

### Executive Summary

This report summarizes the outcome and findings for months 06/2020 to 08/2021.

In spite of social distancing restrictions due to the Corona pandemic 40 participants from the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration got together for a productive and engaged virtual event on 29-30 September 2020. The two-day meeting focused on discussing in more detail further requirements and practices for the analysis of the SDG indicators and data integration methods.

The Subgroup I on SDG Analysis has agreed to focus its attention on indicators which also include environmental aspects. The four indicators which are analysed are:

- Access to public transport (11.2.1)
- Land degradation (15.3.1)
- Ratio of land consumption to population growth rate (11.3.1) and
- Forest area as proportion of total land area (15.1.1)

Data sources and data integration methods for these indicators have been collected and analysed. A first draft summarizing the normative guidance for indicator computation, including recommendations, has been produced for the four selected SDG indicators. Subgroup II analyses different data integration methods used across Europe like “Table Joining Services” (TJS), “Linked Data” (LD) or “geocoding” and to integrate the evaluation of the current data integration methods into the political and strategical context. The outcome and findings will particularly reflect the European strategies and developments (e.g. the European Green Deal promoting data ecosystems and data spaces, or the general concept towards a Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure). The benefits, adequacy of each method to use cases will be scanned and best practices will be identified and realistic examples of these methods shown.

An impact assessment at economic and organization level is in progress.

The Working Group has functioned as ‘Advisory Group’ to continuously contribute to global and regional data integration issues addressed by the IAEG SDG WG GI, the UN EG ISGI and the GEOSTAT-4-project.

The Plenary is kindly asked to accept the following proposals & recommendations by the WG:

#### # Proposals & recommendations

- 1 The Plenary is kindly requested to accept and approve the progress of the Working Group concerning Task I and Task II of the Work Plan as well as the deliverable “Analysis of future trends in geospatial data capture, creation, maintenance and management and recommendations for amplified use of good practices”
- 2 The Plenary is kindly requested to promote the function of the Working Group as ‘Advisory Group’ to continuously contribute to global and regional data integration issues addressed by the IAEG SDG WG GI, the UN EG ISGI and the GEOSTAT-4-project
- 3 The Plenary is kindly requested to support a regular exchange on activities between the EC unit responsible for EuroGEO and the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee / Secretariat
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### 1. General management issues

The Working Group “Data Integration” is chaired by Germany and deals with the integration of geospatial data (including cadastral parcels) with other information. Currently 20 European UN Member States comprising 25-30 National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities or National Statistical Institutes are members of the Working Group. Eurostat as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) actively cooperates in the Working Group since the beginning in 2014. The European Environment Agency (EEA) joined the Working Group in 2017.

