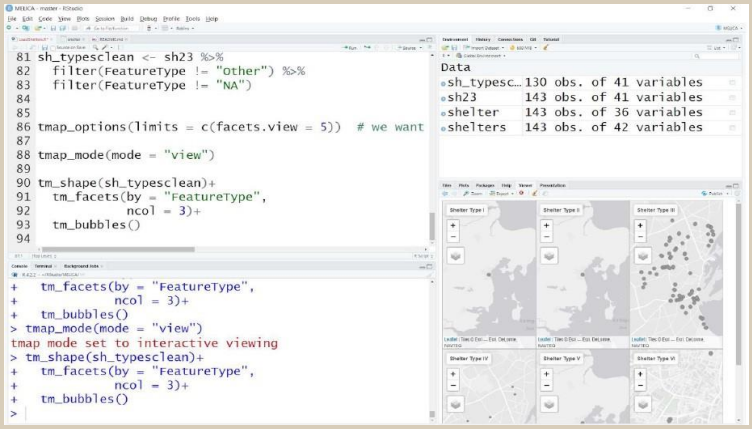
March 2024

MELICA
newsletter

Hello everyone, the MELICA project has now been up and running for about two months and we are excited to have finally started. This is our first newsletter, and we wish to update you on the developments in MELICA and present an opportunity for volunteers to assist in the near future! We also have a modest web presence, please check out cas.au.dk/MELICA.



PAST WORK

Shelter registration: So far, we have registered about 166 shelters during pilot in 2023 with the help of 3 students. You can see the preliminary results on the attached map of results (but be aware that many are uncertain and there are still shelters missing)

Archival scanning: We have completed a pilot project scanning a selection of five boxes. The boxes contain a variety of different documents, including maps and charts. In practice, the City Archives, in particular Anders, has done the scanning and initial registration of metadata. One result of the pilot is that we will digitize boxes containing documents about shelters and exercises as well as minutes from meetings in the Civil Defence Commission, but unfortunately not other kinds of civil defence material due to limited resources/time.

PLANS FOR THE NEAR FUTURE

- Let's get together and have some drinks and nice food! (see Call to Action)
- We are presenting our work at a Workshop in Copenhagen on the theme of "Geospatial methods in Cold War history" run by a group of researchers at the National Archives incl. Stig Svenningsen and Steen Andersen, 30 April – 1 May 2024.
- Rosanna is going to present at Harvard-run Cold War workshop at Udine, Italy, 13-15 June 2024.
- We will continue with checking the accuracy of the preliminary shelter surveys on the ground in June.

- We have had a meeting with Martin Odgaard, associate professor from Aarhus School of Architecture, who's interested in supporting our project, working with drones, GIS and georeferencing. We will go in the field in May/June and might at some point develop student cooperation between AU and the School.

CALL TO ACTION

Stakeholder Event: We would like to invite you all to a social event. Join us for drinks at Streetfood on 4 April 18:00! Everybody is welcome. Come and meet the team!

Help us with shelter ground truthing! We have covered most of the shelters in the city, but we welcome any corrections to the information from 2023 (e.g. shelter type was hard to ascertain given the buried nature of the features). We also invite guidance for where to go recording next. Our list of addresses is very vague, making us waste precious time in searching for shelters rather than recording. **Can you help?**

You can help in three ways: A) correct existing information, B) refine addresses of the street names we have, or C) suggest an entirely new shelter location we should visit.

A) The shelters we already got are marked on an attached html map. To view it:
   - download the map html to your computer (it does not work just opening from email, it must be on your hard drive).
   - zoom in and check out the controls in top right corner (aerial photo vs topo maps).
   - click on a dot (you should see an ID and shelter type).

If you see things that need correction, please send an email to: melica.au@gmail.com.

B) Can you refine any of the addresses? Please write details directly into our online table by clicking this link: AddressDetailsNeeded - Google Sheets Please enter it in the first highlighted column and write your name in the next.

C) Guide us to new shelter locations by doing one of the following:
   - Tap a location in GoogleMaps and share it with / send an email to melica.au@gmail.com YOUTUBE video instructions on pinning here.
   - Put crosses on an old-fashioned paper map in the precise locations of the shelters and send it to Adela Sobotkova or Rosanna Farbøl at Jens Chr. Skous Vej 5, Aarhus Universitet, Aarhus C 8000 (you can also mail a photo of it to melica.au@gmail.com, just beware of focus and clarity).
   - If you can generate coordinates in decimal format N57,671343 E10,67384 those are great as well! (please avoid degrees minutes seconds-format).

We look forward to chatting to you at Streetfood!

Adela and Rosanna