

# UN-GGIM: Europe

## A year in review



**UN-GGIM**  
**EUROPE**

UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*Bengt Kjellson*  
*Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe*

*Fourth Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe*  
*7-8 June 2017, Brussels*



# The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe

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

- The intention of UN-GGIM: Europe is to build on the existing frameworks in Europe by:
  - avoiding duplication of efforts;
  - improving the joint response to user needs and requirements;
  - encouraging geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing;
  - optimising the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

- 5th October 2016 in Budapest, Hungary
- 101 delegates, from 31 countries and 10 observer organisations
- Global progress of UN-GGIM, progress of regional working groups, good practice of cooperation between NMCAs & NSIs
- Approved new Observer Organisations, new Executive Committee Member and work plan for 2017 - 2020





# Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe

- UN-GGIM: Europe is coordinated and managed by an Executive Committee of nine: one chair, two vice-chairs and six members nominated and approved at Regional Plenary Meetings
- Meet four times over the past eight months:
  - Work plan
  - Regional working groups,
  - Global agenda of Committee of Experts,
  - Strengthen the integration of geospatial information with statistics
  - Increase the cooperation with the wider geospatial community in Europe
- Participated in the Expanded Bureau meetings



# Regional working groups

UN-GGIM: Europe has three regional working groups:

- Working Group - Core Data
  - identified the 14 core data themes as the most frequently required by SDG use cases
- Working Group – Data Integration
  - reported on how evidence based decision making can benefit from geospatial information in combination with other information at regional, national and sub-national levels, reflecting the UN and the European goals
- GRF-Europe
  - build a close connection to the geodesy-related organizations in Europe, and actively contribute to the work of the global GGRF Working Group



# UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data

The Experts Committee mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a Global Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes.

- UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom acts as the steering group for WG Fundamental Data.
- The ExCom appointed the UK to lead UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data, UN-GGIM: Europe is the permanent secretariat to the Working Group.
- A working group established with 16 members from UN Member States and three from observer organisations, has drafted Terms of Reference
- Global consultations have been held at international events
- Provided outline of some of the existing initiatives already carried out by the different regional entities, and an overview of what is understood by fundamental geospatial data themes
- Further consultations with the other regional committees of UN-GGIM and global working groups followed.
- A report that describes the engagement WG Fundamental Data has had with the members, the methodology used, and the review process it has gone through to produce a proposal for a minimum list of fundamental global geospatial data themes is being prepared for the Committee of Experts meeting in August 2017.





# Partnerships, Regional and International Collaboration

**UN-GGIM: Europe has a continuous, engagement with the region's NSIs & NMCAs through active collaboration with EuroGeographics and Eurostat:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Expert Group Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information, December, Mexico
- UN-GGIM: Europe accepted an invitation from UN-GGIM: Arab states to participate in their the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Meeting Doha for 21-23 February, 2017
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Joint ESS-UN-GGIM: Europe Meeting, 31<sup>st</sup> March, Luxembourg
- EuroGeographics Extraordinary General Assembly, 9 – 10 May, Leuven
- Kunming Forum on UN-GGIM, 10 – 12 May Kunming, China
- 4<sup>th</sup> Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe 7-8<sup>th</sup> June, Brussels



# Observer organisations

Engaging with the wider geospatial and statistical communities in Europe:

- Encourage a high level of active participation from the wider geospatial community
- Raise interest from observing bodies, relevant professional, research and academic organizations and associations
- Applications from GSDI & ConsultingWhere, received and accepted



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# Media and communication

- Press releases publicising regional and global UN-GGIM activities and achievements
- [UN-GGIM: Europe Newsletter](#)
- Website: <http://un-ggim-europe.org/>
- Twitter account: @UNGGIMEurope

#Powerofwhere

## A year of progress and an exciting future

I am delighted to report that 2016 has been another successful year for UN-GGIM: Europe, at both regional and global level. From participating in GGIM: the 2016 INSPIRE conference and the UN-GGIM High Level Forum, to our working groups, joint meeting with the European Statistical System (ESS) and 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary, it has been a busy but extremely productive 12 months.

Following the strengthening of the UN-GGIM mandate, we look forward to 2017 with great anticipation. The resolution, adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), acknowledges the considerable achievements and progress made by the Committee of Experts over the past five years and recognises that it is well placed to contribute to important initiatives including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Our contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is through the global work on fundamental data. UN-GGIM: Europe is steering the UN-GGIM Working Group chaired by the United Kingdom which next year will recommend a minimum list of global fundamental geospatial data themes to support sustainability. This will be an exciting and important milestone in demonstrating the practical power of geospatial information.

Working Group B on Data Integration has successfully concluded its tasks and objectives. UN-GGIM: Europe will now use this existing network to interact with the newly established global inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators Working Group on Geospatial Information (IAEG-SDG WG GI). The UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration will work closely with the European Member States which have been nominated as experts to the IAEG-SDG WG GI, providing our contribution to the global process on developing a framework for monitoring UN SDG indicators.

Europe's contribution to the UN's Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is being coordinated by the GRF-Europe Working Group. We are keen to see how it will help its implementation in our region following its establishment earlier in the year.

Other priority issues for 2017 include: Improved collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities and continuing the work of the Committee of Experts following the programme review of the ECOSOC.