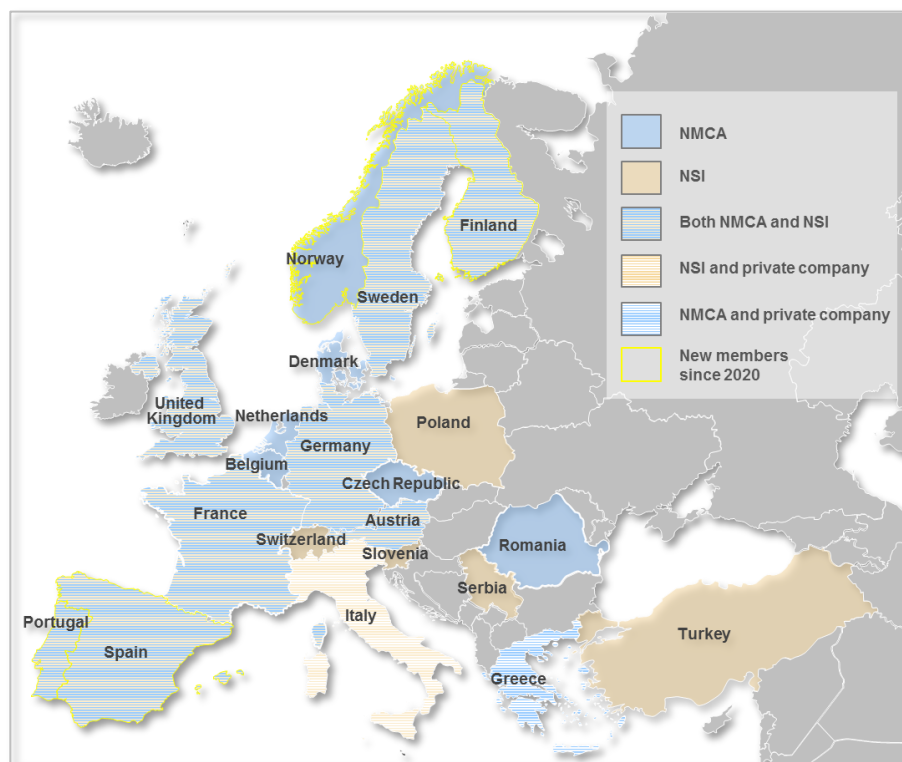


Figure 1: Current members of the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration

In spite of social distancing restrictions due to the Corona pandemic 40 participants from the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Data Integration got together for a productive and engaged virtual event on 29-30 September 2020. The two-day meeting focused on discussing in more detail further requirements and practices for the analysis of the SDG indicators and data integration methods.

Furthermore, several virtual meetings took place since then.

### 2. Progress according to the new work plan 2019 – 2022

#### 2.1. Subgroup I / Task I

NSI Portugal leads this Subgroup I / Task I – SDG Indicator Analysis. The task shall be completed by the end of 2022 at the latest.

The aim of the task of Subgroup I is to provide methodological, operational and technical guidance in the use of geospatial data and statistics to compute SDG indicators, with a European and national perspective, and



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reflecting on solutions which may contribute to reduce statistical burden and increase the level of detail of SDG indicators.

The aim is to provide a comparative analysis between pan-European and national methodologies, data sources and results as well as an analysis of the combination of pan-European with national data sources to extract new relevant information for the indicators computation.

Amongst others, an assessment matrix comprising 10 indicators was filled out by the members of the Working group in March 2020 indicating their national relation to each indicator and their preferences/interest in contributing to this work.

The following indicators were assessed:

	3.6.1   Death rate due to traffic injuries (tier I)
	6.6.1   Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time (tier I)
	11.2.1   Accessibility to public transports (tier II)
	11.3.1   Ratio of land consumption rate to population growth (tier II)
	11.6.2   Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (tier I)
	11.7.1   Access to public / green areas (proxy) (tier II)
	14.5.1   Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (tier I)
	15.1.1   Forest area as a proportion of total land area (tier I)
	15.3.1   Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area (tier I)
	15.4.1   Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity (tier I)

*Figure 2: SDG indicators as a reference for Subgroup I*

From this assessment and with input by EEA in April 2020 four indicators were chosen to be further analysed by the subgroup. The subgroup started a call to the whole UN-GGIM: Europe community at the end of 2020 asking for input and interest. The contributions are displayed in the graphics:



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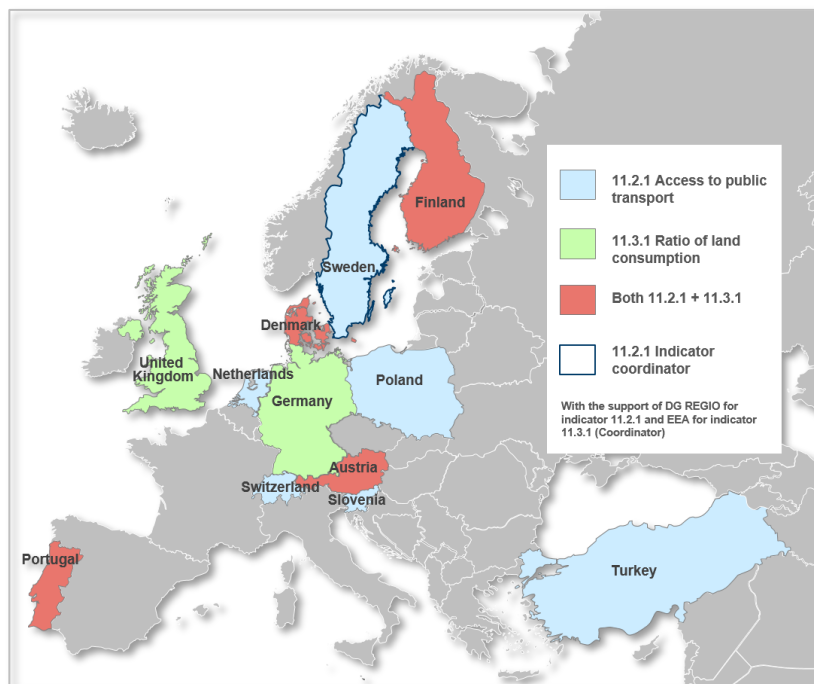


