Report from the European Forum for Geography and Statistics

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UN-GGIM: EUROPE-ESS-UNECE VIRTUAL MEETING ON THE INTEGRATION OF STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION
24 MARCH 2021
The EFGS

• The longest running network of geostatistics experts with a deep history going back to 1998.

• Initially, it was based mainly on staff from European National Statistical Institutes.

• It works in cooperation with Eurostat (for GEOSTAT projects under the Eurostat umbrella).

• Nowadays it brings together more and more experts from mapping agencies, researchers and scientists.

• It is based on voluntary commitment and effectively implements the integration of the statistical and geographical communities in practice.
EFGS ACHIEVEMENTS

• Creation of model for a **point-based geocoding infrastructure for statistics** as the base for the collection and dissemination of statistical data. (GEOSTAT 2 project);

• **Recommendations** on the improvement of the **GSBPM** to make it more adequate from the point of view of **geospatially related statistical production processes** (GEOSTAT 2 project);

• **GSGF Europe - Implementation guide for the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework in Europe** (Proposal from the GEOSTAT 3 project);

• Preparation of the **Handbook of Spatial Analysis** to promote, develop and consolidate the use of specific statistical methods for geospatial analysis;

• Population distribution in 1 km² **grid** for Europe.
Population Density Grid, 2015: Global


Gridded Population of the World, Version 4 (GPWv4) Population Density consists of estimates of human population density based on counts consistent with national censuses and population registers, for the years 2000, 2005, 2010, 2015, and 2020. A proportional allocation gridding algorithm, utilizing approximately 1.25 million national and sub-national administrative units, is used to assign population values to 30 arc-second (~1 km) grid cells. The population density grids are derived by dividing the population count grids by the land area grids. The pixel values represent persons per square kilometer.


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EFGS WORK PROGRAMME

• Development of the **best practices** in the production of geostatistics in Europe;

• Development of **partnership** between **NSIs** and **NMCAs** on equal terms;

• A **fully geocoded 2021** population and housing **census**;

• Completion of the **GSGF Europe** and support its implementation in the organisations (ongoing GEOSTAT 4 project);

• Organizing annual **EFGS conferences** strengthening the importance of statistical and geospatial integration and cross-domain collaboration.
EFGS CHALLENGES

• Supporting Eurostat and NSIs for a **fully geocoded 2021** population and housing **census**;

• Works on cooperation and common approach to linking statistical data with geospatial information with **UN-GGIM: Europe, UNECE** and **Eurogeographics**;

• Statistical-geospatial information system for sustainable development;

• Finalise the methodological work on the **GSGF for Europe** and encourage Member States to implement the framework;

• Harmonization a statistical reference system with a geodetic reference system on the base of „**The 10 Level Model**” and **Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF)**;

• **New** data sources and tools.
EFGS 2020 WEBINAR

• 20-21 October 2020;
• The Webinar was organized by Statistics Poland with the support of EFGS, Eurostat and Head Office of Geodesy and Cartography in Poland;
• The long-established partnership between the statistical and mapping community;
• A good example of collaboration between statistical and mapping institutions;
• The unique and productive objectives of the EFGS were reminded as statisticians and geospatial experts come together from NSIs and NMCAs on equal terms.
• The Webinar gathered more than 300 participants from almost 60 countries around the world.
During the event five sections of the GSGF principles were explored.

Opportunity to share experience and knowledge on integration of geography and statistics in the context of implementation of GSGF, depending on development and possibilities in different countries.

Some national experiences highlighted how current implementation guidance has been applied within the European Statistical System (ESS), but also identified some gaps within this guidance.

Accomplishment of building a European address database, shown by Eurostat, is a very good beginning of the collection and standardization of addresses for European countries.
The COVID pandemic has given us a greater appreciation for the potential of data integration and the need, relevance and power of data dashboards.

Importance of cross-domain collaboration.

All abstracts, presentations and recordings are published on https://www.efgs.info/efgs-2020-webinar/
EFGS 2021 CONFERENCE

The next conference will be organized by Germany (Destatis)

7-8 September 2021
In form of on-line conference

Motto:
"Unlocking value from data"

I warmly encourage you to participate!

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After my 3 terms (6 years) I have decided to end my activity as EFGS President and hand over the reins of our forum to good hands, but...

I have been asked to one more year of my interim leadership during a period of transition for our organization.
1. Representative role – “face” of the Forum - together with the Steering Committee:
   a) Ensure high level representation of EFGS;
   b) Present EFGS activities - goals and achievements;
   c) Promote EFGS – popularize and encourage the community to support and get involved in EFGS activities;
   d) Build good relationship and cooperation with representatives for public statistical communities and mapping agencies.

2. With support from the Steering Committee (SC), the president can rely on members designated to operational roles (e.g. EFGS secretary incl. other roles hopefully to be defined within the Geostat4 project).
EFGS MANAGEMENT
FUTURE VISION

EFGS next President

3. A person committed to drive the forum by delegating mandates among its SC members and if needed to other community members, suitable and qualified for the tasks.

4. Dedicated SC members will be active in coordination of activities, provide promotion material as well as support in communication with various geospatial/statistical communities.

5. Election period - two-year term of office from March to March, nominated and elected at EFGS annual General Assembly.

6. All questions regarding EFGS Presidency should be send by email to EFGS Secretary Marina Backer Skar backerskaar@mdmapping.se
Thank you for your attention and welcome to the discussion

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