

UN-GGIM: Europe Year in Review



UN-GGIM
EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*Bengt Kjellson, Chair UN-GGIM: Europe
Fifth Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe
Brussels, 6 – 7 June 2018*



4th Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

- 7-8 June 2018 in Brussels, Belgium
- 60 delegates from 24 UN Member States and 13 international and observer organisations
- Hosted by Eurostat



<http://un-ggim-europe.org/content/fourth-plenary-un-ggim-europe>



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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
- New members on the ExCom nominated and approved at the Fourth Plenary Meeting:
 - Colin Bray, Ireland
 - Francisco Vala, Portugal



General themes emerging from the plenary were:

- UN-GGIM: Europe a success story - providing a unique forum for UN member states and international organisations, while fostering the development and use of global and European geospatial information.
- Recognised that this is a special moment for our communities - use the momentum thus created by
 - the 2030 Development agenda, there is an increased need for high resolution geospatial data.
 - And the Census rounds 2020, which will have a strengthened geospatial elements.
- These are opportunities which we can use to work together to ensure the ambitions of the 2030 development agenda, the global statistical geospatial framework, and meeting the needs of today's society.



UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2017 - 2020

Approved update to work plan, which included regional working groups:

- Working Group - Core Data
- Working Group – Data Integration
- GRF-Europe



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Other outcomes from the Fourth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe:

- Agreed the amendments to the Articles and Rules of UN-GGIM: Europe
- Understand that UN-GGIM: Europe will explore ways to strengthen collaboration with UNECE
- Agreed that the UN-GGIM WG Fundamental data led by UN-GGIM: Europe will present high level descriptions of the common global fundamental data themes to the Committee of Experts at GGIM7
- Made aware of the need to come to an agreement on how to improve capacity building on how to extract statistical and geospatial information from earth observations
- Decided that the Working Group Data Integration will further develop the idea of agreeing the content of a policy outreach document that outlines the recommendations and raises political awareness for the integration of geospatial and statistical data



UN-GGIM: Europe participation at GGIM7

- Submitted reports on regional activities: UN-GGIM: Europe
- Submitted report on progress of WG Fundamental Data
- Participate in Expanded Bureau meeting
- Organise side-events & meetings:
 - Side Event Fundamental Data Themes
 - Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe
 - UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee Meeting



Other updates from GGIM7

- Dorine Burmanje nominated co-chair of UN-GGIM
- Agreed the 2017 – 2021 UN-GGIM Framework
- GGRF – endorsed as a Sub-committee on Geodesy
- UN-GGIM signed collaborative agreement with the World Bank
- Endorsed the establishment of two Working Groups:
 - on Legal and Policy Frameworks for geospatial information management
 - on Marine Geospatial Information
- Report and update from UNGEGN



Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards

- Joint UNECE/UNGGIM: Europe Workshop held in Stockholm, Sweden, 6-8 November, 2017
- Participation from 31 Member States and seven observers, including research institutes, standards organisations, universities and private sector also attended the workshop.
- The workshop was aimed at experts on statistical and geospatial metadata or technical standards relevant to the modernisation of statistics, in addition to experts from national mapping, cadastral or environmental agencies.
- Work topics focused on:
 - Introduction to Statistical and Geospatial Standards and Models
 - Examples of integrating Statistical and Geospatial Standards and Models
 - Challenges and solutions for creating Geospatial Statistical Outputs
 - Future Work relevant to Statistical and Geospatial Standards
- The participants discussed recommendations for future work. Details of workshop and discussion can be found [here](#).



Fifth High Level Forum UN-GGIM

- Theme "[Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation](#)", organised in Mexico City
- Over 300 participants from 73 countries including from least developed countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries.
- Participants from all five UN-GGIM regions, as well as from governments, inter-governmental and international organisations, academia and the private sector.
- Forum aim was to substantively improve and strengthen the national geospatial information management capacities of countries, particularly developing countries, towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and evidence-based policy and decision making.
- Issued the [Mexico City Declaration](#) on *Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: The Role of Geospatial Technology and Innovation*



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Expanded UN-GGIM Bureau



- On December 1 2017, the UN-GGIM Bureau had its annual meeting, considered and reviewed progress of various work programmes under the Committee of Experts since the seventh session in August 2017.
- The Bureau interacted with the World Bank on the development of an overarching geospatial framework that can be referenced by Member States when strengthening their national geospatial information management and systems. This was presented at the Land and Poverty Conference in Washington on March, at the International Workshop on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes for Africa in Addis Ababa in April, and the EuroGeographics Development & Funding Workshop in Leuven in May. And will go for global consultation immently.
- The meeting also discussed the First United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress that will be convened in collaboration with the Government of China from 19 – 21 November 2018 in Deqing, China.



