

Report from UN-GGIM: Europe

A year in review



UN-GGIM
EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

*Carol Agius
UN-GGIM: Europe*

*Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS meeting on the
Integration of Statistical and Geospatial
Information
March 2017*



The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe work is to ensure that the **national mapping and cadastral authorities** and **national statistical institutes** in the **European UN Member States**, the **European Institutions** and **associated bodies work together** to contribute to the more effective management and availability of **geospatial information in Europe**, and its integration with other information, based on user needs and requirements

- The intention of UN-GGIM: Europe is to build on the existing frameworks in Europe by:
 - avoiding duplication of efforts;
 - improving the joint response to user needs and requirements;
 - encouraging geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing;
 - optimising the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.



UN-GGIM Expert and Working Groups

- IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information
- EG: Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information
- EG: Land Administration and Management
- WG: Global Geodetic Reference Frame (Sub-Committee)
- WG: Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
- WG: Trends in National Institutional Arrangements
- WG: Fundamental Data Themes



UN-GGIM Thematic Groups

- Joint Board of Geospatial Information Societies (JBGIS)
 - a coalition recognised international organisations involved in the coordination, development, management, standardisation or regulation of geospatial information and related matters.
 - concerns of the group included strengthening collaboration across the UN-GGIM architecture
- UN-GGIM Academic Network
 - to capture and include the role and contributions of academia in global geospatial information management
<http://unggim.academicnetwork.org/>
- UN-GGIM Private Sector Network
 - capture and include the role and contributions of the private sector in global geospatial information management



Global Coordination

- UN-GGIM Extended Bureau: UN-GGIM co-chairs, Chairs of the Regional committee, the Secretariat and leads of the UN-GGIM thematic networks
- Three UN-GGIM Extended Bureau meetings held over the course of the year.
- The focus of these meetings is to organise the work of the Committee globally and across the regions.
- Particular focus last year was given to the preparation for the Programme Review of the work of the Committee of Experts over the past five years.
- Now looking forward – ‘UN-GGIM 2.0’, what happens next? Drafting UN-GGIM strategic framework 2017 -2021



Programme Review of UN-GGIM

In July 2016 ECOSOC adopted a draft resolution entitled "*Strengthening institutional arrangements on geospatial information management*"

- With this resolution the mandate of UN-GGIM is strengthened
- Committee is now well placed to contribute to:
 - The 2030 Agenda
 - The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction,
 - The Paris Agreement on Climate Change





2017-2021 Strategic Framework

BENEFIT AREAS	MISSION	<i>Positioning geospatial information to address global challenges</i>							
	VISION	<i>Operating within agreed policies and institutional arrangements, and as an interconnected global community of practice, the Committee of Experts will ensure that geospatial information and resources are coordinated, maintained, accessible, and able to be used effectively and efficiently by Member States and society to address key global challenges in a timely manner</i>							
	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	Provide leadership in setting the agenda for the development of global geospatial information and to promote its use to address key global challenges	Provide a forum for coordination and dialogue with and among Member States and relevant international organizations on enhanced cooperation	Provide a platform for the development of effective strategies to build and strengthen national capacity and capability concerning geospatial information, especially in developing countries	Propose work-plans and guidelines to promote common principles, policies, methods, standards and mechanisms for the interoperability of geospatial data and services	Make joint decisions and set the direction for the production and use of geospatial information within and across national, regional and global policy frameworks			
REQUIREMENTS	GLOBAL POLICY FRAMEWORK	Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway	Paris Agreement on Climate Change	HABITAT III Urban Agenda			
	GEOSPATIAL CHALLENGES & DRIVERS	Environmental management Humanitarian assistance Water management	Disaster management National security Institutional governance	Sustainable development Land management Education	Urban planning Climate change Poverty reduction				
	BENEFITS & EFFICIENCIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced duplication of effort in the capture, management, and delivery of fundamental geospatial information Authoritative and sustained geospatial data nationally, regionally, and globally Increased return on investment through better coordination, use and reuse of data, information and systems Better evidence based decision making, supported by robust, accurate information More open, accountable, responsive and efficient governments Presentation and delivery of 'fit for purpose' data in times of need Increased collaboration and integration of national information systems Best practices and use cases for enriching national processes on geospatial information management 							
	OPERATING PRINCIPLES	Good Policies, Legal Frameworks & Institutional Arrangements	Provision of Fundamental Authoritative Data	Agreed Standards and Guidelines	Principles on Geospatial Information	Integration and Interoperability of National Information Systems	Information Sharing and Knowledge Transfer	Building Capacity & Capability	
DELIVERABLES	WORKING ACTIVITIES	2030 Agenda and global development	Integration of Geospatial & Statistical Information	Geospatial Information & Services for Disasters	Global Geodetic Reference Frame	Fundamental data themes	Land Admin & Management	Legal & Policy Issues	National Institutional Arrangements

