



## UN-GGIM: EUROPE

### 2015 – 2018 Work Plan

#### Introduction

UN-GGIM is working at a global and regional level to improve the management of geospatial information and its integration with other domains of information, in particular statistics, to support the UN Development Goals.

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to ensure that the National Mapping And Cadastral Authorities (NMCAs) and National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in the European UN Member States, the European Institutions and associated bodies work together to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information in Europe, and its integration with other information.

At the inaugural plenary session of UN-GGIM: Europe a work plan for 2104-2017 was adopted. Following the first year of successful execution of the work plan this document describes how the work of UN-GGIM: Europe will continue in line with what the original work plan and extended to include additional tasks, work areas and topic items stemming mainly from the Fifth Session of the Committee of Experts on the Global Geospatial Information Management (GGIM5).

It is important to recall that within Europe there is a body of legislation, well-functioning organisations and a number of ongoing projects and initiatives addressing issues of geo-information management. The ambition from the outset, and the ongoing intention, of UN-GGIM: Europe is to:

- avoid duplication of efforts as stated in the description of purpose and activities in Article 2 of the statutes of UN-GGIM: Europe;
- improve the joint response to user needs and requirements;
- encourage geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing and
- optimise the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.

At GGIM5 held in New York in August 2015, the Committee made a number of important decisions, including addition of new areas of work and activities and the establishment of new global working groups. It is envisaged that a number of European Member States will become active and even take leading roles in these working groups. It was also apparent that certain issues and work areas are so important that specific focus and possibly even the establishment of working groups on these topic areas need to be addressed in each of the five UN-GGIM regional entities. At GGIM5 the Committee gave UN-GGIM: Europe the mandate to lead in the work on the determination of fundamental geospatial data themes. Although this can be considered an extension of the work that is currently already undertaken by UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group A on Core Data, the fundamental data themes work needs to be considered within a global context dealing with the needs of all five UN-GGIM regional entities, this is reflected in the text below.

The Work Plan is to a certain extent focused on technical, economic and legal issues of the region. There is also a need to take into account political considerations; it is suggested that these be assigned to the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe as part of their agenda.

The Executive Committee continues to invite all expert representatives of European UN Member States, as well as observers from the wider geospatial community, to participate in the regional working groups according to their preference. Favouring a bottom-up approach, representatives of Member States in UN-GGIM: Europe are encouraged to participate on behalf of all their national stakeholders by collecting and synthesizing national user needs and collating feedback on the results of UN-GGIM: Europe from their national stakeholders and reporting these to the Executive Committee via the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe



## Work Plan

The substantial part of this Work Plan is the continuation of the Work Plan 2014-2017 adopted last year, i.e. Work Groups A and B. They are mainly focused on the following two objectives:

- Increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs (Work Group A)
- Enabling integration of core geospatial data with other data in order to foster further usage (Work Group B).

The following sections define deliverables and milestones in the 2015-2018 period. The deliverables will be provided by the working groups to the Executive Committee. Once approved, they will be forwarded to the relevant decision makers in the Member States for possible actions, if deemed appropriate.

### Work Group A: Core Data

This Work Group will deal with core data specifications and quality, production issues, funding and data availability. It will supply the three following deliverables and will carry out the associated tasks:

#### 1. Specifications of core data (End of 2016):

- a) identify the users and their needs and requirements for core data, taking into account existing surveys of user needs and requirements as well as analysis of existing use cases and investigate available data from various sources and analyse gaps;
- b) provide a description and technical specifications for core data, based on user needs and requirements, in accordance with INSPIRE and other relevant legislations and making use of the outcomes and specifications of other initiatives, such as the ELF project;

#### 2. Report on economic model for production and distribution of core data (End 2017):

- c) propose common definitions and terminologies for licensing of core data, taking account of European legislation (e.g. INSPIRE and PSI for EU Member States) and national legislation, aligned as far as possible with the work carried out by other initiatives (e.g. ELF and GEO);
- d) create a set of criteria for assessing what core data would benefit users most if available as open data;
- e) propose what core data should and could be available as open data, consider costs and benefits, and propose a strategy for sustainable funding and sharing of core data;
- f) analyse the current scope and impact of INSPIRE, SEIS, Copernicus, PSI and of key projects (e.g. ELF, EULF<sub>6</sub>) on the availability of core reference data aiming at synergies between national and European core data;
- g) investigate and report on the possible processes for producing core data or improving existing datasets when it is feasible and relevant, on the possible adaptation of processes used in on-going projects, and on current quality workflows and standards criteria;

#### 3. Report on existing political and financial frameworks which support core data availability (Mid-2018):

- h) propose additional measures needed to achieve availability of core data of suitable quality in each European UN Member State;
- i) provide good practices and case studies on how political and financial support from the European Commission and/or National Governments has already been achieved and might be achieved to support a greater range of open data.

