



European Union
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Of birds and high voltage overhead lines: How feedback from decision makers is helping data provider

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The data provider...

1000's ornithologists in the field
Long-term biodiversity monitoring schemes
Monitoring of specific area (e.g. nature reserve...)
1-3 millions of roving records every year





Elia, Belgium's electricity transmission system operator
high-voltage (30 kV to 380 kV) electricity transmission system

5,000 km of high voltage overhead lines in Belgium

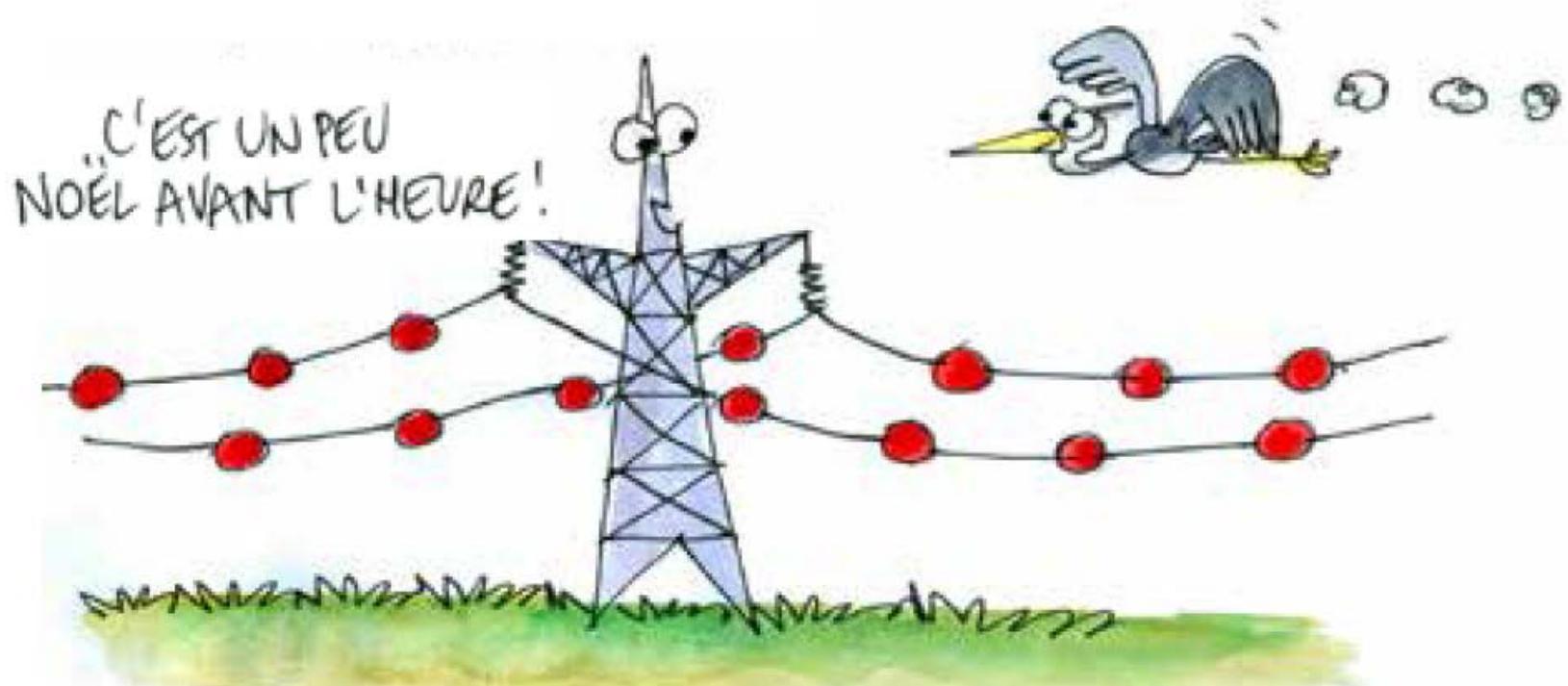


A common question: how to decrease bird collision risks ?