UN-GGIM Workshops and Expert Group Meetings

- [International Workshop on Legal and Policy Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management- Licensing of Geospatial Information](#) 7 – 9 Tianjin, China. First in a series of regional peer-to-peer learning events on the topic. There were a total of 34 participants, 32 of whom came from 19 Member States.
- [Fourth Meeting of the United Nations Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information](#) (EG-ISGI), Stockholm 9-10 November 2017. Meeting was attended by 29 participants, 22 of whom represented their national agencies coming from 15 Member States.
- [First Meeting of the United Nations Subcommittee on Geodesy](#) 26-27 November 2017, Mexico City. Attended by 23 participants from 13 Member States and five observers. Subcommittee selected Australia and Russia as its co-Chairs.
- [Fourth Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicator \(IAEG-SDGs\) Working Group on Geospatial Information](#), UNHQ 6 - 8 December 2017. There were a total of 30 participants comprising of 12 members, 14 invited experts and presenters, and four observers.



Update from WG Fundamental Data

- Current work:
 - Theme Descriptions
 - Finalised and endorsed in February 2018 by Steering Group (UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom)
 - Submission to Secretariat
 - Fundamental Theme Logos
 - Initial design by Lesley Arnold in Australia, final versions ready for use
- Next steps:
 - Preparation for GGIM8 Report
 - Summary Report required for translation in May
 - Workshops to 'socialise' the Fundamental Geospatial Data themes
 - To look at the implementation of fundamental themes in a country
 - Workshop in April in Addis Ababa
 - Repeatable content for further workshops elsewhere – session at 5th Plenary UN-GGIM: Europe



Global Geodetic Reference Frame



Geographical Names



Addresses



Functional Areas



Buildings and Settlements



Land Parcels / Properties



Transport Networks



Elevation and Depth



Population Distribution



Land Cover and Use



Geology and Soils



Physical Infrastructure/Service Points



Water



Imagery



Lars H Backer Prize

- Two members of the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration have been recognised for their contributions to geospatial statistics.
- Ekkehard Petri and Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu were awarded the Lars H Backer prize at EFGS 2017.
- The award, in memory of eminent Swedish statistician, Lars H Backer, recognises major contributions to the development of a geospatial foundation for official statistics or for significantly improving the relevance of geospatial statistics for evidenced-based decision making.
- Congratulations on this impressive achievement!



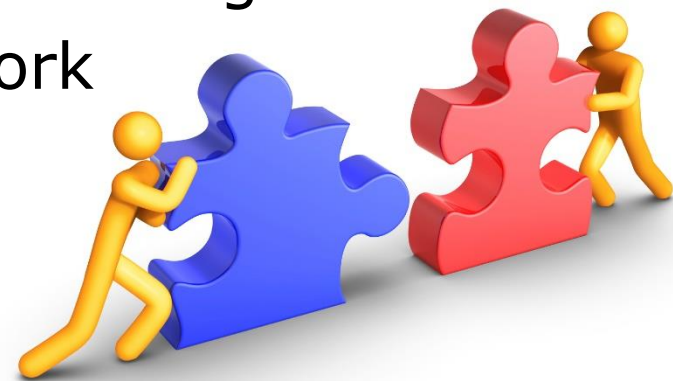
Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management

- UN-GGIM: Europe and the UNECE Secretariat recognise the mutual benefits of working together. In particular, benefits are expected in terms of improving outreach and raising awareness of the respective work programmes, as well as strengthening capacity building activities and learning from each other.
- Drafted: [Proposal for greater collaboration between the UNECE and the UN-GGIM: Europe](#)
- Agreed and drafted by both parties and presented to the Executive Committee of UNECE at their Ninety-fifth meeting Geneva, 11 December 2017. Well received by the UNECE EXCOM.
- Benefits are expected in terms of improving outreach and raising awareness of the respective work programmes, as well as strengthening capacity building activities and learning from each other.



