

## Swiss Federal Statistical Office

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### Cartography training at the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO)

#### Introduction

Since 2012, the Federal Statistical Office (FSO) offers a training in Geomatics, with a specialisation in cartography. Until today four cartographers have successfully finished their training. The competence centre ThemaKart, where the training takes place, became a part of a new service Data Visualisation in 2022, in the course of a reorganisation of the division Communication and Publishing.



*Cartography apprentices working at FSO*



*Cartography apprentices at FSO meeting with their instructors.*

#### Cartography training

Four cartographers work together with in total nine data visualisation specialists. Two of them are in charge of training. The training plan specifies technical, methodological, personal and social competences. The concrete training contents are defined via generally applicable goals and company-specific goals. In addition, the apprentices gain a wide variety of experiences in the everyday work in a federal office, which enriches the training beyond the defined knowledge and capacity goals.

Today, the future of vocational training in Geomatics in the FSO is uncertain. From 2025, after a reform of the professional profile in Switzerland, only two key areas of vocational training will remain: Cadastral surveying and Geoinformatics. To avoid a lack of cartographic skills, the proportion of cartography teaching content will be higher in these two key areas as it is today. In addition, the cartography training companies can achieve an in-depth specialisation of their apprentices by defining company-specific capacity targets. In recent years the demands on the apprentices have been extended and increased.

Interdisciplinary skills such as work management, project planning and also programming skills become increasingly important. Beyond the subject-specific cartography training and the company-specific focus on thematic and statistical maps, the knowledge in GIS and HTML technologies has gained strongly in importance.