specialists.**

Are the glaciers really retreating? How big was my home village 100 years ago? Where does the water for power generation come from? These and many other questions can be answered with modern geographical information, which describes the state of a country in the form of coordinates, place names, postal addresses and many other criteria. This information has recently been made available at [www.geo.admin.ch](http://www.geo.admin.ch), the Federal geoportal.

### **A wealth of information**

Up to 80% of all decisions affecting the citizen are linked to geographical information. In the past it was difficult or impossible to get hold of everything that was needed. Now it's quite simple, via [www.geo.admin.ch](http://www.geo.admin.ch), where everybody can find out about the most important issues in our lives today, including the environment, population, health, safety and security, the economy and many other topics. Geographical information is especially in demand in the run-up to referendums (for example, the locations of nuclear power stations, nature conservation areas, traffic and transport, etc.). Information about our evolving landscapes, from shrinking glaciers to growing cities, can easily be called up via the Federal geoportal.

### **Public Internet platform**

geo.admin.ch is a website giving public access to geographical information, geodata and services. It makes over 60 geographical data-sets from different Federal Offices available to every citizen. It is linked with 20 specialised Federal data portals offering different thematic maps and data. The website's “map viewer” utility allows all of this geodata to be examined, printed out, ordered and downloaded. The data is available at different map scales in the form of raster maps, digital images or vector data. The data services available via geo.admin.ch include, for example, access to historical map material. All of this data bears the Federal seal of quality. The map portal is operated by the Swiss Confederation; it does not provide access to data from other suppliers.

### **Navigation is easy for everybody**

The portal is intended for the interested layperson as well as for specialists and professionals. Navigation around the site is straightforward and clear, and the home page gives immediate access to the newest data sets. Direct use of keywords eases the search process and leads users straight to their desired information. Professionals will find interfaces on the “Geoservices” page to enable them to use Web-based services to call up geographical information over the Internet.

### **Data can be viewed free of charge**

All of the Federal Administration's publicly available electronic geographical data can be ordered direct from the relevant Federal Office via geo.admin.ch. The portal provides information about the costs involved. Thanks to geo.admin.ch, all this Federal geodata can be viewed prior to purchase.

The Federal geoportal will be operated by the Federal Office of Topography, swisstopo, on behalf of the coordinating body for Federal geographical information (COGIS). It has been set up on the basis of the new Swiss Geoinformation Act and the Geoinformation Ordinance which follows from this new law, under which public institutions are obliged to make the most part of the official geographical data relating to their areas of responsibility under Federal law available in the form of a spatial data infrastructure.

Further information is available from:

David Oesch  
geo.admin.ch Project Manager  
COGIS, Federal Office of Topography swisstopo  
031 963 23 15  
[david.oesch@swisstopo.ch](mailto:david.oesch@swisstopo.ch)

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Links: Geoportal of the Swiss Confederation: <http://www.geo.admin.ch>  
Map Viewer: <http://map.geo.admin.ch>  
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