Sixth Session of the Committee of Experts

- UN Headquarters in New York 1–5 August
- 300 delegates from 93 UN Member States, and 49 international organisations & observers
- 24 European UN Member states
- European Statistical and Geospatial Communities represented (Eurostat & EuroGeographics)
- 26 Side events during GGIM6 week
- UN-GGIM: Europe organised three side meetings



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
- Held five times over the past 12 months:
 - Work plan
 - Regional working groups,
 - Global agenda of Committee of Experts,
 - Strengthen the integration of geospatial information with statistics
 - Increase the cooperation with the wider geospatial community in Europe
- The Netherlands is responsible for the Secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe, EuroGeographics provides the secretariat service by agreement with them.



3rd Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

- 5th October 2016 in Budapest, Hungary
- 101 delegates, from 31 countries and 10 observer organisations
- Global progress of UN-GGIM, progress of regional working groups, good practice of cooperation between NMCAs & NSIs
- Approved new Observer Organisations, new Executive Committee Member and work plan for 2017 - 2020



Regional working groups

UN-GGIM: Europe has three regional working groups:

- Working A - Core Data
 - identified the 14 core data themes as the most frequently required by SDG use cases
- Working Group B – Data Integration
 - reported on how evidence based decision making can benefit from geospatial information in combination with other information at regional, national and sub-national levels, reflecting the UN and the European goals
- GRF-Europe
 - build a close connection to the geodesy-related organizations in Europe, and actively contribute to the work of the global GGRF Working Group



UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data

The Experts Committee mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a Global Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes.

- UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom acts as the steering group for WG Fundamental Data.
- The ExCom appointed the UK to lead UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data, UN-GGIM: Europe is the permanent secretariat to the Working Group.
- A working group established with 16 members from UN Member States and three from observer organisations, has drafted Terms of Reference
- Global consultations have been held at 3 international events, the UN-GGIM HLF in Addis Ababa, the GWF16 Conference in Rotterdam and GGIM6 in New York.
- An interim report on the progress submitted at GGIM6
- WG Fundamental Data aims to finalise its work within 18 months for presentation at GGIM7
- It is expected that the Working Group will produce a first draft of a Resolution on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes for the consideration of the Committee of Experts with the possibility of taking this to the General Assembly.



Partnerships, Regional and International Collaboration

- [2nd Joint UN-GGIM: Europe and ESS](#) meeting in March 2016 provided forum for feedback on how geospatial and statistical experts can provide support to SDGs indicators
- UN-GGIM: Europe actively participated in the [UN-GGIM Fourth High Level Forum](#) at UNECA's Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in April 2016.
- UN-GGIM: Europe accepted an invitation from UN-GGIM: Arab states to participate in their the [4th Regional Meeting Doha for 21-23 February, 2017](#).
- UN-GGIM: Europe has a continuous, engagement with the region's NSIs & NMCAs through active collaboration with EuroGeographics and Eurostat.



Publicity and Outreach: Activities 2016

- 64th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians, April, Paris, France
- Two UN-GGIM: Europe Workshops held at GWF 2016, May Rotterdam, the Netherlands
- 9th Regional Conference on Cadastre and Spatial Data Infrastructure, June, Opatija, Croatia
- ISPRS Congress, July, Prague, Czech Republic
- INSPIRE Conference, September, Barcelona Spain
- 1st Expert Group Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs Working Group on Geospatial Information, December, Mexico



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

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 GGIM: 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 Kjellson
Chair, UN-GGIM: Europe



3rd Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe



Priority Issues and Challenges

The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe will focus on the following priority issues for the coming period:

- The Sustainable Development Goals
- Improved collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities
- Global Fundamental Data Themes
- The continuation of the work of the Committee of Experts following the adoption of the resolution and UN-GGIM 2.0



Looking forward - Activities 2017

- 3rd Joint ESS-UN-GGIM: Europe Meeting, 31st March, Luxembourg
- Kunming Forum on UN-GGIM, 10 – 12 May Kunming, China
- 4th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe 7-8th June, Brussels
- UN-GGIM7, 31 July – 4 August, UNHQ, New York
- INSPIRE Conference, 4 – 8 September, Strasbourg/Kehl
- EFGS Conference, 2 – 3 November, Dublin
- UNECE Workshop on Statistical & Geospatial Standards, 6 – 8 November, Stockholm
- UN-GGIM High Level Forum, 28 - 30 Nov, Mexico



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



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