## Geography in RMéS

RMéS provides its users, both within and outside of INSEE, with the tools they need to familiarise themselves with geographical nomenclature and in particular the Official Geographic Code (COG) with a historical perspective dating back to 1943.

**Christophe Yon,** expert in geographical methods (Geographical Methods and Repositories Division (DMRG))



In preparation for the collection of the Population census, I need the list of municipalities as at 1 January, together with their delegated

municipalities

The data in my study are from two years ago, but I want to publish the results for the current municipalities

I use several administrative sources for which the dates are not the same and I want to be able to match them on the same list of municipalities

How is this of use to me

to indicate the place of birth, i.e. the municipality or country, with the name that it had at the time

For my internet survey,
I want the respondent to
enter the name of the
municipality in which
they live and retrieve the
corresponding code

I want to be able to find out the history of a municipality and its successive names by consulting Insee.fr

Managed within the Refigéo application by the National Geographical Repositories Centre, geographical nomenclature (municipalities, departments, regions, countries, together with intermunicipal authorities and study areas) is provided by RMéS, which is the only place where information regarding the codes and names of territories can be found.

RMéS provides lists of municipalities for all survey editions since 1943, all comparison tables between two survey

editions, the municipal composition of regions, departments, intermunicipal authorities, a list of countries including their past names, etc.

The range of web services allows geography to be used in various technical contexts, from heavy application in Java to one-off studies in R. An R package will make it easier to interface with the geographical services provided by RMéS.

A few figures...

36 697

municipalities in 2015

34967

municipalities in 2020

1943

Start of the COG

