

Locality boundaries in Finland

Nordic Forum for Geostatistics 12.-13.9.2013

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Background

- Prior to 2010, locality boundaries were generated in two different ways in two different places (at Statistics Finland and the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE)
- Since 2010, only SYKE produces locality boundaries in cooperation with Statistics Finland
- The change is based on, e.g. a depletion of resources at Statistics Finland and wider use of SYKE's locality boundaries
- There was unnecessary overlapping when the boundaries were generated in two places
- Now, locality boundaries are generated annually in September



Generation of locality boundaries

- Statistics Finland delivers 250m x 250m grid data with the latest building and population data to SYKE
 - SYKE generates the locality boundaries with the help of the grid data
 - The population size of grids containing buildings and their neighbouring grids, as well as the number of buildings and floor area, are reviewed in the definition
 - From the generated uniform clusters of dwellings, the ones with at least 200 inhabitants are selected
 - Statistics Finland adds the four-digit codes and names in Finnish and Swedish of the localities to the locality boundaries and produces statistics concerning the localities
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Changes compared to Statistics Finland's old locality boundaries (1)

- Updated annually (previously every five years)
- General definition almost uniform
- Previously used definition variables:
 - Population size
 - Number of buildings
 - Distance between buildings
- Definition variables used now:
 - Population size
 - Number of buildings and purpose of use
 - Floor area of the buildings

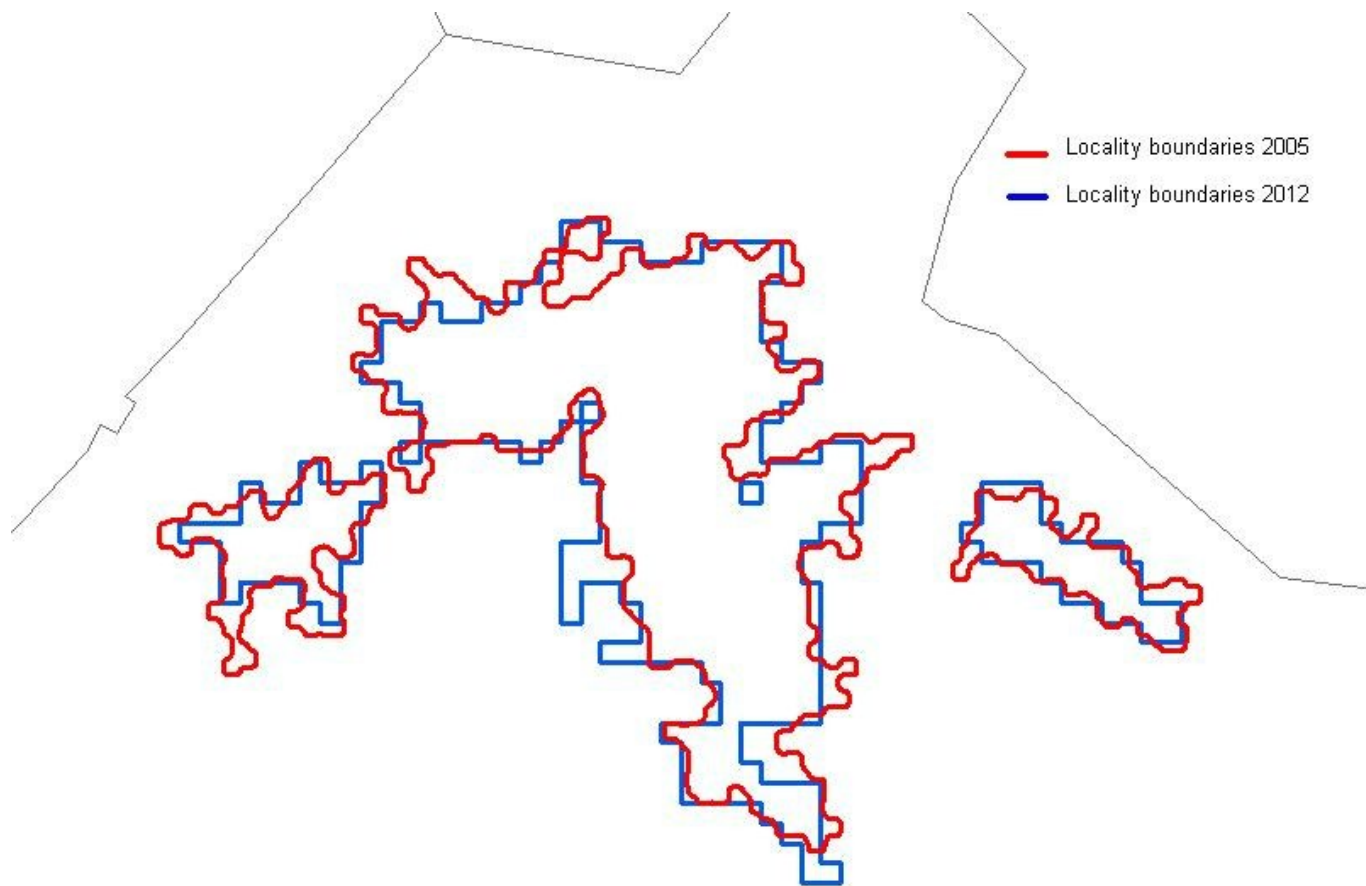


Changes compared to Statistics Finland's old locality boundaries (2)

- The location accuracy of the data used for the definition used to be 75m x 75m, now it is 250m x 250m
- Previously, grid buffering in a 100 metre zone was used as the defining method, now the locality boundaries follow the 250 m grids
- The boundaries are no longer as beautiful but now they can be utilised in connection with other grid-based statistics and regional divisions, e.g. in urban-rural area classification



Locality boundaries in 2005 and 2012



Locality boundaries and statistical use

- Locality boundaries can be ordered free of charge from SYKE's [Oiva service](#)
- Statistics Finland uses locality boundaries for example for:
 - Population in urban settlements and sparsely populated areas
 - Municipalities' degree of urbanisation
 - Statistical grouping of municipalities
- These are available free of charge from Statistics Finland's [StatFin service](#)



Thank you!

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