Reporting on UN-GGIM: Europe activities

Carol Agius, UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat
Joint Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe – UNECE
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#GGIMEurope
Annual Regional Plenary Meeting

• Held the Eighth UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary October 2021 as a virtual event with over 110 participants registered from 35 Member States and 11 International Organisations

• Session continued to strengthen the regional collaboration of the geospatial and statistical communities, and included presentations from regional partners and stakeholders. Together with presentations demonstrating the importance of data for the decade of action.

• In dept sessions on the implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and the ECOSOC review of UN-GGIM. Together with four side events organized by our regional partners on AI, GGCE, European Data Policy, and Standards.

• Presented and approved the refreshed strategy and work plan for UN-GGIM: Europe which will ensure that the regional work is anchored in the global programme of the Committee while reflecting the changing landscape.

Governance of UN-GGIM: Europe

- UN-GGIM: Europe is coordinated and managed by an Executive Committee approved at Regional Plenary Meetings
- The current Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe:

  **Chair**
  - Tomaz Petek, Slovenia

  **Vice-Chairs**
  - Francisco Vala, Portugal
  - David Henderson, United Kingdom

  **Members**
  - Ingrid Vanden Berghe, Belgium
  - Paul Becker, Germany
  - Frank Tierolff, Netherlands
  - Janusz Dygaszewicz, Poland
  - Susanne Ås Sivborg, Sweden

- The Netherlands is responsible for providing the secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe. The function of the Secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe is funded and executed by EuroGeographics AISBL through a Service Level Agreement with Kadaster Netherlands which has been renewed for another two years until the end of 2022.
Rolling work plan adopted at the Seventh Plenary 2020

- **Working Group on Core Data** is focusing on increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs.
- **Working Group Data Integration** works to ensure that the regional entity focuses on how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in Europe.

Renewed work plan adopted at the Eighth Plenary 2021

- UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy document and proposes five key priority area that meet the strategic alignment of the needs and requirements of Europe within the global programme of the Committee of Experts: Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, Geodetic Reference Frames, Data Integration, Sustainable Development Goals & Data Strategy and Policy.
Collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE

• The collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE concluded at the end of 2020, collaboration has been successful, producing tangible results.

• The focus of the collaboration agreement is capacity development, identifying areas of collaboration include data integration, developing the concept of core data for geospatial and statistical communities, promoting easier access to data, and developing wider communication networks.

• In December the collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE was renewed for a further two years until the end of 2022.
Strategic areas for future collaboration

UN-GGIM: Europe and the UNECE Secretariat have identified the following strategic areas as priorities for future collaboration, which are in line with the latest directions of work from the UN-GGIM Committee at global level:

- Geospatial information for Sustainable Development
- Building networks and promoting communication
- Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information, including capacity development
- Involvement of other UNECE work programmes
The UN-GGIM: Europe and the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, convened the European Geodesy Forum June 2021.

Titled “Towards a sustainable Global Geodetic Reference Frame: European Contribution”, the main focus of the forum was to seek feedback from European Member States, as part of the regional consultation on the two papers prepared by the Subcommittee on Geodesy.

The aim of the forum was to generate further support for the work of the Subcommittee on Geodesy and the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn, Germany.
Annual sessions of the Committee of Experts

- Eleventh Sessions organised as a virtual event
- Ingrid Vanden Berghe (Belgium), elected co-chair of UN-GGIM
- UN-GGIM: Europe actively participated in the Annual Sessions of the CoE
- All agenda items on the agenda were brought before the Committee of Experts, key items include: IGIF, GGRF & GGCE, data for SDGs and the Strengthening Institutional Arrangements on Geospatial Information Management
Contribution to UN-GGIM Activities

• UN-GGIM: Europe aligns the tasks of the Working Group on Data Integration towards providing a European input to the IAEG-SDGs WGGI

• Nominated four members from UN-GGIM: Europe to represent the region at the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF)

• Support the process to strengthen geospatial information management and proposed report of the Committee of Experts to be submitted to the 2022 ECOSOC Session
Other Regional Events

UN-GGIM: Europe actively participated in the following events:

• EuroGeographics General Assembly, May 2021
• Joint PCC and EuroGeographics CLRKEN Conference under the Presidency of Portugal, May 2021
• EUREF 2021 Symposium, Ljubljana, Slovenia, May 2021
• UN HABITAT/EC DG REGIO meeting, June 2021
• European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference, September 2021
• EuroGEO Week, September 2021
• Talking Heads Webinar for NMCA Heads (with EuroGeographics), January 2022
• Webinar on Data Integration (EuroGeographics & UN-GGIM: Europe), 24 February 2022
Future Events

• GWF2022, Amsterdam, 9-12 May 2022
• EuroGeographics General Assembly, Sarajevo, 15 - 17 May 2022
• Ninth Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe overlapping with CES UNECE, Geneva, 20-21 June 2022
• Twelfth Session of UN-GGIM, New York, 1 – 5 August 2022
• FIG Working Week, Warsaw, 11 – 15 September 2022
• 15th European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference, Autumn 2022
• INSPIRE Conference, Autumn 2022 tbc
• 2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress 2022, Hyderabad India, 10-14 Oct 2022
Thank you for contributing to the success of UN-GGIM: Europe!