



UN-GGIM: Europe, one of the regional entities of the global UN-GGIM initiative, was officially established on 1st October 2014. The European report to the UN Committee of Experts on geospatial information management, states in Article 2 of the statutes that:

'UN-GGIM: Europe shall identify European issues relevant to geospatial information management and recommend necessary actions on them'

and goes on to acknowledge that it will also follow what is happening and contribute, to the extent possible, to the global activities of UN-GGIM

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe work is to ensure that the **national mapping and cadastral authorities** and **national statistical institutes** 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, based on user needs and requirements

This will be achieved by:

- dealing with the issues identified in the reports of the UN-GGIM: Europe working groups during the preparatory phase,
- giving a European focus to the recommendations of UN-GGIM global initiatives,
- providing the opportunity for uptake of European issues at the global level where relevant, and contributing to similar efforts in other regions.

The role of UN-GGIM: Europe is in providing support to the further implementation and alignment of existing legislation, to support relevant ongoing initiatives and proposing actions, to be implemented as far as possible within Europe's existing legal, institutional and operational frameworks addressing issues of geo-information management.

The regional intention 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.

Challenges for UN-GGIM: Europe:

Achieve true cooperation between NMCAs and NSIs

Statistical and geospatial information providers are a powerful couple, joint geospatial-statistical information systems are needed to inform evidence-based decision making:

- Globally - *for example the achievement of the Post-2015 targets*
- Regionally - *for example implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy*



Ensure the highest possible level of active participation from other communities

Engaging with all the stakeholders will ensure a wider dialogue and awareness of the benefits and importance of geospatial and statistical information

- Raise interest from observing bodies, currently four organisations granted observer status in UN-GGIM: Europe
- The European Commission is granted permanent observer status in the Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe.

Ensure that the regional efforts contribute to the global initiative

- European's mature experience in geospatial management is a strength where the region can offer a valid contribution to the global initiative. By identifying global fundamental geospatial data themes; legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data. And contribute to the SDGs by illustrating the importance of geospatial data to Post2015 Goals.

UN-GGIM: Europe Work plan 2015 - 2017

The Review by ECOSCO in 2016 is a key issue for the UN-GGIM initiative and UN-GGIM: Europe is dedicating efforts towards a positive review by ECOSCO in 2016. The timetable is envisaged to give tangible results in time for the ECOSOC evaluation.

Work Group A, Core Data: *Increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs*

- Supply three deliverables:
 1. Specifications of core data (*End - 2015*)
 2. Report on suitable economic model for production and distribution of core data (*End 2016*)
 3. Report on political and financial frameworks to support core data availability (*Mid-2017*)

Work Group B, Data Integration: *Enabling integration of core geospatial data with other data in order to foster further usage*

- Supply three deliverables:
 4. Definition of the priority user needs for combinations of data (*Mid-2015*).
 5. Recommendation for methods implementing the prioritised combinations of data (*Mid-2016*)
 6. Recommendation about how to manage side-effects induced by data combinations (*Mid-2016*)

Secretariat: *Supporting, facilitating and executing the actions of the Executive Committee*
Deliverables:

7. Complete, publish and maintain the knowledge base of the European NMCAs, NSIs and other relevant organisations
8. Investigate on harmonised access to existing knowledge databases of spatial analysis projects.