Meeting title: 2nd Joint Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS Date: 11th March 2016
Location: Luxembourg
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The 2nd Joint UN-GGIM: EUROPE – ESS Meeting on the integration of statistical and geospatial information was held in Luxembourg, at the Eurostat offices, building Bech on 11th March 2016. The meeting was chaired by Gunter Schäfer from Eurostat.

Agenda Item 1: Introduction and Adoption of Agenda

Gunter Schäfer from Eurostat introduced the meeting and welcomed the delegates, representatives from European National Statistical Institutions (NSIs), National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities (NMCAs), and various European geospatial and statistical organisations to the second joint meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe and ESS. He explained that given this is a joint meeting, and last year's inaugural was chaired by the Chair of Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe, it was felt appropriate that this second edition be chaired by Eurostat.

There were no objections to the draft agenda, which was adopted.

Item 2: Opening address

Marcel Jortay, Director at Eurostat, gave the opening address to the meeting. He expressed that Eurostat was happy to host this second joint meeting between UN-GGIM: Europe and ESS, and was of the opinion that this was now fixed in the events calendar of the European statistical and geospatial communities. Eurostat is pleased to support UN-GGIM: Europe, has been involved since the foundation of the regional entity and is committed to being more than just an observer. The first joint meeting UN-GGIM: Europe and ESS was very successful, bringing together in the same room statistical and geospatial experts from across Europe. The emerging topic, which will be further explored in the day's proceedings are SDGs and their indicators. Mr Jortay augured the participates a successful meeting.

Item 3: Key note from the Chair of UN-GGIM: Europe

Bengt Kjellson from Sweden and Chair of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe gave a keynote presentation. He gave an overview of the work that UN-GGIM and the regional entity have carried out and plan to achieve in the near future in bringing the statistical and geospatial communities together. He also emphasised the value that geospatial information coupled with statistical data can provide to the indicators of the sustainable development goals and address other global challenges. Better data can indeed make for better lives.

Item 4: Key note from Eurostat on SDG indicators

Fritz Gebhard, from Eurostat, followed with a keynote on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators. He provided an overview of the seventeen goals and 169 targets. He explained how there are different levels of SDG monitoring, at global, regional and national levels, and the need for harmonised data derived from various official and alternative data from all countries. This poses a huge challenge. Mr. Gebhard introduced the indicator framework for the SDG goals and targets for the global level proposed and presented by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) at the Statistical Commission 2016 earlier in the week. He explained how indicators help to simplify the complex reality. On the other hand indicators may oversimplify and hence have risks if users do not understood how they were constructed.

Item 5: Key note from Eurostat on Big Data

Albrecht Wirthmann gave the second keynote talk from Eurostat about Big Data. He spoke about 'datafication', how everything turns into data. He poses the question: what will be the impact of ubiquitous data collection and networking on official statistics? Are Big Data a threat to official statistics? Mr Wirthmann gives an overview of various initiatives, projects and pilots that feature Big Data that Eurostat is participating or cooperating in, where Big Data can be a source of information to NSIs. He continues his presentation by giving an example of how mobile phone data are used to for estimating population density by grid cell.

SESSION 1: Reports from UN-GGIM Working Groups A and B

This session was dedicated to presentations and updated from the two Working Groups of UN-GGIM: Europe, the presentations were made by the technical leads of the two working groups.

Item 6: Report and update from WG A

François Chirié, from France and technical chair of Working Group A on Core data gave an over view of the progress and current work of the group. He focused first on the methodology applied by the group in identifying and selecting the 13 core geospatial data themes for Europe. He then moved on to provide an over view of the next actions of the group which will include delivery of the core data scope report that will identify users, their needs and requirements for core data. This will be followed by then providing a description and technical specifications for the core data themes.

Item 7: Report and update from WG B

Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, from Germany and technical chair of Working Group B on Data Integration, followed with a presentation that focused on the deliverables of the group which are split into three sub-tasks. The first, definition of priority user needs, has been accomplished delivering a showcase of use cases and recommendations of how to better meet user needs in Europe. Mr Zaccheddu then moved on to explain the ambitions and plans of the remaining two sub-tasks of the group which are focussing on methods for implementing prioritised combinations of data and the management of 'side-effects' induced by data combinations. The work of the remaining sub-tasks has already started.

