

**Elsa Lindevall**

**Internship at GRID-Arendal**

**2016-09-01 to 2017-02-28 (6 months)**

### **Summary**

For the last six months, I have been an intern at the organisation [GRID-Arendal](#), which is located in Arendal, Norway. GRID-Arendal collaborates with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Their work evolves around building global environmental awareness and promoting informed environmental decision-making in order for “society to understand and value the environment upon which it depends” (GRID-Arendal 2014). The way they achieve this is by organising and “transforming available environmental data into credible, science-based information products” (GRID-Arendal 2014), which is “delivered through innovative communication tools and capacity building services” (GRID-Arendal 2014). Due to the geographical nature of environmental data, maps are a vital and integral part of these science-based information products.

For the duration of the internship, I have worked on a wide variety of projects and smaller tasks. Even though these tasks have been quite varied in their nature and outcome, they all have had two common denominators; geospatial data and GIS. The majority of my work has therefore encompassed data processing, data management and data harmonisation as these are the first crucial steps in any project that involves geospatial data, independent of the project’s outcome. The other main focus of my internship has been data visualisation, where the remainder of my tasks have focused on cartography and how maps are communicated. I have both produced traditional [static maps](#) and [interactive online maps](#), where cartography has been equally important for both of these types of products.

### **References**

GRID-Arendal 2014, accessed 8 January 2017, <<http://grida.no/about/>>

Royal Geographical Society, accessed 21 January 2017, <<http://www.rgs.org/GeographyToday/What+is+geography.htm>>