

Federal Geographic Information Center (FGIC)

White Paper

Overview

The Federal Geographical Information Center was established under Federal Law No. 5/2019 to supervise the management of the geospatial data sector at the federal level in the UAE.

The establishment of the Federal Geographical Information Center (FGIC) came as a reflection of the insightful vision expressed by the wise leadership of the UAE, represented by enabling all government entities, institutions, and relevant authorities to obtain geospatial data, information, and features while emphasizing on efforts coordination, procedures and policies formation, and optimizing projects on the geospatial sector in UAE. The vision shall align with the UAE 50 years plan, advanced technologies, and innovations by building a sustainable environment and integrated spatial digital infrastructure based on an innovative and competitive economy.

The FGIC manages and organizes the geospatial sector at the federal level using the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) techniques, which saves effort, budgets, and time. In addition, FGIC is responsible for collecting geospatial data and information and providing related services based on data supplied by federal and local entities to ensure unifying standards and guidelines.

The FGIC is the official reference in UAE on the geospatial sector. One of its main specialties is the development of strategic plans, frameworks, policies, and standards that ensure the

management, alliance, distribution, integration, and protection of the confidentiality of vital geospatial data and information in cooperation with the various relevant parties in UAE.

Strategic Goals

- Organizing and developing the geospatial sector to achieve sustainable development goals: this will include preparing policies, legislation, governance frameworks, and executive regulations for the geospatial data sector at the federal level, defining common spatial data, and preparing work procedures and mechanisms for the data exchange between the providers, FGIC, and the beneficiaries.
- Building and developing a spatial data infrastructure system: through building the digital geospatial infrastructure, preparing spatial databases, and unifying the addressing system at the national level, in addition to developing the national spatial data archive system and the alignment of spatial projects at the federal level, as well as producing official maps of the UAE and the National Smart Atlas.
- Raising the awareness level and spatial knowledge for the geospatial society: FGIC is working on developing and implementing a training and qualification plan for nationals in the field of spatial data, in addition to a media plan to highlight the importance of spatial data on the national level, and youth and student groups within schools and universities in particular.

Partners

FGIC is building effective partnerships with entities producing spatial data and geographical information following standard specifications.

Cooperation is one of the essential elements that contribute to the development and growth of any entity. It is one of the critical values on which the center was founded. Hence, cooperation between FGIC and the various concerned entities and authorities in the sector at both local and federal levels plays a vital role during the center's effort to achieve its goals, plans, and projects.

Collaboration with international bodies and organizations in the geospatial sector occupies a significant role in the center's effort, and strengthening this cooperation and consolidating the UAE position within the geospatial sector is one of its most important goals during the current stage. The center works to expand collaboration with various international organizations, United Nations agencies, and other parties in the geospatial sector.

Geospatial Sector

The geospatial sector is considered one of the strategic axes contributing to the comprehensive development process the UAE is witnessing in several fields, primarily as it is strongly related to planning, engineering, strategies, and others.

Spatial data is considered one of the main elements contributing to the efforts of various entities aimed at achieving the UAE strategic directions, which aims to make the UAE among the best countries in the world in the areas of social and economic developments, and in building a knowledge-based economy that is competitive in various indicators, and the development of world-class infrastructure, environmental protection, and other vital areas.

The UAE has a distinguished infrastructure with integrated elements supported by spatial data, whose sources vary from environment to space. It comes as a result of the UAE's effective investment in this field during the past two decades.