SESSION 2: The monitoring framework of the UN SDGs, opportunities for geospatial information

Item 8 The geospatial context for the SDGs and Indicators

Olav Eggers, from Denmark, gave the final presentation of the day which dealt with the geospatial context of the SDGs and indicators. He started by giving a brief overview of the work of the IAEG-SDG and how Denmark is leading a Task Team that is representing UN-GGIM, as an observer, to this group. The 47th UN Statistical Commission meeting, which Mr Eggers attended earlier in the week, was expected to endorse the proposed indicator list and the IAEG-SDG's plan in the coming days. He also explained that geospatial data is specifically mentioned in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and a side-event to the Statistical Commission meeting was organised to highlight how geospatial information and earth observation can support official statistics in the monitoring of the SDGs. At the event, which was well attended, a matrix and 'one pager' of which geospatial themes can support SDG indicators were presented. He further explained that geospatial data can contribute to

the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda at different levels: as data in themselves, to support statistical data, to further enrich statistical data, and finally for the geographical disaggregation of data.

Items 9 & 10 Afternoon breakout session

The breakout session was organised into five groups, each lead by two facilitators, the aim of the breakout sessions was to practically think of how geospatial information and other data sources can contribute to the indicator framework of the SDGs. The groups were provided with a matrix of a few selected indicators and INSIPRE themes together with the 'one pager' presented in the previous presentation of the same indicators. The practical work was to discuss how geospatial data can be used to monitor and measure the selected indicators by completing the material provided.

SESSION 3: Breakout sessions

Reports from the breakout session were reported by group, the main points from each are below:

Group 1: Understanding the indicators was not always easy, which raised the need to provide some kind of definitions or guidelines. There was a discussion around which geospatial data was the most suitable for the indicators. On the other hand some were not difficult to identify.

Group 2: Indicators are not always clear, and if not clear than cannot identify the data needed to measure them. There is a need to ensure that everyone interprets the indicators in the same way, especially if there is the need to compare. It is important to know what needs to be measured, though discussing the spatial data suitable for the indicators can help clarify some of the issues with indicators. Some basic geo concepts need to be defined in order to improve this understanding, for example: proximity, location, accessibility etc.

Group 3: Similar issues as those identified in Group 2. Not many in the group had much knowledge and experience of SDG indicators and it was felt that there was a need to refer to further information from the IAEG-SDGs material ('metadata' compilation) to understand what was required. The group focussed on one indicator from the global level, what geo-data is needed to calculate this indicator? The one pager was considered to be very complicated from a geospatial perspective, while there was some understanding of what was required in the group, they questioned whether this will also be understood outside the community. Sometimes data sources other than authoritative data can contribute to an indicator's calculation.

Group 4: This group felt that once the indicators are viewed from national perspectives there will be differences which can impact on the global level. When completing the matrix 'statistical units' always selected as a necessary geospatial dataset. Going through the spreadsheet (matrix), opened up questions pertaining to each geo-theme and indicator: what information is required, how to calculate? The matrix was found to be a useful tool to open discussions, but not necessarily to close them.

Group 5: The group focused on one indicator (transport), and some issues came out such as are there obstructions, distance versus time travelled. Also at which level should the indicator be computed? Is there a common understanding of the terminology? How available are the data necessary for measuring the indicators?

Item 12: Closing remarks

Bengt Kjellson thanked the participants for the contribution, and their participation in the afternoon's breakout sessions. There might have been more questions asked that answered, but it was a useful contribution to the understanding of how geospatial data can contribute to the SDGs. It also demonstrated that the two communities can work together and provide input to the UN-GGIM Task Team that is led by Denmark and contribute to the global agenda. The topic of SDG indicators and geospatial information is a topic that will continue to be on the agenda in the near future. Mr Kjellson said that he looked forward to the 3rd edition of this meeting in 2017.

Gunter Schäfer closed the meeting by expressing his satisfaction at the fact that the meeting moved away from theory towards a more practical approach, demonstrating the impact of the integration of statistical and geospatial information on something tangible: the SDG indicators. He thanked the delegates for attending and participating in the meeting and iterated the wish of repeating the meeting next year saying that it is now a tradition.

The meeting was closed.