Figure 3: European contributions to Indicator 11.2.1 and 11.3.1

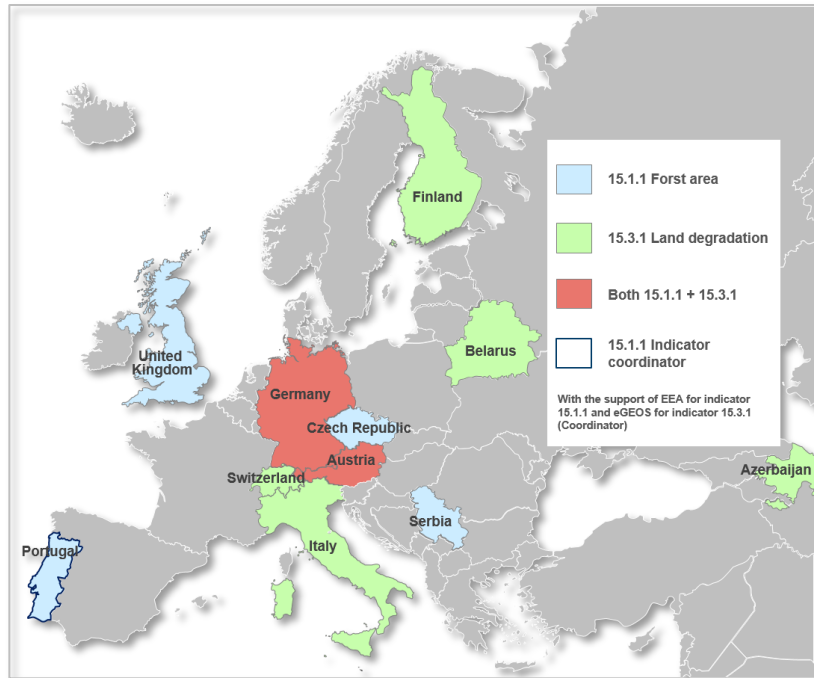


Figure 4: European contributions to Indicator 15.1.1 and 15.3.1



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On the basis of the assessment and selection of indicators, a first draft summarizing the normative guidance for indicator computation, including recommendations, has been produced for the four selected SDG indicators.

The outcome of this Subgroup // Task I will be a deliverable providing operational and technical guidance for the calculation of SDG indicators.

The Plenary is kindly requested to accept and approve the progress of the Working Group concerning Task I of the Work Plan.

### 2.2. Subgroup II / Task II

Eurostat has led this Subgroup II / Task II – Data Integration Methods until the end of October 2020. Due to new professional tasks of the leader Nikolaos Roubanis, the leadership has been transferred to NMCA Belgium (Ms. Nathalie Delattre) in collaboration with NMCA Austria (Mr. Markus Jobst). The task shall be completed by the end of 2022 at the latest.

The aim of Subgroup II / Task II is to analyse different data integration methods used across Europe like “Table Joining Services” (TJS), “Linked Data” (LD) or “geocoding”. The benefits, adequacy of each method to use cases will be scanned and best practices will be identified and realistic examples of these methods shown. An impact assessment at economic and organization level will be investigated.

