



2020 – 2023 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 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 2019.

It is important to recall that within Europe there already exists a body of legislation, well-functioning organisations, a number of ongoing projects and initiatives and more recently a vision and strategy for a society empowered by data to make better decisions, all of which address issues of geospatial 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 2020 – 2023 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. This agreement is due to expire at the end of 2020, the Executive Committee is suggesting that together with UNECE it continues to manage and develop this collaboration by reviewing and renewing this collaboration beyond 2020.

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 Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) which is intended to provide a basis and guide for



developing, integrating, strengthening and maximising geospatial information management and related resources in all countries. The broader work of the Committee of Experts is being aligned with the IGIF, and Member States are being encouraged to develop Country-level Action Plans.

Work Plan 2020 - 2023

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 tasks and outputs for the years 2020-2023. 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

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 resource constraints and in order to maximise efforts dedicated to finalising the work currently in hand by the group it was agreed 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.

Originally the Regional Committee intended to base this assessment on the outcomes and deliverables of both the Working Group on Core Data and the Working Group on Data Integration. In the interim the Implementation Guide of the IGIF was being developed, any review of future tasks needs to be aligned with the IGIF. This review will ensure that effort and resources are not duplicated and that deliverables remain relevant to UN-GGIM: Europe within the context of the work of the Committee of Experts.

In order to help this review, Working Group Core Data is preparing 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 Working Group on Data Integration has delivered all of the tasks outlined in the previous work plans, and at the Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, a new set of tasks were outlined for the Working Group for the period 2019 – 2022. These tasks build on the network of interested members from both National Mapping Agencies and National Statistical Institutions forged in the delivery of previous tasks set to the Working Group on Data Integration. 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 was 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.

The work plan for the Working Group Data Integration agreed and adopted at the Sixth Plenary comprised the tasks outlined below for 2019 - 2022:

- **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.

The Working Group on Data Integration is on track in delivering on these tasks.

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

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 and on-going work 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 taking into consideration the progress of the work plan and roadmap of the SCoG.

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.