

Name:

Lea Pauts

Job title:

Land Board (Republic of Estonia), Head of Department of Spatial Data Services

Career:

I studied cartography and geoinformatics at the Institute of Geography, University of Tartu. At the last course, I was offered the opportunity to work for the Land Board (Land Board is the largest mapping organization in Estonia). I have made my career on the Land Board. I have moved from senior specialist to a chief specialist, chief specialist adviser to adviser to deputy head of department and now I am the head of the department.

Responsibilities:

- Based on the job description
- To be responsible for my department– to check that the people working in my department have tools (software etc.), skills and knowledge and that they can do their job as efficiently as possible
- Responsible for the overall working environment, both physical and also software
- To develop Estonian topographical data
- Representation of the department (participate and perform at different conferences)
- Negotiations with customers (users of spatial data) and identification of their needs
- Self-development and self-improvement
- Keep up with legislation (laws), different national databases, etc.
- Cooperation between different departments

Essential skills in my job:

- Leadership skills
- Ability to understand the text- e.g. laws
- Communication skills- both written and telephone
- Cooperation skills
- Planning skills, solving current problems
- Stress tolerance

What I need to know in my job:

- Basic knowledge- geoinformatics and cartography
- Natural geographic knowledge
- Knowledge of ICT
- Knowledge of legislation
- Knowledge of leadership, how to motivate people, time management, work organization



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Head of Department of Spatial Data Services, Lea Pauts, Land Board (Republic of Estonia)

I had a very good geography teacher at High School (I graduated Lihula Gymnasium), who encourage me to participate in the geographic Olympiads. At that time, to get into Olympiad I had to write an essay from which the best ones were selected. Olympiad consisted test form questionnaire, including practical tasks as landscape games (e.g. height measurement), orienteering and excursion, which included a quiz. Geography Olympiad was a great experience for me, I participated twice (I won both times) in both primary and secondary schools. By attending secondary schools, I was pretty sure that I would not go study geography. At that time, I also wanted to study economics or mathematics. At the end of secondary school, I participated Open Door Day at Tartu University, where I got information about university studies. It turned out (news for me) that if you have won the national Olympiad, then you have a chance to get in my case geography without trials. This situation, however, created the possibility that I would not need to travel in summer to Tartu just for trials. Therefore, I decided to go straight into geography. At this moment, I am also very pleased with my choice.

I studied cartography and geoinformatics at the Institute of Geography, University of Tartu. At the last course, I was offered the opportunity to work for the Land Board (Land Board is the largest mapping organization in Estonia). To do this, I did not need to go through all formalities, but I did only an interview. The reason was that there were few people with a geoinformational background, at that time. I have made my career on the Land Board. I have moved from senior specialist to a chief specialist, chief specialist adviser to adviser to deputy head of department and now I am the head of the department. This within different offices and departments. Working in the Land Board, no days are the same as a previous one, and here the work is varied. As I work in the Department of the Spatial Data, where we produce data for the Estonian topographical database. Now, my greatest achievement is the contribution to the creation of an Estonian topographical database, which is important for the protection of topographical data and maps. I feel that the Estonian topographic database is figuratively like my third child. I have contributed a lot to this and I am always trying to think how to further develop it and make it better.

I feel that Estonia needs all young people to do their thing. I do not want to point out certain skills here, but rather these young people should work with a glow and flames. Who on the one hand are creative, logical thinkers and think outside of frame or on the other hand can solve problems, program and has mathematical skills or those who know nature and can tolerate routine.