This Work Group will take into account the global recommendations from the UN-GGIM such as the Working Group on the Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development and the National Institutional Arrangements Working Group. It will also take into account the inputs from the relevant UN and other global initiatives, e.g. UNGM4SD (UN Global Mapping for Sustainable Development), the International Steering Committee Global Mapping (ISCCM) and United Nations Geographic Information Working Group (UNGIWG). The Work Group will adopt as far as possible the bottom-up approach for investigating both user needs and production processes from national to continental and global level (aiming to “only once” production).



## Work Group B: Data Integration

This working group will deal with the integration of geospatial data with other information in order to supply services to users. It will supply the three following deliverables and will carry out the associated tasks:

### 1. Definition of the priority user needs for combinations of data (Mid-2015 - accomplished):

- a) define what combinations of data provide the greatest value to users, with a particular focus on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, Digital Agenda for Europe and EU 2020 targets taking into account national and regional priorities;
- b) define which kind of geospatial data, especially core data, and which kind of statistical and other thematic data should be given priority

### 2. Recommendation for methods implementing the prioritised combinations of data (Mid-2016):

- c) review current European interoperability frameworks and geospatial, statistical and other thematic data integration projects regarding methods for combinations of data;
- d) provide best practice guidance for the interaction between NMCA, NSIs, environment agencies and other relevant organisations;
- e) review current use of data from multiple sources (crowd sourcing, community sourcing and regulatory geospatial representations) to identify case studies and best practices relevant for combinations with core data;

### 3. Recommendation about how to manage side-effects induced by data combinations (Mid-2016):

- f) recommend effective methods of governance, quality management, data interoperability, access control and privacy safeguards for the integration of data from multiple sources with core data.
- g) identify legal and other barriers for the integration of data from relevant sources.

This Work Group will take into account the global recommendations from UN-GGIM such as of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information.

## New Work Areas

In addition to topics of Core Data and Data Integration that are being tackled by working groups A and B, it is suggested that UN-GGIM: Europe also focuses on emerging topics. At GGIM5 the Committee addressed several critical issues related to geospatial information management globally, which the Executive Committee feel have a relevance to UN-GGIM: Europe. These include:

### Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)

The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Global Geodetic Reference Frame resolution in February 2015. This is an important development for the geospatial community and this important progress should be further developed by providing a road map that addresses the imbalance in the distribution of geodetic infrastructure globally, in particular between the north and south. The Committee acknowledges the importance of the GGRF resolution and the road map as a critical enabler for Member States to leverage the importance of geodetic data sharing, methods, sustainable funding and infrastructure to support growing societal needs, including those monitoring sustainable development progress.

At GGIM5 the Committee encouraged Member States and the Working Group on GGRF to commit to undertake a programme of outreach which captures experiences and best practices for the global geodetic reference frame, particularly in developing countries, in their efforts to develop the road map. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe feels that this is a topic that the regional entity should focus on to develop and communicate, together with existing bodies, regional best practice and initiatives and work with the global working Group on GGRF to progress towards delivering a road map and leveraging the importance of geodetic data at the European Level.



## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

One of the most important issues currently being considered by the Committee is activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda 2030 Agenda. UN Member States have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York on the 25 – 27 September 2015. Geospatial information is mentioned twice three times in this document. This provides and is an opportunity for the NSIs and NMCAs in European UN Member States together with the wider geospatial community to raise the importance of the geospatial data in enhancing and measuring and monitoring progress made toward the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

The Committee is committed to working closely with the statistical community, at both national and global levels, by providing inputs into the current processes to develop the global indicator framework under the auspices of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). Denmark, through the Danish Geodata Agency, has been nominated by several Member States to represent the Committee as a geospatial expert to the IAEG-SDGs.

