

UN-GGIM: Europe Highlights from 2017



UN-GGIM
EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*Carol Agius UN-GGIM: Europe Administrator
Joint Meeting:- UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE
Luxemburg, 18 April 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 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*



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 19 – 23, 2018, currently undergoing global consultation process.
- 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!



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



Newsletter 02-16

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 GGIM6, the 2016 INSPIRE conference and the UN-GGIM High Level Forum, to our working groups, joint meeting with the European Statistical System (ESS) and 3rd 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-SDGs 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-SDGs 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 Kjelson
Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe



3rd Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe



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Looking forward - Activities 2018

- 6 - 7 June: 5th UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary, Brussels
- 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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