

# UN-GGIM: Europe Year in Review



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

UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*Joint Meeting:- UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE  
Luxemburg, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019*



# Fifth Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

Brought together senior executives and experts from the national geospatial information and statistical authorities of 24 Member States, and 12 international and observer organisations. The meeting was held on the 6 - 7 June 2018 in Brussels and was hosted by EuroStat. The wider UNECE Member States were invited to participate in the meeting.

## **Twin main themes emerging discussions:**

- Cooperation AND coordination between the statistical and geospatial communities is need.
- Data retains its importance regardless of the impact of disruptive technologies, and social, economic and environment changes.



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



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# Main outcomes from the plenary were:

- Relationship between the statistical and geospatial communities now well established, we should now focus on strengthening collaboration and coordination: We are working together, we should now work smarter
- There is a benefit for the different bodies of Europe to work together and coordinate efforts to avoid duplication to better deliver on priority areas.
- Agreed that UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE to continue with their good collaboration in sharing knowledge and expertise, including through supporting the geo-spatial needs of the SDGs, continuing to relevant capacity development workshops, and convening a joint workshop on data integration in 2019
- Approved the update to the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2018 – 2021.



# Governance 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
- Changes to ExCom at the Fifth Plenary Meeting:
  - Bengt Kjellson, Sweden stepped down as Chair of UN-GGIM: Europe
  - New Chair is Tomaž Petek, Slovenia
  - New Committee Member is David Henderson, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- The Netherlands is responsible for providing the secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe. The function of the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe is carried out and funded by EuroGeographics through a Service Level Agreement with Kadaster Netherlands. SLA renewed for another two years until the end of 2020.



# UN-GGIM: Europe – Regional Working Groups

- [Working Group on Core Data](#) is focusing on increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs.
- [Working Group Data Integration](#) works to ensure that the regional entity focuses on how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in Europe. The working group was also set up with the intention that it will interact with the IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information.
- [Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frame - Europe](#) has a close connection to the various geodesy-related organisations in Europe, and actively contributes to the work of the global GGRF Working Group, which was elevated to a permanent Sub-Committee on Geodesy (SCoG) by the Committee of Experts at its meeting in August 2017.



## Regional Activities: Annual meeting with NMCAs & NSIs

- 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 together with UNECE.
- The Fourth Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting was hosted by Eurostat in Luxembourg on the 18th March 2018.
- Focus was on capacity development in the statistical and geospatial communities



<http://un-ggim-europe.org/content/joint-un-ggim-europe---ess-unece-meeting-integration-statistical-and-geospatial-information>



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# Regional Activities: Further events

- International Conference *NSDI: Towards Data Society*, February 2018, Kiev
- Participation of UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom in the UNECE High-level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics, April 2018, Geneva
- XI. Regional conference on cadastre and spatial data infrastructure, May 2018, Budva, Montenegro
- INSPIRE Conference, September 2018, Antwerp
- European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference, October 2018, Helsinki



# Participation in Eight Session UN-GGIM

- Active participation of European Member States in plenary session of UN-GGIM8
- Organised regional side meetings and meeting on Fundamental Data Themes
- Coordinated interventions from Europe on all agenda items
- Meeting of Un-GGIM: Europe ExCom
- Participation of UN-GGIM: Europe in Expanded Bureau meeting





# Some outcomes from GGIM8

Session outcomes include:

- New bureau for UN-GGIM

Co-chairs :

- Dorine Burmanje, the Netherlands
- Li Pengde, China
- Fernand Guy Isseri, Cameroon

Rapporteur:

- Macarena Perez Garcia, Chile

- Adoption of Overarching Geospatial Framework in collaboration with the World Bank
- Agreement of the high-level descriptions of the 14 Fundamental Data Themes
- Agreed to the Sixth High-level Forum on GGIM in the UK in April 2020 (first HLF in Europe)
- Revising the Future Trends report over the coming 18 months, taking into account new and emerging technologies



# Contribution to UN-GGIM - Fundamental Data

The Experts Committee mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a Global Working Group to draw together current projects from different UN-GGIM regional bodies to determine global fundamental geospatial data themes. The Working Group continued with its work, and successfully fulfilled its mandate and terms of reference. A report on work of the UN-GGIM WG on Fundamental Data was submitted to the Committee of Experts at its Eight Session.



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



# Contribution to UN-GGIM – IAEG-SDG WGGI

UN-GGIM: Europe continues with its active participation and contribution to Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicator (IAEG-SDGs) Working Group on Geospatial Information. Participating in the meetings and aligning the work of the regional Working Group on Data Integration to provide European input to the Expert Group.



# Contribution to UN-GGIM – First United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

UN-GGIM: Europe members, participated in the first United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress ((UNWGIC) held in Deqing, Hanzhou Province, China in November 2018.



In his welcome address, the UN Secretary General gave a clear statement on the global importance of geospatial data, particularly for SDGs. The three-day event focused on strengthening national geospatial information management and systems, as well as national implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UNWGIC Geospatial Technology and Application Exhibition was also held as an important part of the Congress. It showcased state-of-the-art technologies, products and application solutions from the world-leading geospatial companies, academic and research institutions, as well as other related organizations from across the globe.



# Contribution to UN-GGIM – cont.

- UN-GGIM: Europe, through EuroGeographics, facilitated the presentation and consultative opportunity of the initial draft of an 'Integrated Geospatial Framework' by the World Bank to European Member States. This was part of a wider work shop in May 2018.
- UN-GGIM: Europe contributed to the participation at 6th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States in Jeddah in February 2019, sharing experiences and knowledge with the Regional Committee of Arab States.



# 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



## By:

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, and developing wider communication networks



# Collaborating with 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
- Engage with the observer organisations to integrate their participation in UN-GGIM: Europe activities



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# Looking forward - Activities 2019

UN-GGIM: Europe is planning to organise/actively participate in the following future events in the next twelve months:

- Fifth Joint UN-GGIM: Europe-ESS-UNECE Meeting, Spring 2019, Luxembourg
- Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – UNECE – Eurostat – EFTA workshop on data integration, May 2019, Belgrade, Serbia
- Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, June 2019, Brussels, Belgium
- Ninth Session of the Committee of Experts, August 2019, New York
- Balkans Regional Conference, September, Sarajevo
- European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference, October 2019, Manchester



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## Priority Issues and Challenges

The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe consider that some of the priority issues for the coming period include:

- The Sustainable Development Goals
- Improved collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities
- Capacity Development
- The continuation of the work on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes
- The Integrated Global Geospatial Framework



**Thank you for  
contributing to the  
success of  
UN-GGIM: Europe!**



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