

## Historical GIS Maps from the Swedish National Archives

The historical GIS maps are available from the Swedish National Archives website for open data (<https://riksarkivet.se/psidata>). The label of the dataset is *"Historiska GIS-kartor (information om territoriella indelningar i Sverige från 1500-talets slut till 1900-talets slut)"*. This document contains a brief description of these files and a brief summary of how this information has been created.

### The QVIZ project

The historical Swedish GIS maps were created within the European research project QVIZ (<http://qviz.eu>). The project which involved several partners started in 2006 and ended in 2008. Among the partners were the Swedish National Archives, Umeå University and the University of Portsmouth. The shape-files for historical Swedish administrative boundaries were originally created by the National Archives in an earlier project in 1994 and they were based on data from the Swedish National Land Survey Agency (Lantmäteriet). The last updates of the shape-files were made within the QVIZ-project at the University of Portsmouth in 2008. The files can be viewed with software-packages like ArcGIS or QGIS.

### The topographical database at the National Archives

The QVIZ project used information exported from the topographical database at the Swedish National Archives. This database is a part of the National Archival Database (NAD) hosted by the National Archives (<https://sok.riksarkivet.se>). The topographical database contains information about geographical units and relations between geographical units. The database at the National Archives is continuously being updated while the QVIZ-files haven't been updated since the project ended in 2008. This means that there can be differences between the shape-files and the current information in the database. In the topographical database each geographical unit is identified by a unique 9-digit code and this code is also used to identify the different territorial units within the shape-files.

### Shape-files and dBASE-files

The downloadable file [https://riksarkivet.se/psi/NAD\\_Topografidata.zip](https://riksarkivet.se/psi/NAD_Topografidata.zip) contains the Shape-files and the dBASE-files. The file contains two directories "2504" and "7520". These directories contain ArcGIS shape-files and corresponding dBASE-files. The files were last updated in 2008 and unfortunately the National Archives no longer has the competence to give more specific information about the structure and quality of the shape-files. It should however be noted that the shape-files are approximations and not exact in every detail. There are many small scale historical boundary changes not reflected by the shape-files. Together with the shape-files are corresponding dBASE-files. These files have a structure defined by the geographical information system used at the University of Portsmouth.

### dBASE-files

Field	Explanation
G_NAME	Name of geographical unit in Swedish
GET_END_YE	End year of the geographical unit
GET_START_	Start year of the geographical unit
G_UNIT_TYP	Type of geographical unit
G_UNIT	Unique identifier for the geographical unit
G_SEQ	Undocumented data element created in the QVIZ-project

The field G\_UNIT\_TYP contains a code for different types of Swedish geographical units (see table below). The various geographical units are all built up from the parishes. There are several parallel hierarchies. Counties consist of municipalities who consist of parishes. Dioceses consist of deaneries consisting of parishes. Appellate court districts consist of district court districts consisting of one or more parishes. District courts were called “Häradsrätt” in southern Sweden and “Tingsrätt” in northern Sweden.

### Types of geographical units

Code	Swedish	Explanation
SWE_FOG	Fögderi	Taxation district
SWE_HARAD	Härad	Judicial district (District court, “Hundred”)
SWE_HOV	Hovrätt	Judicial district (Appellate court)
SWE_KOM	Kommun	Municipality
SWE_KON	Kontrakt	Part of diocese (Deanery)
SWE_KYRK	Församling	Parish
SWE_LAN	Län	County
SWE_RAD	Domsaga	Judicial district (District for a judge)
SWE_STIFT	Stift	Diocese
SWE_TINGT	Tingsrätt	Judicial district (District court)

### EXCEL-files

Two downloadable EXCEL-files are provided as metadata:

[https://riksarkivet.se/psi/g\\_units\\_names.xls](https://riksarkivet.se/psi/g_units_names.xls) and

[https://riksarkivet.se/psi/g\\_units\\_relations.xls](https://riksarkivet.se/psi/g_units_relations.xls)

These Excel-files provide a link between the unique identifier for geographical units used in the dBASE-files (see above) and the unique geographical 9-digit codes used in the topographical database used by the National Archives.

### G\_units\_names

Field	Explanation
G_Unit	Unique identifier for the geographical unit (see above)
Ref	The 9-digit reference code for geographical unit. The prefix “SE/” was used to distinguish the Swedish codes from codes from other countries. The 9-digit code is hierarchical. The first two digits is the code for the county. The digits 3-4 is the code for the

	municipality. The digits 5-6 is the code for the parish. The last three digits distinguish between different versions of the parish over time. A parish may have changed name over time. It may also have incorporated other parishes. It may also have been split into several new parishes.
Guid	A unique GUID used as the primary key for geographical units within the archival database ARKIS.
Name	Name in Swedish for the geographical unit

Together with the file “g\_units\_names.xls” there is also a file “g\_units.relations.xls” that give information about the relations between different geographical units.

### **G\_units\_relations**

<b>Field</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
Guid	A unique GUID used as the primary key for geographical units within the archival database ARKIS.
Guid_related	A unique GUID for the related geographical unit.
Relationtype	There are two values: ”Superior” means that the geographical unit pointed to by ”Guid” is superior to the geographical unit pointed to by ”Guid_related”. For example ”Guid” may point to a municipality and ”Guid_related” to a parish within the municipality. The value ”Successor” means that the geographical unit pointed to by ”Guid” is the successor of the geographical unit pointed to by ”Guid_related”. Typically this has been used when a parish has incorporated or replaced an older parish.
Start_year	Start year for the relation between the two geographical units
End_year	End year for the relation between the two geographical units

Geographical information in Swedish historical censuses

The 9-digit geographical code described above is also used in the Swedish historical censuses from 1880, 1890, 1900 and 1910 that have been delivered to the North Atlantic Population Project (NAPP) (<https://www.nappdata.org>) hosted by the Minnesota Population Center (MPC) at the University of Minnesota. The 9-digit code is used to identify parish of residence and birth parish in the Swedish censuses. This enables a researcher to map the content in the censuses to the shape-files described in this document.