



## 2019 – 2022 Work Plan

### Introduction

UN-GGIM is working at global and regional levels to improve the management of geospatial information and its integration with other domains of information, in particular statistics, to support the UN Development Goals.

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to ensure that the National Mapping And Cadastral Authorities (NMCAs) and National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) 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.

At the inaugural plenary session of UN-GGIM: Europe in 2014 an initial work plan was adopted and successfully implemented. This work plan has been further extended and updated in the subsequent Plenary Meetings of the Regional Committee; the current document describes how the work of UN-GGIM: Europe will continue in line with the original work plan, building on the outputs of the past five years' work while taking into account the global developments in geospatial community and the work of UN-GGIM. This work plan is a rolling document and continues from the plan presented to and approved by the Regional Committee at its last Plenary Meeting, in June 2018.

It is important to recall that within Europe there already exists a body of legislation, well-functioning organisations, and a number of ongoing projects and initiatives addressing issues of geo-information management. The ambition from the outset, and the ongoing intention, of UN-GGIM: Europe is to:

- avoid duplication of efforts as stated in the description of purpose and activities in Article 2 of the statutes of UN-GGIM: Europe;
- improve the joint response to user needs and requirements;
- encourage geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing; and
- optimise the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.

The Work Plan 2019 - 2022 is to a certain extent focused on technical, economic and legal issues of the region, while taking into consideration global developments and challenges. There is also a need to take into account political considerations; it is suggested that these be assigned to the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe as part of their agenda.

The Executive Committee continues to invite all expert representatives of European UN Member States, as well as observers from the wider geospatial community, to participate in the regional working groups according to their preference. Favouring a bottom-up approach, representatives of Member States in UN-GGIM: Europe are encouraged to participate on behalf of all their national stakeholders by collecting and synthesizing national user needs and collating feedback on the results of UN-GGIM: Europe from their national stakeholders and reporting these to the Executive Committee via the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe.

The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe has engaged with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), developing a collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE. The main focus of the agreement is on capacity building. The Executive Committee is suggesting that together with UNECE it continues to manage and develop this collaboration.

The 2030 Agenda for sustainable Development, adopted in September 2015, includes the need to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including Earth observations and geospatial information to support its implementation. The United Nations Statistical Commission created an Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators sub-Working Group on Geospatial Information. This Working Group will address the need for the integration of geospatial information and statistical data, which is critical to a number of the indicators in the 2030 Agenda.

A key deliverable for UN-GGIM resulting from a collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank is the development of an overarching geospatial information framework for countries to reference when developing and strengthening their national and sub-national spatial data infrastructures. The Committee of Experts adopted Part 1 of the Overarching Strategic Framework at its last annual session in August 2018. The



Committee is now directing work to develop Part 2 an Implementation Guide to help direct the practical application of this framework. It is envisaged that the framework which will provide various benefits will bring together and encompass together a number of the separate agenda items the Committee has been working on these past nine years.

## Work Plan 2019 - 2022

The Regional Work Plan is annually updated to reflect the global developments and work of the Committee of Experts, together with additions agreed upon by the Member States of UN-GGIM: Europe at their last Plenary Meeting. It also takes into consideration the fact that the Regional Working Groups are delivering and completing the work they tasked with.

The following sections define deliverables and milestones for the years 2019-2022. The deliverables will be provided by the Working Groups and the Secretariat to the Executive Committee. Once approved, they will be forwarded to the relevant decision makers in the Member States for possible actions, if deemed appropriate.

### Working Group on Core Data (Work Group A)

This Working Group is focusing on increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs. The group has delivered on its task to identify the users and their needs and requirements for core data. The group is now focusing on proposing recommendations of content of the core data themes through an extensive consultations with the wider geospatial community.

#### Recommendations of content of core data (2020):

- provide recommendations for content for core data, based on user needs and requirements, especially those related to SDGs, and on INSPIRE data specifications, making use of the outcomes and specifications of other initiatives, such as the European Location Services project, and carrying out an extended consultation with the geo-statistical community.

In its initial plan the Working Group on Core Data was also to consider production, distribution, and funding issues of core data. In view of existing resource constraints and in order to maximise efforts dedicated to finalising the work currently in hand by the group it is being suggested that the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe review the tasks, outputs and timeframes required to report on economic model, political and financial frameworks for supporting core data availability. The Regional Committee will base this assessment following the outcomes and deliverables of both the Working Group on Core Data and the Working Group on Data Integration. This review will ensure that effort and resources are not duplicated and that deliverables remain relevant to UN-GGIM: Europe.

In order to help this review, Working Group Core Data will provide a document about promoting core data implementation (state-of-play, vision, action proposals).

### Working Group on Data Integration

The mandate of the Working Group on Data Integration is to ensure that the regional entity focuses on how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in Europe. The working group was also set up with the intention that it will interact with the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) Working Group on Geospatial Information. The European working group works closely with the European Member States which have been nominated as experts to the IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information.

The work plan approved by the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe at its last Plenary Meeting outlined the following tasks for the Working Group for 2017 – 2020:

- **Supportive tasks:** As a European contribution to the global process on developing a framework for monitoring UN SDG indicators, UN-GGIM: Europe will through the Working Group on Data Integration, ensure a two-way interaction with the IAEG-SDG WG GI.
  - Develop geospatial methodologies and approaches on monitoring, based on the specifications on indicators from the IAEG-SDG WG, making these available to the European authorities.



- **Specific tasks:** In addition
  - Develop practical examples (best practice) on specific national implementations on how Geospatial Information can support achieving SDG indicators and where the need shows to measure, monitor and mitigate challenges;
  - Suggest links between communities: demographic, statistical and environmental data together with the Geospatial Location – ranging from the conceptual level to specific indicators.

