# tmap: creating thematic maps in a flexible way

The R-package tmap facilitates a flexible way to creating thematic maps.

, similar to ggplot2.

is used to create thematic maps in a flexible way.

Choropleths, bubble maps, text annotations,

Thematic maps

The R-package tmap is an open source software tool to explore and analyse data with a geographical component and to present statistical outcomes. The data that can be processed with this tool ranges from raw big data sources to estimations on regional level from survey statistics.

A geographical map in which statistical data is visualized is called a thematic map, where the theme refers to the statistical theme of the map, such as the unemployment rate at municipal level. Thematic maps are not particularly new; they range back to 1854 when John Snow created a London map with reported cholera cases. With this map, he was able to find the well pump that started the cholera outbreak.

Thematic maps are usually based on a topographic map of the region of interest with a sober layout; typically, only the country borders are depicted, and the land and sea are coloured by different shades of grey.