For these tasks the following work needs to be done:

- Evaluate former deliverables of the WG Data Integration
- Evaluate links to the GSGF and GSGF-Europe and connect with GEOSTAT-4
- Identify best practices for data input, creation, maintenance and management
- Consider economic, political and social level of each method
- Determine Pros and Cons of each methods and recommendations

The aim of the Subgroup II / Task II is to integrate the evaluation of the current data integration methods into the political and strategic context. New technologies will require a next-generation geospatial infrastructure.

Therefore Subgroup II / Task II evaluates the national examples in the context of the new developments and will provide conclusions for the future data integration of geospatial and statistical data. The outcome and findings will reflect the European strategies and developments (e.g. the European Green Deal promoting data ecosystems and data spaces or the general concept towards a Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure).

The outcome deliverable is dedicated to senior advisers/managers. The first deliverable “Analysis of future trends in geospatial data capture, creation, maintenance and management and recommendations for amplified use of good practices” has been approved by the Executive Committee and is presented to the Plenary for its final approval. A derived leaflet might be provided for policy makers in the upcoming months.

The Plenary is kindly requested to accept and approve the progress of the Working Group concerning Task II of the Work Plan as well as the deliverable “Analysis of future trends in geospatial data capture, creation, maintenance and management and recommendations for amplified use of good practices”.

It is worth noting, that both new tasks will be continuously cross-checked with the UN-GGIM Secretariat, other working groups and ongoing activities (e.g. UNECE, GEO).

It is envisaged that the outcome from the Subgroup II ‘Data Integration Methods’ and the outcome from Subgroup I ‘SDG Indicator Analysis’ will be conciliated and a conclusive report/summary be prepared.



### **3. Related Activities of the WG supporting the work plan 2019 – 2022**

According to the Work Plan the WG continues to contribute to following activities.

#### **3.1. Contribution to the global IAEG SDG WG GI**

Two Working Group members (Denmark, Italy) are represented in the IAEG SDG WG GI and do regularly provide updates on the current work. For the time being no activity which is relevant to the Working Group can be reported and no consultancy and advice from geospatial experts of the Working Group has been requested.

The Plenary is kindly requested to promote the function of the Working Group as 'Advisory Group' to continuously contribute to global and regional data integration issues addressed by the IAEG SDG WG GI.

#### **3.2. Contribution to the UN EG ISGI and to the GEOSTAT-4 project**

This consultancy and advice comprise to involve geospatial experts of the Working Group for reviews and requests.

As for GEOSTAT-4 a request by Eurostat to discuss the content of the "EFGS<sup>1</sup> Strategy Map" has been forwarded by the Chair to the Working Group for feedback.

For the time being no activity of the UN EG ISGI relevant to the Working Group can be reported and no consultancy and advice from geospatial experts of the Working Group has been requested.

The Plenary is kindly requested to promote the function of the Working Group as 'Advisory Group' to continuously contribute to global and regional data integration issues addressed by the UN EG ISGI and the GEOSTAT-4-project.

#### **3.3. Support of European coordination activities**

This consultancy and advice comprise the support of European coordination activities towards the implementation of the UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and other geospatial activities by the European Commission (particularly Eurostat ones).

Particularly, a regular exchange on activities between the EC unit responsible for EuroGEO and the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee / Secretariat seems to be key. An easy way might be to continue to participate at and provide information through workshops, conferences and plenary sessions. A good start has already been done: The Working Group presented on behalf of UN-GGIM: Europe at the EuroGEO Workshop 20-23 September and the EC unit will present at the UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary on 13-14 October 2021.

It includes the participation and presentations at European conferences, workshops:

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<sup>1</sup> European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS)



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Conferences	Dates
European Forum for Geography and Statistics (EFGS)	20-21 October 2020 / 07-08 September 2021
11st Iberian Spatial Data Infrastructure Conference	26 October 2020
Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information and Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE Meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	23-24 March 2021
URBAN 2030 - Monitoring and reporting of the urban and territorial dimensions of SDGs	22 June 2021
EuroGEO Workshop	20-23 September 2021

#### 4. Attachments

- Deliverable on Data Integration Methods: “Analysis of future trends in geospatial data capture, creation, maintenance and management and recommendations for amplified use of good practices”



- **Proposals & recommendations for the Plenary**

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