

PrintTech Project STATUS REPORT

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What is a digitally printed map?

In this presentation a digitally printed map is printed with:

- digital printing press (not so common)
- laser printer (almost all)
- inkjet printer (some)
- dye sublimation printer
- thermal wax/solid inkjet printers
- colour copier

Other maps are printed with:

- spot colour offset printing machine
- frequency modulated 4 colour offset

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The Questionnaire

The questionnaire was sent to the 33 map correspondents and other recipients in 33 countries.

Only 10 answers were received, but those were very good.

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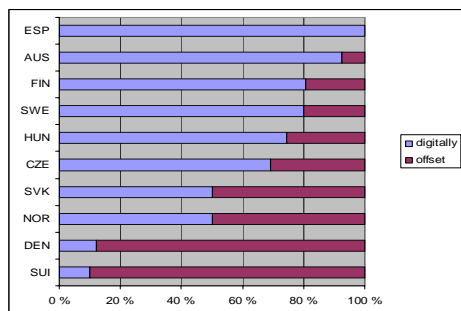
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The production of the maps

- How many maps a year are produced in your country and how many of them are digitally printed?

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The maps in local events

Is it allowed to use digitally printed maps in local events?

YES AUS, CZE, DEN, ESP, FIN, HUN, SUI, SVK, SWE

YES, IF NOR: the map must be readable

NO: -

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The maps in national events

Is it allowed to use digitally printed maps in national events that are official events in national federation's calendar?

YES: ESP
FIN
HUN
SUI
SVK

YES, BUT: AUS: not in events where IOF rules are followed
CZE: after approval by national map committee
DEN: only in 1:10 000
SWE: not in elite classes on 1:15 000 map

NO: NOR

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The maps in national championships

Is it allowed to use digitally printed maps in national championships?

YES: ESP
HUN
SUI
SVK

YES, BUT: AUS: not in events where IOF rules are followed
CZE: after approval by national map committee
DEN: only in relay

NO: FIN
NOR
SWE

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Is the quality good enough?

If you think about the best digitally printed maps in your country, is the quality of the maps good enough for national events?

YES: CZE
ESP
FIN: almost every map is now digitally printed
HUN: (due to financial reasons)
SVK

YES/NO: AUS: yes for maps 1:10000, not 1:15000
DEN: depends very much on the type of the terrain
NOR: perhaps for 1:10000 in suitable terrain types
SWE: yes for maps 1:10000, not 1:15000

NO: SUI

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Is the quality good enough?

If you think about the best digitally printed maps in your country, is the quality of the maps good enough for international top events if IOF would allow it?

YES: -

YES, BUT: AUS: only in the scale 1:10000
CZE: you must know how to reach the high quality
ESP: not always
SVK: only in the scale 1:10000 and bigger scales

NO: DEN, FIN, HUN, NOR, SUI, SWE

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The advantages

What are the main advantages of using the digitally printed maps?

- price (6)
- printing courses together with maps (6)
- easy and fast updating (6)
- fast production (3)
- print on demand (3)
- colour flexibility in case of advertisements (2)

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The disadvantages

What are the main disadvantages of using the digitally printed maps?

- quality (poor legibility, fuzzy and unclear image etc.) (6)
- costs (2)
- underestimating the complexity of printing (under stress) (2)
- no maps without courses left after competition
- requires special knowledge
- the size of maps usually limited to A4
- water resistance not good
- the lack of specialised printers
- long duration of printing with transparent colours

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Some conclusions

It is usually - but not always - fast, easy and cheap to use a digital printer while organising a competition.

The quality is not perfect, but good enough for all local events and for the majority of national events (especially 1:10000 maps).

There is no international pressure from active O-countries to allow digitally printed maps in IOF events.

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The future?

One comment in the answers:

"I have a strong feeling, that laser printed map will dominate the world of o-maps pretty soon, unfortunately with less quality!
The participants accept it without any criticism!"

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Thanks to

Noel Schoknecht	Australia
Zbynek Krejcik	Czech Republic
Flemming Norgaard	Denmark
Petteri Palmi	Finland
László Zentai	Hungary
Håvard Tveite	Norway
Radoslav Jonas	Slovakia
Mario Vidal Triquell	Spain
Christer Carlsson	Sweden
Thomas Gloor	Switzerland

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