Denmark, together with a small task team of Member States and other relevant geospatial experts, will endeavour to develop the geospatial data inputs into the global indicator framework. The task team consists of representatives from, Burkina Faso, Mexico, State of Palestine, Ethiopia, Côte d'Ivoire, Brazil, USA, Togo, China, Egypt, Belgium, Australia along with, ESRI and GSDI. This is a very focussed task group team dedicated to providing outcomes in a short period of time (some 6-7 months), with the indicator framework needed to be completed and submitted to the UN Statistical Commission at its 47th session in April 2016. General Assembly by April 2016.

In addition, the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe feels that there is scope for the regional entity to focus on the how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda 2030 Agenda in Europe.

## Application of Geospatial Information Related to Land Administration and Management

The Committee acknowledges the importance and need for geospatial information as an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system to support the administration of land policy frameworks, noting particularly that land, and linking people to place, is reflected in several of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Feeling that that UN-GGIM should take a leading role at the policy level by raising political awareness and highlighting the importance to decision makers of the need for timely and fit for purpose land administration and management, and supported by capacity development the Committee has endorsed the establishment of a global expert group in this topic. In addition the Committee is convening its the fourth UN-GGIM High Level Forum, to be held in April 2016 in Addis Ababa Africa, focusing on land administration and management. The Executive Committee considers this topic to be an area where Europe can contribute at the global level sharing practical examples of land administration success stories by tapping the various regional experiences stemming from a long tradition of cadastre and land registration. Bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication and overlap with other regional initiatives in this area, the Executive Committee considers that a coordinated regional contribution to the global level should be considered.

## Determination of Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

UN-GGIM: Europe presented for the consideration of the Committee of Experts a report outlining the urgent need for determining a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes in order to be able to measure, monitor and manage sustainable development in a consistent way over time for evidence-based decision and policy making.

The Committee supported the initiative proposed by UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a working group to liaise with other Regional Committees of UN-GGIM to bring together information on the consideration of fundamental geospatial data themes, and to lead discussions between interested Member States and observers in order to develop an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes.



It should be noted that the Executive Committee feels that the current work being carried out by Working Group A on Core Data although related is focused on the needs and requirements of Europe; the determination of fundamental geospatial data themes work needs to be considered within a wider global context dealing with the needs of all five UN-GGIM regional entities, To this effect the Executive Committee will, in cooperation with the Secretariat in New York, determine how the work on Fundamental Data shall be organised and executed in order to facilitate the discussion between the other Regional Committees of UN-GGIM reporting back to the Committee at its the next session in 2016.

### **Action Proposal**

The Executive Committee proposes that it be given the mandate to decide on how to coordinate the regional work on these topic areas, either by integrating the work with existing working groups or through the initiation of new regional working groups if this is deemed appropriate. Should new working groups be initiated a call of participation will be made to all European UN Member States, Observer Organisations and other stakeholders.

The Executive Committee also proposes that it be given the responsibility to coordinate the work on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes which the Committee has mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to undertake.

### **Tasks for the Secretariat**

In addition to the duties described in Article 6 of the Articles and Rules of UN-GGIM: Europe, the Secretariat will continue its work on the following tasks:

#### **1. Cooperation with UN-GGIM Secretariat, other Regional Committees and the wider geospatial community (On-going):**

- a) assist the Executive Committee in establishing contact and maintaining cooperation with UN-GGIM and its regional organisations;
- b) assist in raising general awareness of UN-GGIM: Europe amongst relevant European organisations;

#### **2. Compile and maintain knowledge base of the European NMCAs and NSIs (End 2015):**

- a) complete, publish and maintain the knowledge base of the European NMCAs and NSIs responsibilities, policies, regulatory frameworks and business environments, including the data and licensing policies applied by NMCAs and NSIs;

#### **3. Compile and maintain knowledge base of the European NMCAs and NSIs (End 2017):**

- a) investigate and report on the possibilities for harmonised access to existing knowledge databases of spatial analysis projects. This includes:
  - identifying relevant repositories;
  - identifying needs and requirements for knowledge management and discovery; and
  - exploring how analyses can be done across different communities and languages.