



Report from the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework Tenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe (Brussels, 2023)

Background

The Working Group was formally setup following the Ninth Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe in 2022 and has met seven times over the last year. The Working Group draws its membership from across the Region and is Chaired by the United Kingdom.

The Terms of Reference for the Working Group set out three main objectives:

1. Provide support and input to the European Member of the HLG-IGIF, as and when required.
2. Contribute to global tasks of the HLG-IGIF, making sure that Regional concerns and issues are raised and addressed.
3. Understand the issues and obstacles the Regional Members may face when looking to implement the UN-IGIF and to develop regionally focussed outputs.

In keeping with the principle of avoiding duplication, the Regional Working Group continues to align its activities with the desired outcomes and work plans of the HLG-IGIF Global Working Groups.

Work Plan

In determining the Terms of Reference and the ways of working the Working Group decided to focus its activities across four key themes:

Deliverable 1. That the HLG-IGIF has a wider pool of experts available to contribute to its work, and that European Members contribute where relevant.

Deliverable 2. The avoidance of duplication of effort, making sure that activities at the regional level support the global activities, and the outputs are transferrable into UN-GGIM: Europe.

Deliverable 3. Act as a convening body for UN-GGIM: Europe hosting knowledge share and development activities such as webinars, workshops or seminars.

Deliverable 4. Providing Regional use cases and examples of Member States developing Country-level Action Plans.

A work plan has been developed to provide a level of flexibility to meet the desired objectives and currently focuses on two key tasks:

1. A webinar series.
2. A regional repository of experience.



Deliverables

Webinar Series

[Deliverable 3, Deliverable 4]

Our first Regional Webinar was hosted on 27th September 2023 and focused on an introduction to the UN IGIF. The webinar was designed to align with the Joint UNECE / Eurostat / UN-GGIM: Europe Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Data which was held in Serbia from 4th to 5th October. The workshop contents of the workshop had been designed to align with the three Strategic Pathways of the UN-IGIF: Governance; Data and Technology; People.

Over 120 participants registered for the event, and on the day 85 participants from 38 countries attended the webinar. Attendees came from each of the UN-GGIM Regional Groups demonstrating the reach and effectiveness of webinars to share information and expertise. During the webinar participants heard about the background to the UN-IGIF; how Germany is putting the UN-IGIF into practice; a case study from Georgia; and about the upcoming Joint Workshop on Integrating statistical and geospatial data.

A recording of the webinar is available on the UN-GGIM: Europe website: <https://un-ggim-europe.org/events/webinar-an-introduction-to-the-united-nations-integrated-geospatial-information-framework-un-igif/>

The Working Group is in the process of developing the second webinar in the series. This webinar is likely to be held in towards the end of January and will focus on the different methodologies that Member States could use to implement the UN IGIF and develop their Country-level Action Plans.

Repository of Experience

[Deliverable 1, Deliverable 2, Deliverable 4]

The second task in the Regional Work Plan focuses on developing a Repository of Experience. This includes developing an online site to store information about the UN IGIF such as: case studies from across the region; in-country focal points for UN-IGIF development; supporting materials from the UN and World Bank.

We are aware that the HLG-IGIF Global Working Group on Capacity Development is also looking at developing a global document store. To support this activity and to avoid duplication of efforts representatives from Germany and the United Kingdom are members of the Capacity Development Task Team helping to develop its work plan to maximise the benefits to the European Region.

Engagement and outreach

[Deliverable 1, Deliverable 4]

In addition to the webinar series, the Working Group has continued to raise awareness of the UN-IGIF at several regional and international events.



Event	Date	Messaging
Geospatial World Forum	2nd – 5th May 2023	Promoting the concept of UN-IGIF.
FIG Working Week	29th May 2023	Supporting HLG-IGIF Capacity Development Working Group.
Second Plenary meeting of the HLG--IGIF	31st July 2023	Showcasing European experiences and expertise.
Thirteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts	2nd – 4th August 2023	Contributing to the future direction of the UN-IGIF.
Joint UNECE / Eurostat / UN-GGIM: Europe Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Data	4th – 5th October 2023	Promoting the Concept of UN-IGIF. Showcasing European experiences and expertise. Supporting Member States to start their UN-IGIF journey.

Call to Action

- Member States are encouraged to join the Working Group and actively contribute to its work plan.
- Promoting the UN-IGIF is a key component of the Working Group. Member States who have, or are, considering implementing the UN-IGIF are requested to share their activities with the Working Group.
- The Working Group will continue to support the HLG-IGIF and its Global Working Groups. Member States with expertise in Communications, Capacity Development, or Mobilizing Funding are encouraged to share their knowledge and expertise.

Membership

Currently 25 participants from 18 Member States and 3 Observers are actively involved in the Working Group.

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| - Albania | - Poland | - ESRI |
| - Armenia | - Portugal | - ConsultingWhere |
| - Belarus | - Republic of | - EuroSDR |
| - Belgium | Serbia | |
| - Finland | - Spain | |
| - Germany | - Sweden | |
| - Greece | - The Netherlands | |
| - Ireland | - Ukraine | |
| - Italy | - United Kingdom | |

We welcome other participants to join the Working Group, share their experiences and contribute to the successful delivery and implementation of the UN-IGIF.