Estimation of 100 to 500,000 casualties a year in Belgium only

The solution: devices to enhance overhead lines visibility

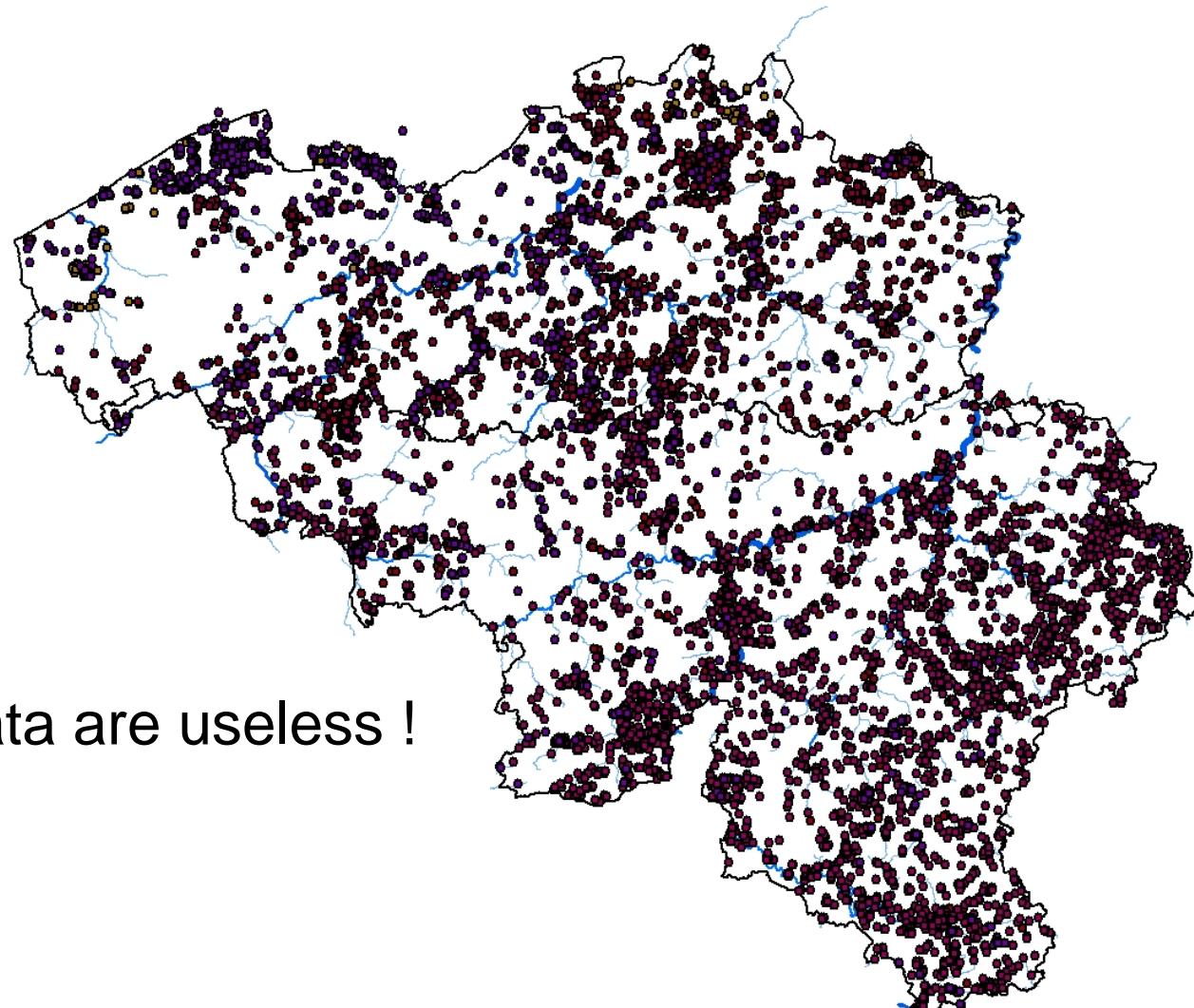


Where to prioritize diverter placements ?



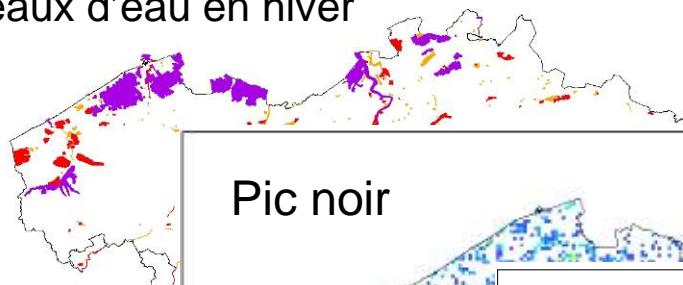
À Audenarde (Flandre orientale), des riverains d'un dortoir de mouettes rieuses ont pu ramasser, presque chaque matin d'hiver, plusieurs mouettes agonisantes. Ces observations de terrain confirment notre analyse cartographique et ELIA a pu réaliser en mai dernier le placement de balises sur une partie de la ligne incriminée.

