



**United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
Statistical Division**

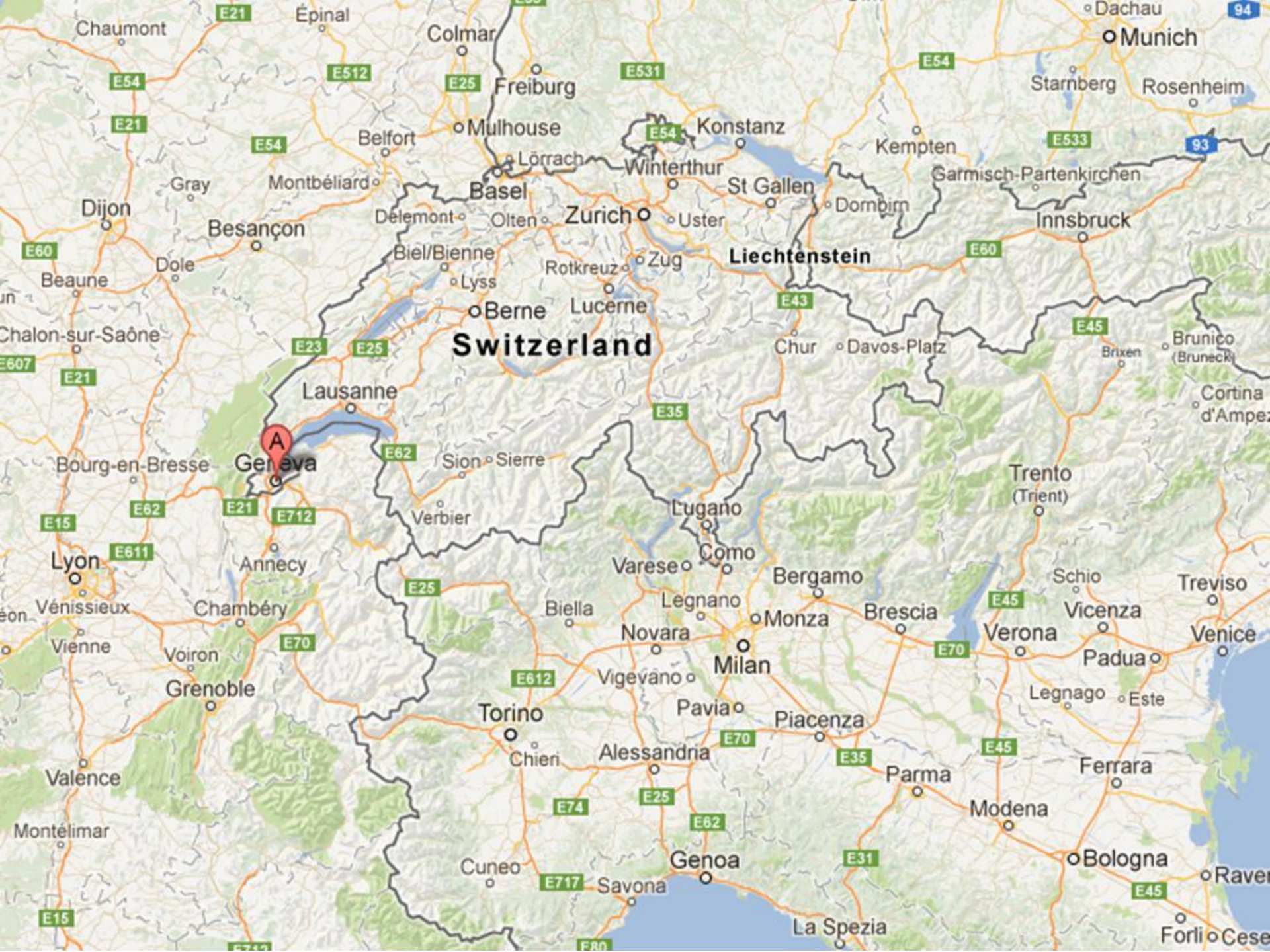
Strengthening Collaboration between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE

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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



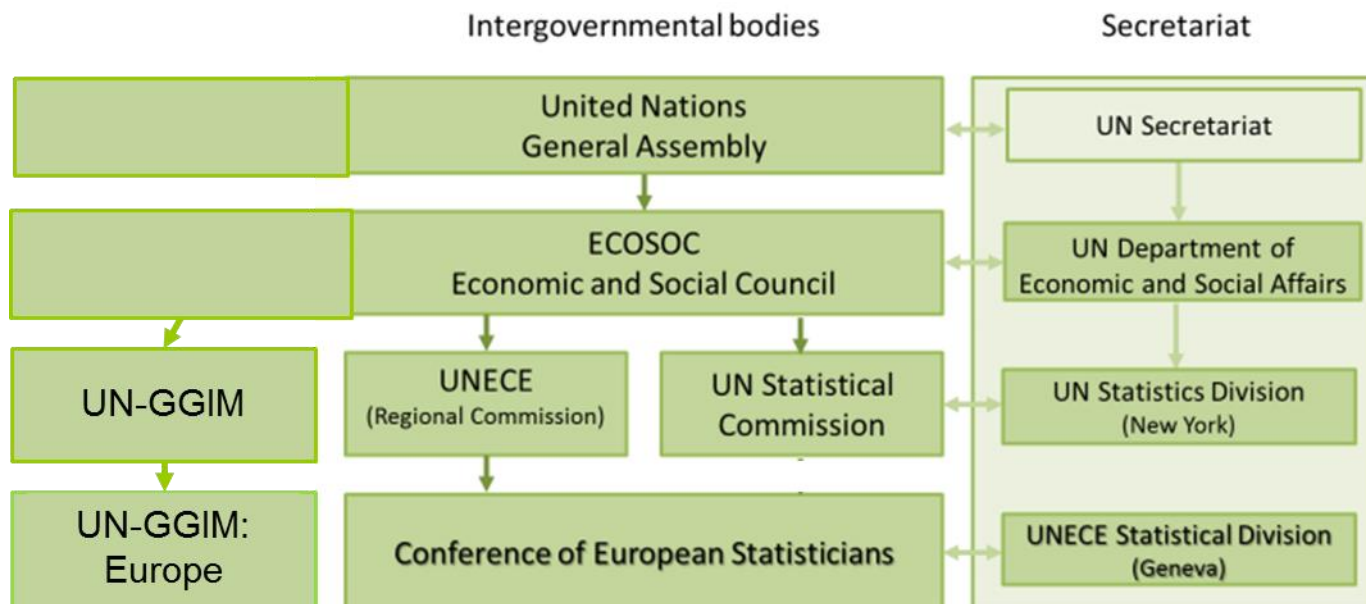




UNECE in the UN System

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



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**Statistical
Division**



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