



Creating a Validation Plan

Background

Validation is an important part of the HOT and Missing Maps workflows to ensure that data going into OpenStreetMap is correct and complete. The idea is that experienced mappers double check what has been mapped already to correct any errors and also provide feedback to the mappers who have contributed to the project.

Validation is necessary as without it, inaccurate or incomplete data can remain on the map for a long period of time, meaning anyone using the data may have incorrect information included in their work. It is everyone's responsibility to make sure the data going into OSM, is as correct and as accurate as possible, for everyone to use.

What is a validation plan?

A validation plan is a brief document and checklist meant to guide organizations on how they can ensure that their projects are validated. It suggests what to look for, how to identify or train validators, and how to best plan out larger mapping campaigns to ensure validation happens in a timely fashion.

Why does my organization need a validation plan?

There are only so many experienced mappers who validate, and there are many of projects in the Tasking Manager that need to be validated. If there isn't a plan already, it's possible that experienced mappers may not come and help out and bad data may remain in OpenStreetMap for a long time. If an organization is purely focused on mapping new features, quality can suffer with the urge to continue building out new projects; a validation plan will help project managers and organizations plan out broader mapping campaigns and identify the team needed to ensure projects are completed to a higher standard of quality and in an efficient manner.

A validation plan can also be a way to encourage active mappers to take a more advanced role, validating data for different projects. let them learn new skills and responsibilities, and provide extra help to your organization.

Effective Validation Plans Include:

- An outline for how many projects your greater campaign will include
- A timeline for when you plan to complete your project



- For organisations/groups with more than 5 projects on the Tasking Manager, it would be useful to appoint a Lead Validator to oversee and coordinate the validation across the projects.
 - This is an administrative role for an advanced validator who has the training and experience to advise, support, and onboard new validators.
 - Appoint a lead validator for each project/group of projects to oversee and maintain momentum and quality of validation.
 - In this role, identify experienced mappers on a project who can be approached to help with the validation of that project.
 - Review the standard of mapping and validation on a project to assess whether an experienced mapper/validator needs to go over the whole project to clean it up after it has been completed.
- A group of experienced mappers identified to conduct validation
 - If you have not already identified experienced mappers, there are ways to find them:
 - People who regularly attend your events or are very helpful at them. Do you have signup sheets? If so, take a look and see who is regular attendee
 - Find active mappers on your projects who may want to help:
 - Look at the list of users who are completing validated tasks in your projects and reach out to them; users who are comfortable working on your projects may have a connection to your organization's work
 - Use the Missing Maps leaderboard for your organization's hashtag(s). Put in your relevant hashtags and contact those top mappers with quality contributions, to your organization's projects and ask them to help. For example, here is the leaderboard for #missingmaps:
<http://www.missingmaps.org/leaderboards/#/missingmaps>
 - Encourage your advanced mappers to attend an upcoming validation training, scheduled on the 4th and 25th of each month. If you have a large enough group, HOT may be able to schedule a special training for your group as well.

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_n0_8yhEeQoSJrI0-KkKtIA