Photos : ELIA

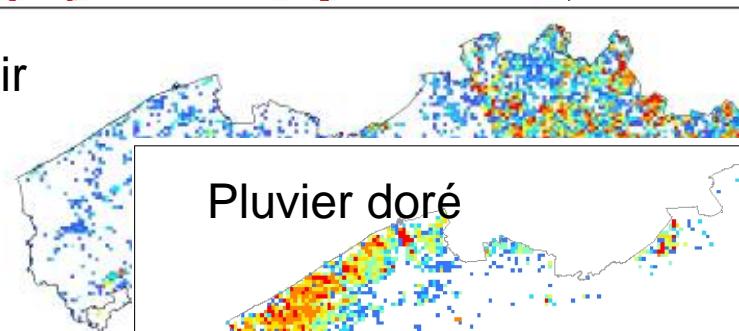


Raw data are useless !

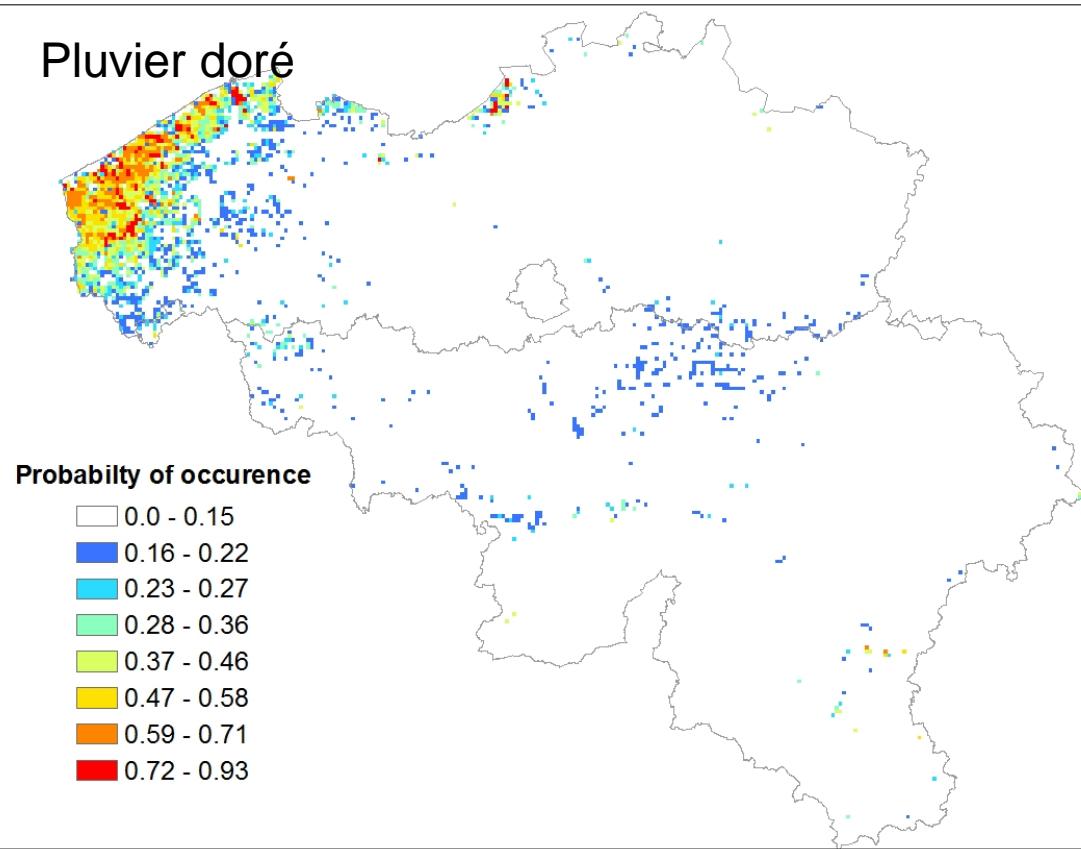
Oiseaux d'eau en hiver

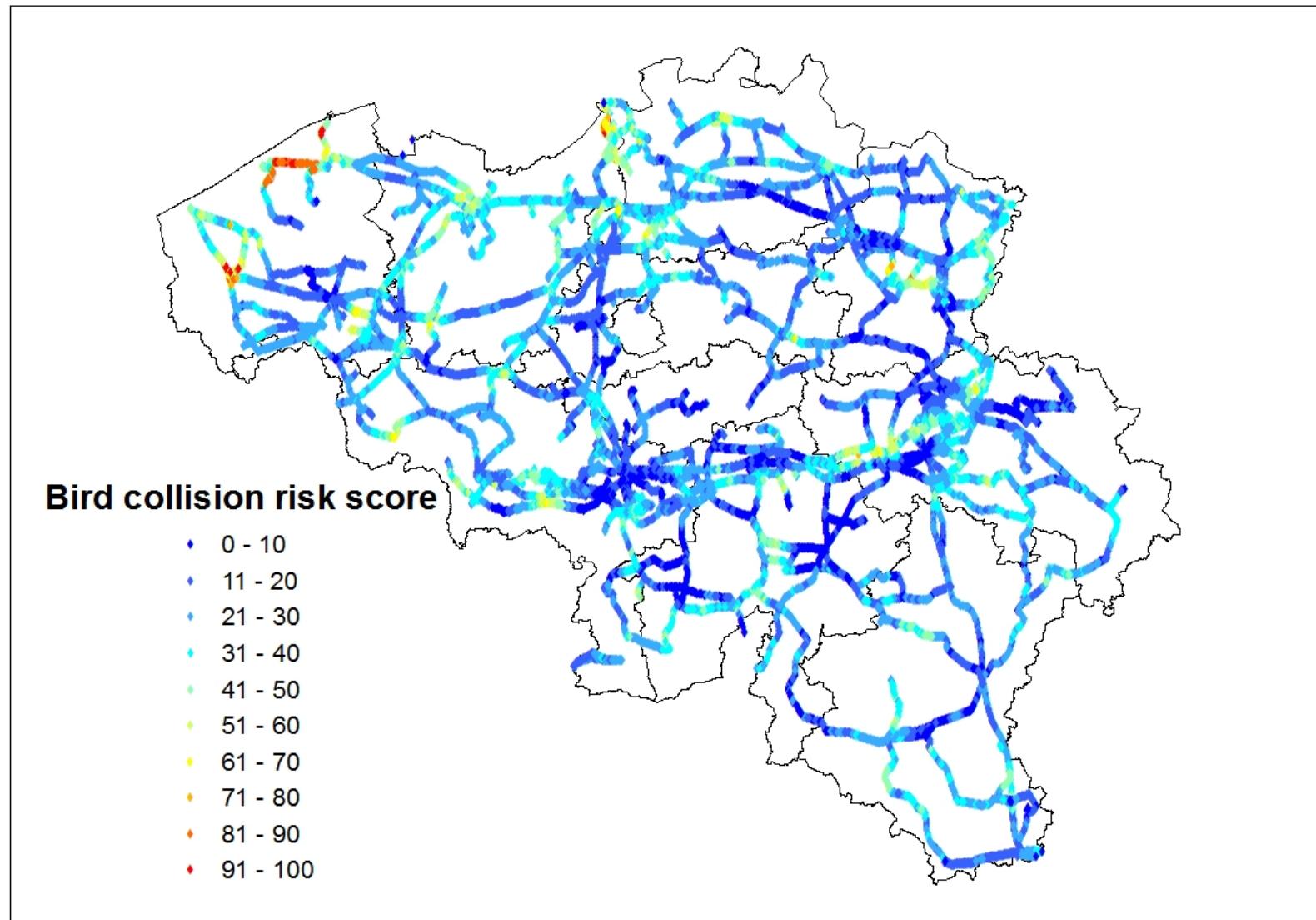


Pic noir



Pluvier doré





Further collaboration and site-specific expertise

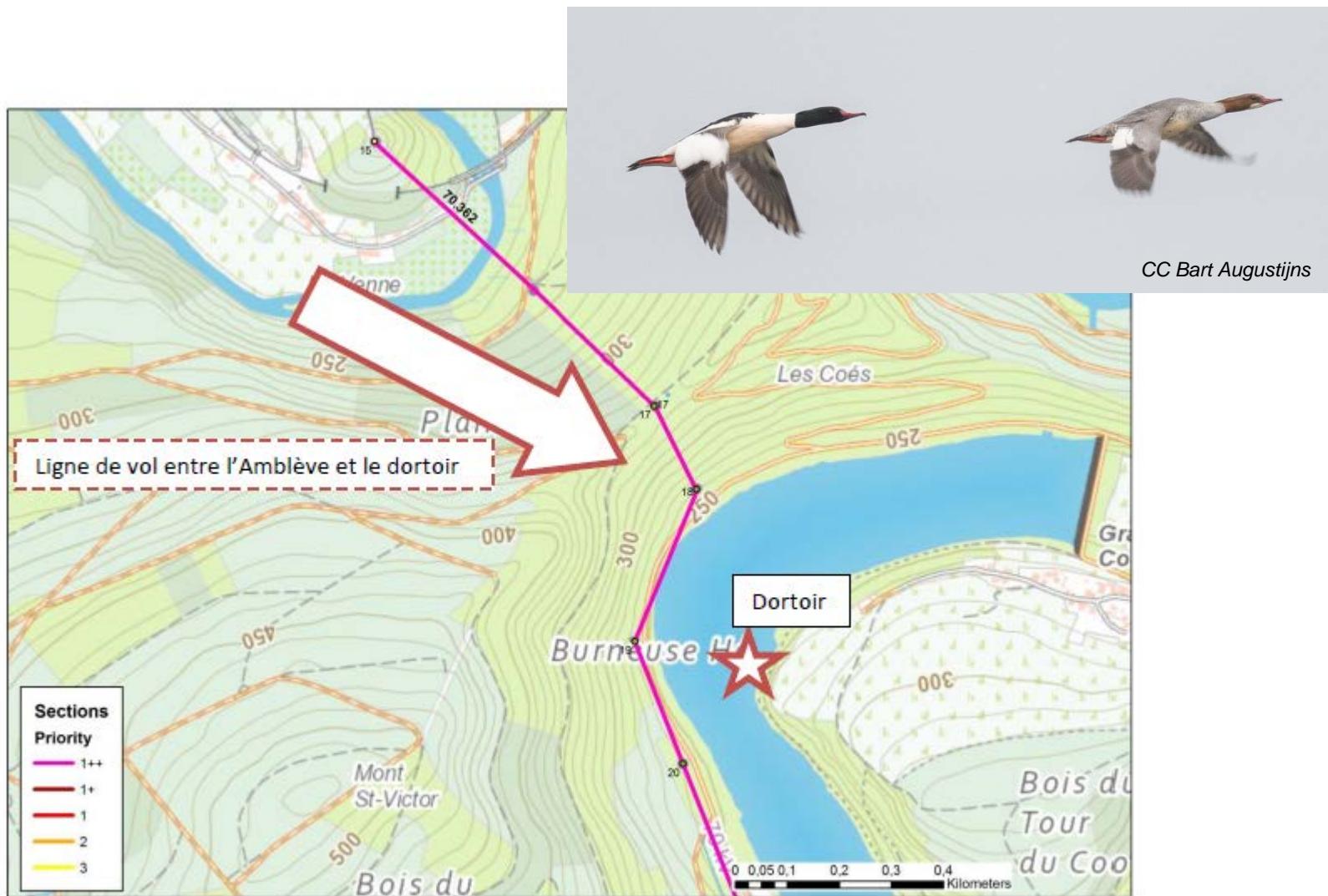


Figure 2 : Ligne de vol de certains groupes de Harles bièvres et de Grands Cormorans entre l'Amblève et le lac inférieur de Coo.

What did we learn from this process ?

- Constructive interaction with decision makers, building of a common knowledge about the problematic
- Feed-back for our own data provider, the birdwatching community: motivation to collect better data
- Expertise in building sensitivity maps: added value from simple raw data
- However: how to maintain « basic » raw data collection infrastructure ?
 (« easy » to get money for the expertise, not easy to get structural funding for the « raw data collection infrastructure »)