Strategic areas for future collaboration include:

- Geospatial information for Sustainable Development
- Building networks and promoting communication
- Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information, including capacity building
- Involvement of other UNECE work programmes



Concrete proposals for collaboration activities in 2018-2020

The UNECE Secretariat and the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe have agreed to pursue the following collaboration activities in the period 2018-2020:

- Geospatial information for sustainable development
- Building networks and promoting communication
- Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information
- Capacity building
- Involvement of other UNECE work programmes
- Cross-representation in the activities of the other body
- Reporting on progress / work accomplished



The above activities will be implemented through:

- Establishing reciprocity and participating in each other's regional meetings
- Organising joint events on topics of mutual interest
- Collaborating in producing outputs on relevant topics
- Collaborating on exchange of good practices
- Developing joint capacity building activities in member states
- Developing the concept of core data for geospatial and statistical communities
- Promoting easier access to data
- Developing wider communication networks



Implementing the collaboration, first steps:

- Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards - Joint UNECE/UNGGIM: Europe Workshop held in Stockholm, Sweden, 6-8 November, 2017
- Participation of UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom in the UNECE [High-level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics](#) UNECE Geneva on 12 April 2018
- Joint Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE Luxembourg 18 April 2018
- Inviting the wider UNECE Member States to participate in the 5th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe in Brussels, 6 – 7 June 2018



Annual meeting with NMCAs & NSIs

- Joint Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE Luxembourg 18 April 2018
- Continuing what has now become a tradition, representatives from European Statistical and Mapping Authorities congregated in Luxembourg. The fourth edition of the meeting was this year also organised with UNECE.
- The Fourth Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting was hosted by Eurostat in Luxembourg on the 18th March 2018.
- <http://un-ggim-europe.org/content/joint-un-ggim-europe---ess-unece-meeting-integration-statistical-and-geospatial-information>



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



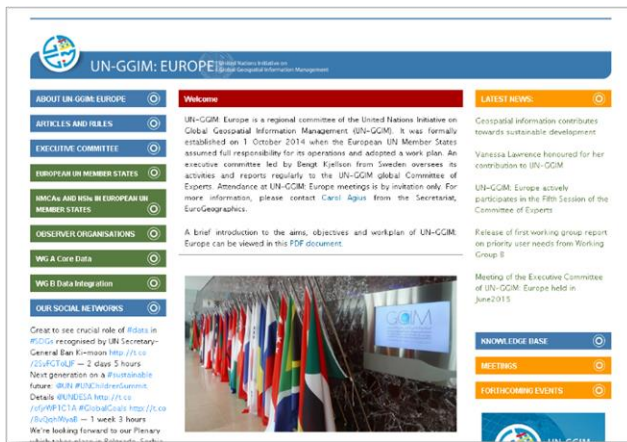
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Media and communication

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



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Newsletter 01-18

Taking our tradition of collaboration a step further

Europe's long-standing tradition of regional cooperation is key to the success of UN-GGIM: Europe.

We know that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) present many challenges for our community. However, they also create great opportunities to build on this reputation for establishing mutually-beneficial working relationships, particularly with organisations that share our interest in using geospatial information to integrate data from a wide range of sources.

Our well-established partnership with Eurostat is one such example, whilst more recently our collaboration with UNECE strengthens our links with colleagues working to promote pan-European capacity building. This cooperation was not only seen in our recent joint meeting with Eurostat, to which UNECE also contributed, but also in our participation in the UNECE High Level Seminar on Partnerships.

In addition to new relationships, delivering the SDGs will also require new sources of information and new methods to manage and analyse them. The geospatial and statistical communities certainly have much to learn from one another but need a common vision and top-level support to deliver it. Ireland's approach is a good example of what can be achieved when we work together in this way.

The clock is ticking and the countdown has begun, so we cannot risk duplicating our efforts or resources. Collaboration and cooperation remain key – whether through existing or new partnerships, working together at national, regional and global level, or helping to promote the benefit of integrated geospatial and statistical information beyond our immediate network.

UN-GGIM: Europe needs you!

Bengt Kjellson
Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe

#Powerofwhere



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Looking forward - Activities 2018

- 30 July – 3 Aug: 8th UN-GGIM Plenary session, New York
- 16-17 Oct: EFGS 2018 Conference, Helsinki
- 22 – 24 Oct: UN World Data Forum, Dubai
- 19 – 21 Nov: First United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, Deqing, China



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



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