Europe has much to offer UN-GGIM in terms of experiences and also benefits from participating in the global exchange of knowledge and practice with other regions. I do hope that you will consider ways in which you can participate in and contribute to our activities during 2017, you will be assured of a very warm welcome.

With best wishes for a peaceful Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

Bengt Kjellson  
Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe



3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe



# Looking forward - Activities 2017

- 10th Regional Conference on Cadastre and Spatial Data Infrastructure, 8-9 June, Skopje, Macedonia
- UN-GGIM7, 31 July – 4 August, UNHQ, New York
- INSPIRE Conference, 4 – 8 September, Strasbourg/Kehl
- EFGS Conference, 2 – 3 November, Dublin
- UNECE Workshop on Statistical & Geospatial Standards, 2 – 3 November, Stockholm
- UN-GGIM High Level Forum, 28 - 30 Nov, Mexico



# Participation GGIM7 – August 2017

- Submitting reports on regional activities: UN-GGIM: Europe & progress of WG Fundamental Data
- Participate in Expanded Bureau meetings
- Organise side-events & meetings:
  - Side Event Fundamental Data Themes, 9:00 1<sup>st</sup> August
  - Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, 13:30 2<sup>nd</sup> August
  - UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> August





# Work Plan 2017 - 2020

- Plan was approved 8 months ago at 3<sup>rd</sup> Plenary
- Proposed updates to this plan
- Circulated prior to the meeting



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# Proposed updates to the plan: UNECE

- Over the past few months, the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe has engaged with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), exploring the possibility of developing collaboration between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE.
- The Executive Committee is suggesting that together with UNECE it develops a proposal for better collaboration between the two entities.



# WG Core Data

- **1. Recommendations of content of core data (Mid - 2018):**
  - a) provide recommendations for content for core data, based on user needs and requirements, especially those related to SDGs, and on INSPIRE data specifications, making use of the outcomes and specifications of other initiatives, such as the ELF project, and carrying out an extended consultation of the geo-statistical community;
- **2. Report on economic model, political and financial frameworks for supporting core data availability (End 2018):**
  - b) analyse the availability of European core reference data; identify the existing and desirable synergies between national and European core data;
  - c) organise an exchange of good practice on the possible processes for ensuring core data availability either by producing new data or by improving existing datasets;
  - d) consider the licences worked out by other initiatives (e.g. ELF), taking account of European legislation (e.g. INSPIRE and PSI for EU Member States), and propose areas for potential future work to accommodate these licences to core data;
  - e) 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 ;
  - f) consider costs and benefits of distributing core data as open data, and propose a strategy for sustainable funding and sharing of core data;
  - g) propose political or other measures to encourage availability of core data in each European UN Member State.





# Working Group Data Integration

- **Supportive tasks: As a European contribution to the global process on developing a framework for monitoring UN SDG indicators, UN-GGIM: Europe will through the Working Group on Data Integration, ensure a two-way interaction with the IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information.**
  - develop **geospatial methodologies and approaches** on monitoring, based on the specifications on indicators from the IAEG-SDG WG, making these available to the European authorities.
- **Specific tasks: In addition**
  - Develop **practical examples (best practice)** on specific national implementations on how Geospatial Information can support in processes in achieving the SDGs and where the need shows to measure, monitor and mitigate challenges;
  - Suggest **links between communities**: demographic, statistical and environmental data together with the Geospatial Location – ranging from the conceptual level to specific indicators.



# Working Group GRF-Europe

The Working Group GRF- Europe is tasked with the following three broad actions, and will carry out the associated tasks:

- Take note of the European contribution to the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, in particular the GGRF roadmap which is to be completed in 2016;
- Recognise the insufficient connection between the existing geodetic infrastructure and social and political components within nations when applying the UN Resolution and impending GGRF roadmap, and make recommendations in this regard on a European level;
- Formally set up a Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frames GRF-Europe within the UN-GGIM: Europe taking into account both the work of GGRF together with that of EUREF and other geo-referencing organisations in Europe in order to avoid duplication.



# Global WG Fundamental Data

- A report that describes the engagement WG Fundamental Data has had with the members, the methodology used, and the review process it has gone through to produce a proposal for a minimum list of fundamental geospatial data themes is being prepared for the Committee of Experts meeting in August 2017.
- The report also includes a proposed list of fundamental geospatial data themes for consideration by the Committee of Experts, a description of subsequent work to produce high-level descriptions of each theme proposed, together with a review of the linkages to other UN-GGIM activities. It also includes recommendations for next steps for the Committee to consider.
- The UNGGIM: WG Fundamental Data is on track to achieve its aim to finalise its work within 18 months for presentation to the Committee at its seventh session in 2017.





# UN-GGIM: Europe 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 (On-going):**
  - a) Compile, publish and maintain the knowledge base of the European NMCAs and NSIs. Additional components to the database could include responsibilities, policies, regulatory frameworks and business environments, including the data and licensing policies applied by NMCAs and NSIs;
- **3. Support the Executive Committee in its relationship with Observer Organisations (On-going)**
  - a) Liaise between the Executive Committee and with the different Organisations that have observer status with UN-GGIM: Europe;
  - b) Assist in discovering means by which the Observer Organisations can contribute to the work of UN-GGIM: Europe.



# Action Proposals

- The Executive Committee proposes that it be given the mandate to implement this Work Plan and to decide on how best to coordinate the regional work on the different topic areas.



**Thank you ALL for contributing to  
UN-GGIM: Europe's success!**



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