



UN-GGIM: EUROPE – Secretariat

Report for UN-GGIM: Europe 2nd Plenary Meeting 7th October 2015

Introduction

UN-GGIM: consists of national representatives of European UN Member States, concerned with the management of geospatial, statistical and other information falling within the scope of UN-GGIM activities. In the management of activities the European UN Member States are represented by the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Executive Committee is supported by a Secretariat. According to the Articles and Rules the responsibility for providing a secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe is granted to a member of the regional entity by agreement at a plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Netherlands, represented by Kadaster, takes responsibility of the Secretariat, the function of which is executed by EuroGeographics through a Service Level Agreement signed in January 2015.

The role and responsibilities of the Secretariat are defined in the approved articles of UN-GGIM: Europe as well as the work plan approved at the inaugural plenary meeting of the regional entity in October 2014.

Overview of work

In accordance with its tasks and responsibilities the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe has carried out the tasks listed below in the 12 months since the last Plenary Meeting in October 2014.

- Support the effective and smooth operation of UN-GGIM: Europe:
 - regularly arranged and acted as secretary at Executive Committee meetings, six meetings have been held since October 2014;
 - maintained and updated the UN-GGIM: Europe website, issued press releases and media communications to the geospatial media, and managed a Twitter account which attracted 210 followers;
 - liaised with the Executive Committee and Working Groups A & B to communicate the working groups' message to members and facilitate their work;
 - organised a regional side event for European UN Member States during GGIM5 to prepare the regional members for the Committee of Experts meeting in August 2015;
 - organised and arranged all preparations and logistics for the UN-GGIM: Europe 2nd Plenary meeting in October 2015 in Belgrade; started early planning for future plenary meetings.

- Assist the ExCom in establishing and maintaining cooperation with UN-GGIM and its regional entities:
 - drafted letter of congratulations to UN-GGIM Arab States on the occasion of their establishment in February 2015; coordinated with co-Chair of UN-GGIM and IGN-France to provide suitable speaker on core data at meeting of UN-GGIM Arab States in June 2015;
 - participated in second meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (UN EG-ISGI) in May 2015;
 - maintained regular contact and liaison with UN-GGIM Secretariat through emails, Skype and the occasional physical meetings to facilitate work at the regional and global levels; forwarded relevant communications from UN-GGIM Secretariat and global Working Groups to regional members;
 - organised two very well attended side meetings in August 2015 during GGIM5 targeting a global audience, the topics of the two meetings were 'Fundamental Data' and 'INSPIRE and ELF';
 - provided assistance to UN-GGIM Secretariat and Denmark in highlighting the importance of geospatial data to diplomatic staff and negotiators of SDGs; provided assistance in drafting suitable text about importance of geospatial data in video 'Every that happens, happens'



somewhere¹; disseminated to European UN Member States information on the important role of geospatial data for sustainable development and highlighted its mention in the 2030 Agenda document;

- drafted regional reports to UN-GGIM in preparation for the Meeting of the Committee of Experts in New York in August 2010⁵; drafted paper on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes² for the consideration of the Committee of Experts in New York in August 2010⁵;
 - made contact with and met members of the UN-GGIM Secretariat and secretariats of the other regional entities during GGIM5; drafted media releases on different areas of work for UN-GGIM during GGIM5 at the request of UN-GGIM Secretariat; assisted UN-GGIM in their Twitter campaign during GGIM5.
- Support general awareness of UN-GGIM: Europe amongst relevant European organisations
 - organised and participated in meetings with The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) – Dutch Ambassador, Chair of UNECE, the Executive Secretary of UNECE, and Heads of Division of the Statistical Division and of the Forest, Land & Housing Division to inform about UN-GGIM: Europe and its aims and objectives;
 - communicated with potential UN-GGIM: Europe observer organisations throughout the course of the year, ESPON and EFGS have applied for observer organisation status of UN-GGIM: Europe;
 - communicated with a number of organisations which approached UN-GGIM: Europe for its participation and input in different events;
 - organised and ran a joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS³ meeting on the 3 March 2015 together with Eurostat, an event that brought together 80 experts from European mapping and statistical organisations;
 - gave some assistance in UN-GGIM and UN-GGIM: Europe workshops during INSPIRE/GWF 2015 in Lisbon in May;
 - prepared presentations for the Chair of the Executive Committee which were presented at a various international events including FIG week and INTERGEO.

¹ <https://youtu.be/Mkge03NJhfU>

² <http://ggim.un.org/docs/meetings/GGIM5/E-C20-2015-4%20Fundamental%20Data%20Themes%20Report.pdf>

³ <http://un-ggim-europe.org/content/joint-un-ggim-europe-ess-meeting-luxembourg-march-2015>