



WORKING GROUP ON CORE DATA

REPORT TO UN-GGIM: EUROPE Eighth Plenary Meeting 13-14 OCTOBER 2020

Working Group Core Data Context and Objectives

Core Data has been defined by Working Group Core Data as the geospatial data that are the most useful, either directly or indirectly, to analyse, to achieve and to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

INSPIRE constitutes an important foundation for the interoperability and harmonisation of geospatial data in Europe. Although INSPIRE aims to harmonise existing data through common data models which supply a first level of interoperability, INSPIRE data are still heterogeneous between Member States, therefore there remains a need to further interoperability and harmonisation. This is why Core Data aims to complement INSPIRE by ensuring common (minimum) content for supporting SDGs.

The current Working Group's work plan includes the task of developing recommendations for content for the fourteen selected core themes.

General State-of-Play of the Working Group in 2021

Since the previous UN-GGIM: Europe plenary meeting in June 2020, little progress has been done. The reason is attributable to a severe lack of resources.

Nonetheless IGN-France which leads the Working Group on Core Data would like to restate its commitment to provide complete recommendations for content for the core themes in 2022. By mid-2022, at least twelve out of fourteen core themes should have their Recommendations for Content published in their final form.

State-of-Play of the Working Group on core data themes

In 2016, the Working Group determined the scope of core data by selecting a list of fourteen priority INSPIRE data themes¹:

- INSPIRE Annex I: *Geographical Names, Administrative Units, Addresses, Cadastral Parcels, Transport Networks, Hydrography*;
- INSPIRE Annex II: *Elevation, Land Cover, Ortho-Image*;
- INSPIRE Annex III: *Statistical Units, Buildings, Land Use, Basic Services, Regulated or Managed Zones*.

By mid-2021, recommendations for content of the twelve core themes were already published or at least well-advanced (in italics above).

The methodology of the Working Group on Core Data implies submitting draft recommendations for content to the European geo-statistical community. Such review takes time but enables to improve the quality of the recommendations, and as well to foster their future implementation by raising stakeholders' awareness and by involving them in the decision process of establishing recommendations.

¹ Working Group on Core Data deliverables and drafts at: <https://un-ggim-europe.org/working-groups/working-group-core-data/>



Since the last plenary meeting, for themes ‘Addresses’, ‘Administrative Units’, ‘Cadastral Parcels’, and ‘Statistical Units’, deliverables are ready for final publication.

For themes ‘Orthoimage’, ‘Regulated or Managed Zones’, ‘Transport Networks’, ‘Elevation’, and ‘Hydrography’, a consolidated version of the deliverable has been submitted to the review of the geostatistical community.¹ The comments have yet to be taken in account.

Due to very different practices regarding themes ‘Land Cover’ and ‘Land Use’, finding common minimum content turned out to be more difficult; this is why for these two themes there is just an initial draft produced. Further details are provided in the working groups report submitted for the seventh plenary meeting².

A new deliverable: “Promoting Core Data Implementation”

Initially the Working Group on Core Data was created to lead to the production of minimum common core data in Europe, with the idea that the data producers, especially the NMCAs, would commit to produce these core data.

In this respect, three areas of work had been settled on:

1. selecting the core themes,
2. specifying the core themes (which became the Recommendations of Content),
3. analysing the financial, legal, and political aspects (aiming an effective implementation).

The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe decided to remove the third area out of the working group’s assignment, for the following reasons: to lighten the workload of the Working Group on Core Data and to take into account the fact that the group did not necessarily have the resources and expertise required to fulfil the task.

The main objective of these guidelines for core data implementation is to be a handover from the Working Group on Core Data to the Executive Committee by presenting a state-of-play of what has been done by the working group to encourage the implementation of core data and by proposing avenues, ideas and recommendations for future action. Until now, this document is available only as Table of Content (attached).

This document could give the Executive Committee the possibility to organise the next step. It should be a relevant medium to make recommendations to decision-makers for this implementation, in the strategic, organisational, and technical fields.

Other actions undertaken by Working Group on Core Data

the Working Group has carried out communication actions by presenting its outcomes to the Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information in March 2021, where has been presented a detailed comparison between UN-GGIM: Europe’s Core Data and the European Commission’s High Value Datasets.

Such events are also opportunities together with other actions (review of documents, participation to meetings and teleconferences) to foster coordination actions between the Working Group on Core Data, the geo-statistical community, the Working Group on Data Integration, and the working group on global fundamental data.

² https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/1_Report_WG-CoreData_7th-UN-GGIM-Europe_Plenary_2020.pdf