Geoportti self-assessment tool

General description and instructions for creating new questionnaires

Geoportti self-assessments help to get a quick overview of current confidence levels in selected geospatial topics by supporting reflection on strengths and possible weaknesses in the fields that correspond. It is aimed for students at higher education institutions, teachers, researchers and professionals working with geospatial topics and for people generally interested in these topics.

In addition to the personal benefits gained from completing a self-assessment, the tool collects information to support research and the development of teaching.

Summary reports can also be used to compare job candidates' confidence in a desired topic and for many other situations. The use and sharing of the self-assessment tool is encouraged, and new self-evaluation themes will be welcomed.

The service is administrated by the section of geography of the Department of Geography and geology at the University of Turku.

Service operation:

Self-assessments are straightforward and simple to perform in only a few minutes. Below, sequence of actions and service functionalities is summarized.
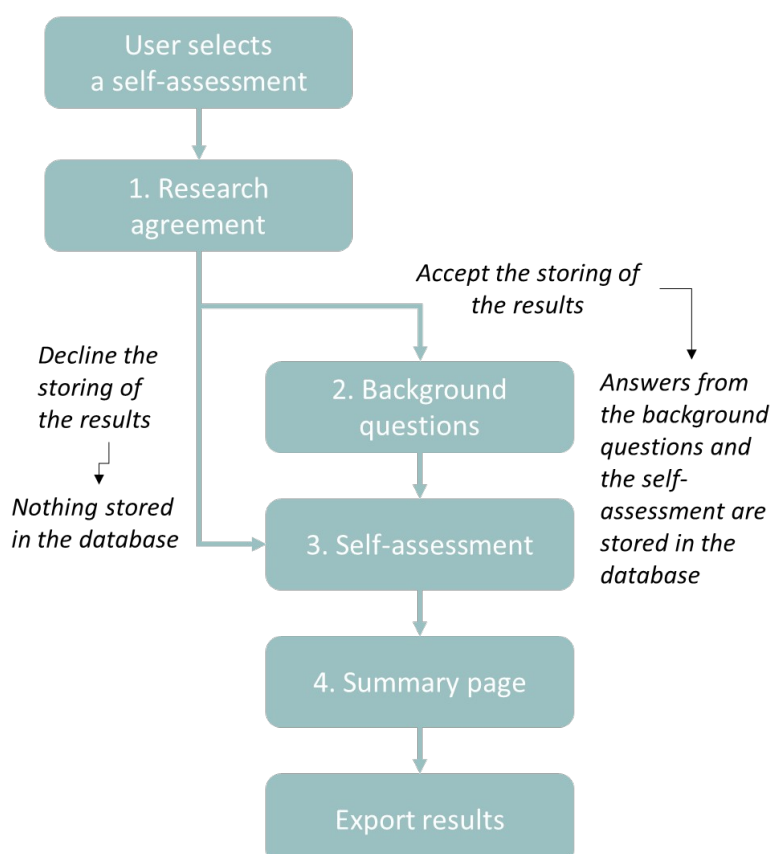
Creating a new self-assessment

Users of Geoportti are encouraged to share their own ideas for new self-assessments and to create them. Please turn to the contact person (geoportti@utu.fi) at the section of geography of the department of Geography and geology of the University of Turku for further instructions. In addition, any questions or opinions related to the service are welcomed.

The access to the database is only restricted to the administrators. However, the designers of any self-assessment test may contact the contact person to receive results from their own assessment from the database.

To create a new self-assessment you will need to send the following information to the administrators.

- Title (main topic) and description.
- Names of the eight different subthemes to consider by the user users (radar star axes).
- Descriptions for the eighth subthemes.
- Survey creator: creator(s), affiliation(s) and date (in case a test will be later modified, also the update will be indicated).
- Reason for creating a survey (in a few sentences).

Below, please examine the complete content of the self-assessment in participatory mapping as an example.

Example questionnaire:

Tittle (main topic): Participatory mapping

Description: This assessment aims to identify your current confidence in participatory mapping. The assessment is oriented particularly for those who want to see how broadly they feel their skills cover a range of topics about participatory mapping. However, it does not consider the technical nuances of this field at very detailed level.

1. Terminology and key concepts - I know the definitions and differences between terms PGIS, PPGIS, VGI and citizen science.
2. Practical applications - I know in which fields and with what kind of approaches participatory mapping is applied in practice (including e.g. urban and regional development, health and recreation services, landscape and natural resource management).
3. Participation - I am aware of the different levels of participation in planning and can identify examples of how participatory mapping (i.e. place-based participation) has been applied in planning practice.
4. Ethical issues - I am aware of the ethical issues related to participatory mapping approaches.
5. Data collection - I know different tools and approaches used for data collection in participatory mapping and the elements of a good quality map-based survey in web-based, mobile and offline approaches.

6. Sampling - I know the principles of different sampling approaches for data collection (e.g. random or purposive vs. crowdsourced/volunteer sampling).
7. Data management - I am aware of data management and protection issues (e.g. The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)) related to participatory mapping data collection and storage.
8. Analysis - I know spatial and non-spatial analysis methods to explore, explain and predict/model participatory mapping data.

Self-assessment created by Nora Fagerholm and Vesa Arki, Department of Geography and Geology, University of Turku. Test was originally created in June, 2019.