



Community of Interest on Geodetic Reference Frames: Europe Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe (Brussels, 2023)

Context

The Community of Interest (CoI) on Geodetic Reference Frames: Europe (GRF Europe) has been initiated following the results of the questionnaire conducted by the Strategy Project Team¹, indicating that Member States find the relevance of this Line of Work (LoW) to be significant, with a scored rating of 4.65/6. In alignment with the establishment of the United Nations Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) in Bonn, Germany, the CoI is poised to offer support to the UN-GGCE upon request. GRF: Europe serves as a platform where regional members can share their perspectives with the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG), which operates at the global level. It provides a channel for contributions to overarching discussions and activities, while facilitating the translation of global priorities as defined by the SCoG into actionable initiatives relevant for UN-GGIM: Europe.

Recognizing the existence of various technical geodetic organizations within Europe, UN-GGIM: Europe, with a commitment to avoid duplication of efforts, has strategically chosen to support this Line of Work through a Community of Interest rather than a Working Group. The CoI is envisioned to act as a coordination body, fostering collaboration among established national/regional and international programs, and serving as a nexus for diverse geodetic stakeholders. This approach ensures harmonization and synergy in the pursuit of common objectives.

Call for action

The Plenary is kindly requested to consider and acknowledge this call for action, which comprises the following proposed actions:

- 1) The Plenary is requested to approve the ongoing work of the Community of Interest on the GRF: Europe within the Work Plan 2022-2025.
- 2) The Plenary is kindly requested to recognize GRF: Europe and its members contributing to activities undertaken by the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.
- 3) Members who are interested are invited to establish contact with the Community of Interest to actively engage and make valuable contributions to the upkeep, sustainability, and enhancement of the Global Geodetic Reference Frame. Your participation is instrumental in advancing this critical endeavour.

¹ See: UN-GGIM Europe Work Plan 2022



Progress

Following the questionnaire conducted by the Strategy Project Team¹, 10 Member States (MS) have expressed interest in actively participating in the Community of Interest (CoI). These Member States include Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, Luxembourg, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland. Following an initial meeting with representatives from these Member States on 28/03/2022, it was proposed that Belgium assumes the role of chair for the CoI. In a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe (ExCom) in early 2023, the proposed chairmanship was accepted, and the commencement of organizational work was recommended to coincide with the official opening of the UN-GGCE.

A kick-off meeting was convened with interested parties on 24/03/2023 to set the foundational priorities for the CoI. During this session, the limited availability of resources, encompassing both human and material aspects, emerged as a focal point in addition to those outlined earlier in this report (see Context).

Concurrent with the establishment of the UN-GGCE on 29/03/2023, joint meetings of the Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG) and the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee (IAC) were held to define strategic actions. Members of GRF: Europe actively participated in these sessions. The GRF: Europe members agreed collectively to draft the Terms of Reference of the CoI, with plans to adjust and submit it to the ExCom once the staff of the GGCE was appointed and substantive discussions could be initiated.

At EUREF23, the conference organized by the International Association of Geodesy's Reference Frame Sub-Commission for Europe (EUREF), Jeffrey Verbeurgt from Belgium delivered a presentation outlining the preliminary objectives of the CoI and encouraging engagement. This presentation led to a notable increase in the number of interested participants, as detailed in the undermentioned paragraph.

