



## UN-GGIM: EUROPE – Secretariat

### Report to Seventh Virtual Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

#### Introduction

UN-GGIM: Europe consists of national representatives of European UN Member States, concerned with the management of geospatial, statistical and other information falling within the scope of UN-GGIM activities. In the management of activities the European UN Member States are represented by the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Executive Committee is supported by a Secretariat. According to the Articles and Rules the responsibility for providing the secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe is granted to a member of the regional entity by agreement of the Member States at a plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Netherlands, represented by Kadaster, takes responsibility for the Secretariat, the function of which is funded and executed by EuroGeographics AISBL, the European Association of National mapping, cadastral and land registries, through a Service Level Agreement originally signed in January 2015, and which was extended in October 2018 for a further period of two years.

The role and responsibilities of the Secretariat are defined in the approved articles of UN-GGIM: Europe as well as the work plans approved at the annual plenary meetings of the regional committee.

#### Overview of work

In accordance with its tasks and responsibilities, EuroGeographics, on behalf of the Secretariat, has carried out the tasks listed below in the 12 months since the Sixth Plenary Meeting held in in June 2019.

- Support the effective and smooth operation of UN-GGIM: Europe:
  - arranged and acted as secretary to the Executive Committee at their regular meetings - six meetings were held in the past 12 months;
  - maintained and updated the UN-GGIM: Europe website<sup>1</sup>, providing a modern interface for the Regional Committee's website on a secure platform;
  - undertook and managed communication about the activities of UN-GGIM: Europe through news items, direct emails and via a Twitter account <sup>2</sup> which continued to grow in the past year to now number 1400 followers;
  - liaised with the Executive Committee, the Regional Working Groups to communicate the working groups' messages to members and facilitate their work;
  - provided support to UN-GGIM: Europe members in their participation at the annual session of the Committee of Experts in August 2019: this included drafting reports on the work of UN-GGIM: Europe and progress report on the work carried out by the UN-GGIM: WG Fundamental Data, preparing various side-meetings for the regional committee and providing a region wide perspective to the activities and work items on the Committee's agenda;
  - forwarded communications and outputs from the UN-GGIM Secretariat and Committee of Experts to the Regional Members and relevant stakeholders;
  - worked in collaboration with UNECE to organise and arranged the UN-GGIM: Europe Seventh Plenary Meeting, which due to the COVID-19 pandemic had to be organised as a virtual event.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://un-ggim-europe.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://twitter.com/UNGGIMEurope>



- Assist the Executive Committee in establishing and maintaining cooperation with UN-GGIM and its regional entities:
  - maintained regular contact and liaison with UN-GGIM Secretariat through emails, and regular Skype calls to facilitate work at the regional and global levels;
  - participated in the Expanded Bureau meetings;
  - started the preparations for reporting on the progress and work of UN-GGIM: Europe to the annual session of the Committee of Experts in August 2020;
  - liaised with UNECE to establish, maintain and increase the collaboration between the UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE

aAt the request of the UN-GGIM Secretariat provided support and active participation at the Third International Workshop on Operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, Minsk, Belarus in November 2019.
  
- Support general awareness of UN-GGIM: Europe amongst relevant European organisations:
  - communicated with various UN-GGIM: Europe observer organisations throughout the course of the year;
  - communicated with a number of organisations which approached UN-GGIM: Europe for its participation and input in different events; prepared a number of presentations for various events promoting UN-GGIM: Europe;
  - organised and ran a joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS- UNECE<sup>3</sup> meeting in the March 2020 together with Eurostat and UNECE, an annual event that brings together experts from European mapping and statistical organisations, which this year was organised as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 crisis;
  - collaborated with UNECE to organise a workshop on digitally enabled development for a sustainable future in Eastern Europe, Vrdnik , Serbia in September 2019. The event was jointly organised together with Serbian Republic Geodetic Authority, the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre, the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO);
  - actively participated and represented UN-GGIM: Europe at various regional events including the European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference in October 2019, and the 135th Board of Delegates EuroSDR in November 2019.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/other-meetings/6th-joint-un-ggim-europe-ess-unece-meeting-march-2020/>