

UN-GGIM: Europe Update



**UN-GGIM
EUROPE**

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Carol Agius, UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat

Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS - UNECE Meeting

24 March 2021



Annual Regional Session



- Held the Seventh UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary June 2020 overlapping with the 68th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians as a virtual event with participation from 34 Member states and 11 International Originations
 - Approved the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2020 – 2023
 - Confirmed nominations to the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee
- Session included practical examples of how National Statistical and Geospatial Agencies have risen and responded in their national response to the Covid-19 crisis. The pandemic has reinforced the importance of connecting people and place.

<https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/plenary-meetings/seventh-plenary-un-ggim-europe-june-2020/>



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Governance of UN-GGIM: Europe

- UN-GGIM: Europe is coordinated and managed by an Executive Committee approved at Regional Plenary Meetings
- The current Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe:

Chair

- Tomaz Petek, Slovenia

Vice-Chairs

- Francisco Vala, Portugal
- David Henderson, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Members

- Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Belgium
- Paul Becker, Germany
- Frank Tierolff, Netherlands
- Janusz Dygaszewicz, Poland
- Susanne Ås Sivborg, Sweden

- The Netherlands is responsible for providing the secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe. The function of the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe is funded and executed by EuroGeographics AISBL through a Service Level Agreement with Kadaster Netherlands which has been renewed for another two years until the end of 2022.



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Seventh UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary Conclusions

- Continue to strengthen the regional collaboration of the geospatial and statistical communities
- Enhance capacity development opportunities in cooperation with our regional partners and Member States
- Continue to implement and progress the regional work plan
- Renew the collaboration agreement with UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE beyond 2020
- Recognise that the virtual platform has enabled wider participation in the regional event, strive to find a future balance in the future
- Encourage the regional support to the global programme of UN-GGIM, especially the IGIF and the GGCE



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UN-GGIM: Europe – Work plan



- [Working Group on Core Data](#) is focusing on increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs
 - 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.
- [Working Group Data Integration](#) works to ensure that the regional entity focuses on how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in Europe.
 - 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

[UN-GGIM: Europe work plan 2020 - 2023](#)



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2020 GEO SDG Award

- UN-GGIM: Europe received a 2020 GEO SDG Award as part of the Earth Observations for Sustainable Development Goals (EO4SDG) Initiative.
- The award was in recognition of the efforts of the Regional Working Group on Data Integration to analyse the contribution of geospatial data and its integration with statistical data to calculate SDG indicators 11.3.1 (land use efficiency), 15.1.1 (forest area), and 15.3.1 (land degradation).

 **Group on Earth Observations (GEO)** @GEOSEC2025 · Nov 4, 2020

Congratulations to @UNGGIMEurope for receiving the 2020  #GEOAwards  in the "GEO Observers" category for using #EO data to move forward #SDG indicators for land use efficiency, forest area & land degradation. #SDG11 #SDG15 #GEOWeek2020 #EO4SDG @EO4SDG



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Collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE

- The collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE concluded at the end of 2020, collaboration has been successful, producing tangible results.
- The focus of the collaboration agreement is capacity development, areas of collaboration include data integration, earth observations for sustainable development and European Statistical Systems post 2024.
- In December the collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE was renewed for a further two years until the end of 2022.



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Strategic areas for future collaboration

UN-GGIM: Europe and the UNECE Secretariat have identified the following strategic areas as priorities for future collaboration, which are in line with the latest directions of work from the UN-GGIM Committee at global level:

- Geospatial information for Sustainable Development
- Building networks and promoting communication
- Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information, including capacity development
- Involvement of other UNECE work programmes



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Other Regional Events

UN-GGIM: Europe plans to participate actively in the following future events:

- European Space Agency workshop “[Space Powering the Green Deal and Digital Innovation](#)”, March
- [Joint Cadastre and Land Registry KEN and PCC workshop](#), June, Webinar
- [EuroGeographics General Assembly](#), October
- [European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference](#), October event
- 11th Iberian Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference, October



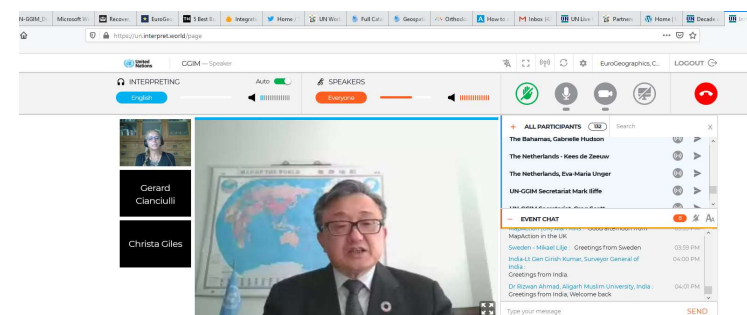
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Tenth session of UN-GGIM

- Virtual session organised at three two-hour sessions on the 26 – 27 August and the 4 September, with about 400-500 participants
- Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium), elected co-chair of UN-GGIM
- All agenda items on the agenda were brought before the Committee of Experts, the majority for noting and information, a few were also for decision
- UN-GGIM to report to ECOSOC in 2021



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Some highlights from GGIM10 decisions

- **Decision 10/101. Strengthening of geospatial information management**
 - adopted the third edition of the report on Future Trends in Geospatial Information Management: the five to ten-year vision, highlights the importance of geospatial information, reflecting a wide set of emerging and developing trends
- **Decision 10/103. Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**
 - Adopted the Implementation Guide of the IGIF, subject to further refinement and its finalisation
 - Endorsed the establishment of a dedicated high-level group of experts, with a balance of geographic representation and expertise, as a mechanism to provide the strategic leadership, coordination and oversight so that its success is sustained, and to mobilize needed resources to maintain the momentum and refinement of the IGIF as a continuously evolving process
- **Decision 10/104. Global geodetic reference frame**
 - Welcomed and supported the offer from the Federal Republic of Germany to establish and host a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence at the United Nations Campus in Bonn, Germany, as the first Centre of an envisioned federated approach to enhance global cooperation and coordination across Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders,

http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/UN-GGIM_Tenth_Session_Informal_Paper_containing_draft_decisions_4Sept2020.pdf



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Future Events

- Eleventh Session of UN-GGIM, 2 – 6 August 2021
- INSPIRE Conference, Dubrovnik Croatia, 7 – 9 September 2021
- EFGS 2021 – 7 Sept 2021 (*provisional dates*)
- Eight Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe has been shifted to later in the year from June to October. The tentative plan is to hold the meeting as a physical event in Brussels on the 13-14 October 2021



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- Significant achievements over the past twelve months include:
 - Organizing the Seventh Plenary UN-GGIM: Europe overlapping with the 68th Plenary Session of the Conference of European Statisticians as a virtual event
 - the various regional activities, including on raising awareness and operationalizing the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
 - the publication for a call for political action in Europe stressing the value of the integration of statistical and geospatial information
- For the coming year the regional committee will focus on:
 - implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in European Member States
 - Implementing the regional Work Plan 2020 – 2023
 - supporting the establishment of a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn Germany
 - renewing the collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM Europe and UN Economic Commission for Europe beyond 2020



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Thank you for
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