



UN-GGIM: EUROPE – Secretariat

Report to Eighth Virtual Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Introduction

UN-GGIM: Europe consists of national representatives of European UN Member States, concerned with the management of geospatial, statistical and other information falling within the scope of UN-GGIM activities. In the management of activities, the European UN Member States are represented by the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Executive Committee is supported by a Secretariat. According to the Articles and Rules the responsibility for providing the secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe is granted to a member of the regional entity by agreement of the Member States at a plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe. The Netherlands, represented by Kadaster, takes responsibility for the Secretariat, the function of which is funded and executed by EuroGeographics AISBL, the European Association of National mapping, cadastral and land registries, through a Service Level Agreement originally signed in January 2015, and which was extended in December 2020 for a further period of two years.

The role and responsibilities of the Secretariat are defined in the approved articles of UN-GGIM: Europe as well as the work plans approved at the annual plenary meetings of the regional committee.

Overview of work

In accordance with its tasks and responsibilities, EuroGeographics, on behalf of the Secretariat, has carried out the tasks listed below in the 15 months since the Seventh Plenary Meeting held in June 2020.

- Support the effective and smooth operation of UN-GGIM: Europe:
 - arranged and acted as secretary to the Executive Committee at their regular meetings - seven meetings were held in the past 15 months;
 - maintained and updated the UN-GGIM: Europe website¹, providing a modern interface for the Regional Committee's website on a secure platform;
 - undertook and managed communication about the activities of UN-GGIM: Europe through news items, direct emails and via a Twitter account² which continued to grow in the past year to now number almost 1600 followers;
 - liaised with the Executive Committee and the Regional Working Groups to communicate the working groups' messages to members and facilitate their work;
 - worked with the Executive Committee and a regional project -team to draft and develop a renewed UN-GGIM: Europe strategy and regional work plan;
 - provided support to UN-GGIM: Europe members in their participation at two annual sessions of the Committee of Experts which were organised in this 15-month reporting period – the tenth session in August 2020 and the eleventh session August 2021. Support included drafting reports on the work of UN-GGIM: Europe, supporting the Executive Committee develop region-wide perspective and written statements on the items on the Committee of Expert's programme of work;
 - forwarded communications and outputs from the UN-GGIM Secretariat and Committee of Experts to the Regional Members and relevant stakeholders;
 - liaised with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) to renew the collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE which concluded at the end of 2020. The

¹ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/>

² <https://twitter.com/UNGGIMEurope>



focus of the collaboration agreement is capacity development. The collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE was renewed in December 2020 for a further two years until the end of 2022;

- worked in collaboration with Eurostat to organise and hold the Eighth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, which for the second time is organised as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Four side events are being organised in conjunction with the eight plenary meeting.
- Assist the Executive Committee in establishing and maintaining cooperation with UN-GGIM and its regional entities:
 - maintained regular contact and liaison with UN-GGIM Secretariat through emails, and regular Skype calls to facilitate work at the regional and global levels;
 - participated in the Expanded Bureau meetings;
 - liaised with UNECE to establish, maintain and increase the collaboration between the UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE;
 - at the request of the UN-GGIM Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information provided support in the regional participation in the Global Survey on Readiness for the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework.
 - Support general awareness of UN-GGIM: Europe amongst relevant European organisations:
 - communicated with various UN-GGIM: Europe observer organisations throughout the course of the year;
 - communicated with a number of organisations which approached UN-GGIM: Europe for its participation and input in different events; prepared a number of presentations for various events promoting UN-GGIM: Europe;
 - organised and ran a joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS- UNECE³ meeting in the March 2021 together with Eurostat and UNECE, an annual event that brings together experts from European mapping and statistical organisations, which was once again organised as a virtual event due to the COVID-19 crisis;
 - worked in collaboration with the European Members of the Subcommittee on Geodesy to organise and convene the European Geodesy Forum⁴ - “Towards a sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame: European Contribution”, which was held as a virtual event on June 2021;
 - actively participated and represented UN-GGIM: Europe at various regional events including the European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference in October 2020.

³ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/other-meetings/7th-joint-un-ggim-europe-ess-unece-webinar-march-2021/>

⁴ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/other-meetings/european-geodesy-forum-towards-a-sustainable-global-geodetic-reference-frame-european-contribution/>