In order to organise the work and implement the tasks agreed and mandated to the Working Group on Data Integration two specific tasks were defined by the Working Group in agreement with the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe.

1. **Draft an outreach paper** to be prepared for GGIM8 on data integration topics and make use of the findings/recommendations of the deliverables and outputs already produced by the Working Group B.
2. **Analyse global, regional or national indicators** reflecting the European perspective reflecting “data integration” aspects and cross-cutting issues.

Both tasks have been completed as scheduled.

The Executive Committee for UN-GGIM: Europe believes that this Working Group has formed a network of interested members from both National Mapping Agencies and National Statistical Institutions. In the past years the Group has successfully explored the challenges and benefits of how the integration of statistical and geospatial and other information can meet and satisfy user needs and requirements. The logical next step is to increase the scope of data integration beyond just geospatial and statistical, and to also include earth observations, environmental data and other themes. And in addition, investigate how these can continue to address the 2030 Agenda challenges we all face, nationally, regionally and globally.

As a result, the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee is recommending that the Working Group Data Integration carry out the following tasks in the next 2 – 3 years:

- **Primary Tasks:**
  - Analysing further SDG indicators – focusing on Earth Observation, and can include as part of a sub-task ‘Requirements and practices from National Statistical Offices for the use of earth observation data for national statistics’
  - Advisory Group for global and European data integration issues
  - Analysis of (future) trends in data capture, creation, maintenance and management – using Linked (Open) Data methods to enhance data integration
- **Secondary Task:**
  - Consider options of how the Regional Committee can support Post-Census 2020 activities and use synergies with UNECE/WG Data Integration to explore ways of how to manage data integration post Census 2020.

### Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frame in Europe (GRF-Europe)

The Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frames in Europe Sub-Committee on Geodesy (SCoG)

The Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frames in Europe is evaluating its role, tasks and relations to other entities. Development on the global level has been active, and this sets new demands on the regional level. Europe is more developed in terms of geodetic infrastructures and geodetic Core Sites than most of the other global regions. This, together with the establishment of the Sub-Committee on Geodesy (SCoG), has had a bearing on the tasks GRF- Europe group agreed by UN-GGIM: Europe at its Fourth Plenary in June 2017. For this reason, the Executive Committee and the Working group are considering ways in which to combine tasks to avoid duplication and overlap of the GRF- Europe Group and existing geodesy-related initiatives and entities in Europe. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe is suggesting that it is allowed to further explore how this can best be implemented in practice.

While the objectives, tasks and structure of GRF-Europe were summarised at the last meeting held in April 2019, contents and details are to be further clarified. The Executive Committee is proposing that the WG GRF-Europe focus on the following task for the next two years:



1. Support European countries to respond to the General Assembly Resolution on A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development and implementation of the Roadmap
2. Develop promotion and outreach programmes to make the geodetic reference frames (coordinates, height, gravity) more visible and understandable to the society, support open-data policy and foster the usage of geodetic products in geo-referencing tasks
3. Support and foster geodetic capacity building within Europe when improving and maintaining appropriate national geodetic infrastructure
4. Clarify relationship between the SCoG, European expert organizations (e.g. EUREF), and UN GGIM: Europe

### **Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes (WG Fundamental Data)**

At its Fifth Session the Experts Committee mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a Global Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes ((WG Fundamental Data). Following which in October 2015 the Regional Committee agreed that the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe will act as the steering group for WG Fundamental Data. The overall objective of this Global Working Group is to bring together different information on fundamental geospatial data themes with a view to developing an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes. The Executive Committee appointed the United Kingdom to lead WG Fundamental Data, UN-GGIM: Europe acts as the permanent secretariat to the Working Group.

Following a process of global consultation that included all the five UN-GGIM Regional Committees, UN-GGIM Working Groups and Expert Groups, the WG Fundamental Data developed and produced a minimum list of 14 global fundamental geospatial data themes which were adopted by the Committee of Experts at its eight session in August 2018. The themes have since been embraced by the wider global UN-GGIM community through their alignment with the various activities of the Committee, including the integrated geospatial information framework and global statistical geospatial framework.

The WG Fundamental Data has therefore completed its current terms of reference and the Executive Committee will be seeking guidance on the Working Group's future at the next meeting of the Committee of Experts in August 2019.

### **Tasks for the Secretariat**

In addition to the duties described in Article 6 of the Articles and Rules of UN-GGIM: Europe, the Secretariat will continue its work on the following tasks:

#### **1. Cooperation with UN-GGIM Secretariat, other Regional Committees and the wider geospatial community (On-going):**

- a) Assist the Executive Committee in establishing contact and maintaining cooperation with UN-GGIM and its regional organisations;
- b) Assist in raising general awareness of UN-GGIM: Europe amongst relevant European organisations;

#### **2. Compile and maintain knowledge base of the European NMCAs and NSIs (On-going):**

- a) Compile, publish and maintain the knowledge base of the European NMCAs and NSIs. Additional components to the database could include responsibilities, policies, regulatory frameworks and business environments, including the data and licensing policies applied by NMCAs and NSIs;

#### **3. Support the Executive Committee in its relationship with Observer Organisations (On-going)**

- a) Liaise between the Executive Committee and with the different Organisations that have observer status with UN-GGIM: Europe;
- b) Assist in discovering means by which the Observer Organisations can contribute to the work of UN-GGIM: Europe.

### **Action Proposal**

The Executive Committee proposes that it be given the mandate to implement this Work Plan and to decide on how best to coordinate the regional work on the different topic areas.