Strengthening Collaboration between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE

Lidia Bratanova
Statistical Division, UNECE
About the UNECE

- Set up in 1947 to promote pan-European economic integration
- One of five regional commissions of the UN
- 56 Member States: Europe, North America, Asia
- Approx 180 staff
- Reports directly to UN Secretary-General
ECOSOC gives a mandate to:

- Functional Commissions, e.g. UNSC
- 5 Regional Commissions, e.g. UNECE
- Other initiatives, e.g. UN-GGIM
UNECE: 9 Areas of Work

- Economic Cooperation and Integration
- Environmental Policy
- Forests
- Housing and Land Management
- Sustainable Energy
- Statistics
- Population
- Trade
- Transport
UNECE: 9 Areas of Work

- Economic Cooperation and Integration
- Environmental Policy
- Forests
- Housing and Land Management
- Sustainable Energy
- Statistics
- Population
- Trade
- Transport
How do We Work?

- Intergovernmental process
- 56 UNECE countries. In statistics + OECD+others that are interested (Brazil, South Africa, Philippines)
- Each area of work guided by a committee
  - Statistics – Conference of European Statisticians
- Engage only in work mandated by UN General Assembly, ECOSOC, UNECE Executive Committee
- Work closely with EU, OECD and other relevant organisations
- UNECE Secretariat facilitates: Makes things happen
Links to New York

- **Statistics:**
  - Close cooperation with UN Statistical Division / report to UN Statistical Commission
  - Regular meetings / coordination teleconferences

- **Population:**
  - Close cooperation with UN Population Division / report to Commission for Social Development

- **Geospatial:**
  - Developing similar close cooperation
A New Mandate

- July 2016 ECOSOC Resolution:
  - “requests that the regional commissions provide relevant support, upon request and as appropriate, to the work of the regional bodies of” UN-GGIM, and;
  - “outcomes and benefits of the activities of those bodies be equally disseminated to all Member States in each region”
UNECE Response (1)

- Executive Committee (ambassadors) discussed how to respond at 3 meetings in autumn 2016
- Letter expressing interest to explore collaboration from UN-GGIM: Europe chair
- Draft decision prepared for ECE Commission Session (ministers)
UNECE Response (2)

- Commission Decision:

  “Decides to request UNECE to engage with UN- GGIM: Europe, within existing resources, to gain a better understanding of how geospatial information can complement and support existing UNECE activities, particularly in the area of reviewing progress towards the SDGs, and to present a detailed proposal for collaboration between the two bodies … for the consideration of the UNECE Executive Committee before December 2017”
How We Already Collaborate

- Joint UNECE / UN-GGIM Europe Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards, Stockholm, 6-8 November
- Exchange of information on common priorities, e.g. data integration
- Sharing information on UN rules and procedures
What UNECE Can Bring (1)

- UN body connecting Europe to the global level
- Long experience of collaborative working with UN Headquarters
  - Including UN Statistics Division
- Conference facilities to host events
- Wiki and web-conferencing facilities for virtual working
What UNECE Can Bring (2)

- Facilitate involvement of all 56 Member States in the work of UN-GGIM: Europe, as requested by ECOSOC
- Support integration of geospatial and statistical information related to SDGs:
  - Many indicators have a strong geographic dimension
  - UNECE is leading on SDG Road Map and reporting platforms
Next steps

- The UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary Session is invited to:
  - Express views on strengthening collaboration between the UN-GGIM: Europe and the UNECE secretariat
  - Agree that the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee and UNECE develop a detailed proposal for collaboration between the two bodies before the end of 2017