



European Geodesy Forum

Towards a sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame: European Contribution

Tuesday, 23 June 2021
10:00 a.m. – 11:30. (CEST)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF) is the foundation for all geospatial information and plays a fundamental role in Member States reaching the targets of the sustainable development goals and in our everyday lives. Accurately georeferenced spatial information is vital for policy development as it informs everything from urban planning to emergency service response. Importantly, the GGRF underpins land management which is fundamental for economic growth. It is also a key enabler of spatial data interoperability supporting disaster mitigation. The GGRF supports environmental monitoring and improving our understanding of the Earth and climate change. It provides valuable information to policy makers who strive for more sustainable development.

The main geodetic products that are critical to Earth science and operational geodesy applications are produced by the Services of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG). These products are based on a geodetic infrastructure owned and operated by national mapping agencies, space agencies, universities, and research institutions. No long-term contractual commitments exist for continued operation and maintenance of this infrastructure and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the infrastructure owners to raise funds to develop and sustain it.

In 2013, the UN-GGIM – United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, where the top management of many geodetic infrastructure owners took part, became aware of this and other challenges related to the GGRF. This resulted in the adoption of a UN General Assembly resolution on "A global geodetic reference frames for sustainable development" in 2015. This resolution called for improved cooperation by all UN Member States to (1) Sustain and improve the accuracy of the GGRF, by sharing data and improving and sustaining the geodetic infrastructure for the long term; (2) Ensure accurate access to the GGRF by all nations, in particular via GNSS technology.

The UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) is working towards developing an inter-governmental mechanism suitable for the long-term sustainability of the GGRF. Based on work of the SCoG, The United Nations Member States in August 2019 strongly supported the concept of creating a Global Geodetic Center of Excellence (GGCE) under the auspices of the United Nations

European Geodesy Forum

The European members of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, together with UN-GGIM: Europe convene a European Geodesy Forum on June 23, 2021, at 10:00 AM (CEST), with the title: **Towards a sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame: European Contribution.**



The virtual forum is open to all to attend and will focus on two main documents prepared by the SCoG:

- Position Paper on Sustaining the Global Geodetic Reference Frame
- Concept Paper on Establishing a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence

The establishment of a Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE), under the auspices of the United Nations, with the mission to actively contribute to realizing the ambitions and intent of the General Assembly’s resolution “A Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development”.

This Forum will comprise one moderated panel with diverse presenters, and will facilitate open discussions and invite the audience to ask questions, give feedback, and input. To prepare for this Forum the audience may consider studying the two papers listed above and available here:

<http://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/10th-Session/documents/>.

Provisional agenda

Introductions and setting the context

Dr Zuheir Altamimi (moderator)

*Lead of Geodetic Infrastructure Working Group, Research Director IGN and IPGP France
President, International Association of Geodesy*

Opening address

Ms. Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Co-Chair and member of the Bureau of UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, General administrator of the National Geographic Institute, Belgium

Mr. Tomaz Petek: Chair, Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe, Director General of the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia

Highlights of the Position Paper on Sustaining the GGRF

Ms. Laila Løvhøiden and Ms. Anne Jørgensen

Leads of the GGRF Governance & Communication and Outreach Working Groups, Norwegian Mapping Authority

Highlights of the Concept Paper on Establishing a GGCE

Mr. Mikael Lilje

Lead of the Education Training and Capacity Building Working Group, International Department, Lantmäteriet Sweden

Germany’s offer to host the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE)

Mr. Johannes Bouman

Member of the SCoG, Head of the Geodesy Department, Federal Agency for Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), Germany

Open discussions and feedback from the audience

Summary and concluding remarks

Zuheir Altamimi

How to join?

Closer to the date of the event, the connection link for joining this European Geodesy Forum will be provided to registered attendees.

Language

The European Geodesy Forum will be conducted in English language and there will be no simultaneous translations.

Organizers

The European Geodesy Forum is organized by the European members of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and UN-GGIM: Europe.

Point of Contact

For additional information on the European Geodesy Forum, please contact –
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