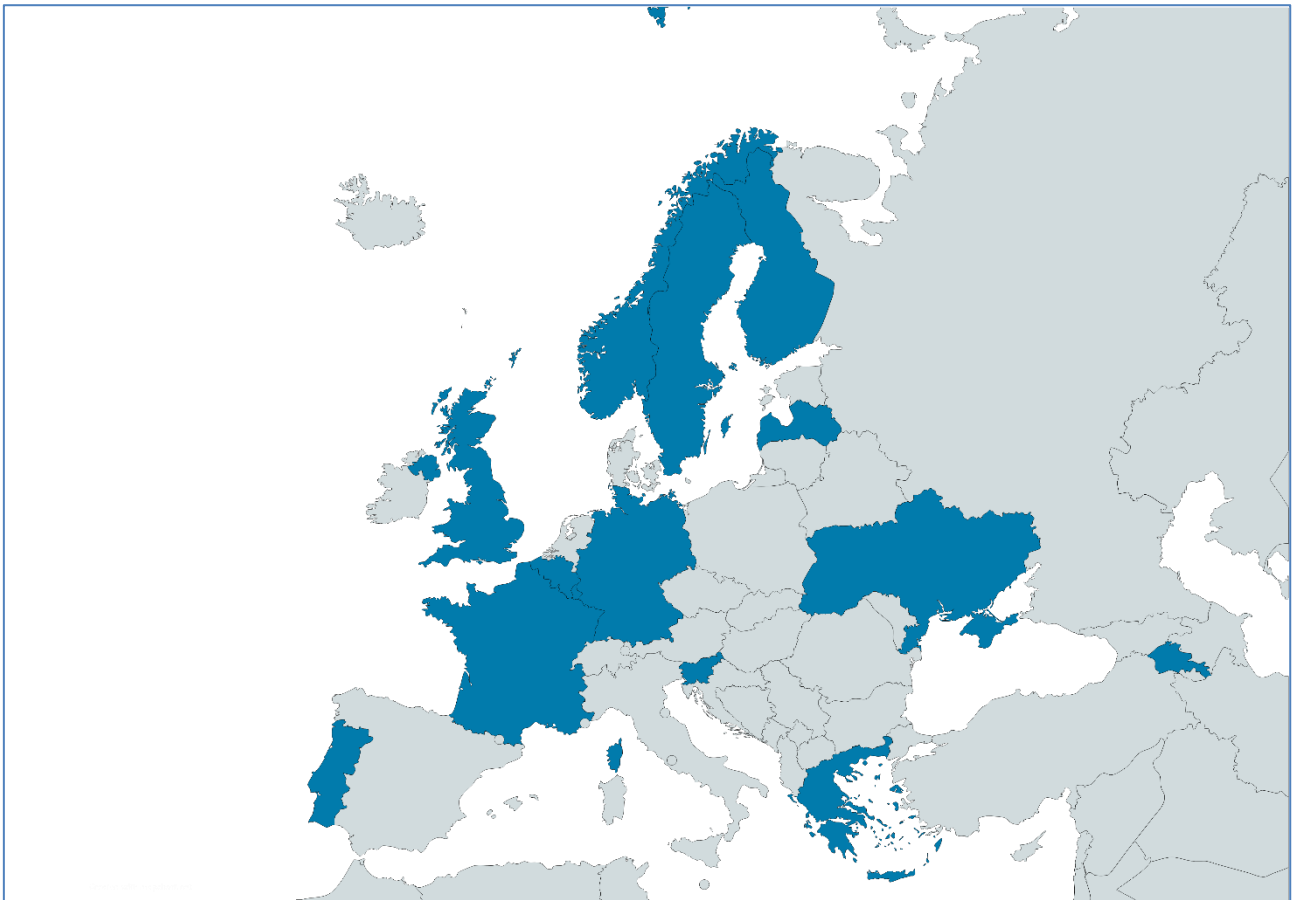
Planned activities

The following activities are planned to be undertaken by GRF: Europe. The list of activities is anticipated to expand in the course of the work year.

- Participation in the Second Consultative Meeting for the Global Geodesy Development Plan hosted by the UN-GGCE. This aligns with the commitment to contribute to the global discourse.
- In February 2024, GRF: Europe will be actively participating in the European virtual meeting of the UN-GGCE: Listening World Tour. This engagement ensures that the European perspective are shared on the global stage.
- In its coordinating role, GRF: Europe plans on establishing regular and meaningful dialogue with the Governing Board of EUREF, a prominent technical geodetic organization operating on the European level. This proactive coordination allows collaboration and harmonization within the European geodetic community.



Participants



Currently, 24 participants from 14 MS have indicated to be willing to actively contribute to the work plan.

- Armenia
- Belgium
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Latvia
- Luxembourg
- Norway
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- Sweden
- United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland
- Ukraine