



## WORKING GROUP ON CORE DATA (Working Group A) REPORT TO UN-GGIM: EUROPE Seventh Plenary Meeting 22-23 JUNE 2020

### Working Group on Core Data - Context and Objectives

Core Data has been defined by Working Group A (WG A) as the geospatial data that are the most useful, either directly or indirectly, to analyse, to achieve and to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

INSPIRE constitutes an important foundation for the interoperability and harmonisation of geospatial data in Europe. Although INSPIRE aims to harmonise existing data through common data models which supply a first level of interoperability, INSPIRE data are still heterogeneous between Member States, therefore there remains a need to further interoperability and harmonisation. This is why Core Data aims to complement INSPIRE by ensuring common (minimum) content for supporting SDGs.

The current WG A Work Plan includes the work package about Recommendations for Content for the 14 selected core themes.

### State-of-Play of the Working Group on core data themes

In 2016, WG A determined the scope of core data by selecting a list of fourteen priority INSPIRE data themes<sup>1</sup>:

- INSPIRE Annex I: *Geographical Names, Administrative Units, Addresses, Cadastral Parcels, Transport Networks, Hydrography*;
- INSPIRE Annex II: *Elevation, Land Cover, Ortho-Image*;
- INSPIRE Annex III: *Statistical Units, Buildings, Land Use, Basic Services, Regulated or Managed Zones*.

By mid-2019, recommendations for content of the twelve core themes in italics above were well-advanced (main technical decisions are available in the 2018 and 2019 reports).

The methodology of WG A implies submitting draft recommendations for content to the European geo-statistical community. Such review takes time but enables to improve the quality of the recommendations, and as well to foster their future implementation by raising stakeholders' awareness and by involving them in the decision process of establishing recommendations.

Since the last plenary meeting, for themes 'Administrative Units', 'Statistical Units' and 'Addresses', comments from the review by the European geo-statistical communities have been taken into account and deliverables are almost ready for final publication.

For themes 'Orthoimage', 'Regulated or Managed Zones', 'Transport Networks', 'Elevation', a consolidated version of the deliverable has been submitted to the review of the geostatistical community.<sup>1</sup>

Over the past year, WG A has worked out a draft version of the Recommendations for Content for core theme: 'Hydrography'. After a first phase of internal consolidation within WG A, this draft has been submitted to review by the geo-statistical community. The deadline scheduled for the end of March has been postponed due to the health situation.

Since March, main focus has been put on the two remaining themes. Due to very different practices regarding themes 'Land Cover' and 'Land Use', finding common minimum content turned out to be more difficult; this is why for these two themes there is just an initial draft produced.

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<sup>1</sup> Cf. Working Group A deliverables and drafts at: <https://un-ggim-europe.org/working-groups/working-group-core-data/>



Below the main envisaged (technical) recommendations for these two core themes are presented.

- General trend is the production of 'Land Cover' data at large scale, this detailed data being required by a wide range of national policies supporting the SDGs; as there are various practices having all their advantages and drawbacks, WG A recommendations are limited to a few common characteristics, such as the need of data forming territory partition. In addition, there are strong requirements for agricultural data, mainly (at least) yearly crop type maps. Regarding data at smaller scale, Corine Land Cover (CLC) has been in use for years, several versions are available since the nineties, making possible to monitor land cover evolutions across time; this is why the longevity of CLC should be ensured.
- 'Land Use' theme includes in fact two sub-themes: existing and planned land use. For Existing Land Use, the trend to produce large scale data forming a partition of national territory should be encouraged (as for 'Land Cover'). For Planned Land Use, the main point is to make available in relevant digital data format the existing spatial planning documents; the recommendations are very similar to those of theme 'Regulated or Managed Zones'.

#### **A new deliverable: “Promoting Core Data Implementation”**

Initially WG-A was created to lead to the production of minimum common core data in Europe, with the idea that the data producers, especially the NMCAs, would commit to produce these core data.

In this respect, three areas of work had been settled on:

1. selecting the core themes,
2. specifying the core themes (which became the Recommendations of Content),
3. analysing the financial, legal, and political aspects (aiming an effective implementation).

The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe decided to remove the third area out of WG-A's assignment, for the following reasons: to lighten WG A's workload and to take into account the fact that the group did not necessarily have the necessary resources and expertise.

The main objective of these guidelines for core data implementation is to be a handover from WG-A to the Executive Committee by presenting a state-of-play of what has been done by the working group to encourage the implementation of core data and by proposing avenues, ideas and recommendations for future action. Until now, this document is available only as Table of Content (Appendix A).

This document could give the Executive Committee the possibility to organise the next step. It should be a relevant medium to make recommendations to decision-makers for this implementation, in the strategic, organisational, and technical fields.

#### **Other WG A actions**

WG A has carried out communication actions by presenting its outcomes to the European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS) in November 2019 and the Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in March 2020.

Such events are also opportunities together with other actions (review of documents, participation to meetings and teleconferences) to foster coordination actions between WG A, the geo-statistical community, WG B, and the working group on global fundamental data.

WG A has contributed to the discussions and review about the UN-GGIM document “Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management”.



## Appendix A

### Proposed table of Contents of the Document

#### Promoting core data implementation

#### Working Group Core Data - Deliverable of Task 1.c

#### Version 0.1

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