



UN-GGIM: EUROPE – Secretariat

Report to Tenth 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 regularly extended. The agreement was once again extended in January 2023 for a further period of two years.

The role and responsibilities of the Secretariat are defined in the approved articles of UN-GGIM: Europe¹ 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 16 months since the ninth Plenary Meeting held in in June 2022.

- Support the effective and smooth operation of UN-GGIM: Europe:
 - arranged and acted as secretary to the Executive Committee at their meetings - eight regular meetings were held in the past 16 months together with a number of ad hoc, informal meetings in-person at various physical events or on-line;
 - regularly maintained and updated the UN-GGIM: Europe website²;
 - undertook and managed communication about the activities of UN-GGIM: Europe through news items, direct emails and via social media: X³ (formally known as Twitter) account which currently numbers over 1600 followers and a LinkedIn account⁴ was created in July 2023 and has grown to over 250 followers in three months;
 - liaised with the Executive Committee, the leads of the working groups to communicate the working groups' messages to members and facilitate their work in implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe work plan;
 - forwarded communications and outputs from the UN-GGIM Secretariat and Committee of Experts to the Regional Members and relevant stakeholders;
 - provided support to UN-GGIM: Europe members in their participation at two annual sessions of the Committee of Experts which were organised in this 16-month reporting period – the twelfth session in August 2022 and the thirteenth session August 2023. Support included drafting reports on the work of UN-GGIM: Europe, supporting the Executive Committee develop region-wide perspective and 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;

¹ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UN-GGIM-Europe-Articles-and-Rules-v2-Adopted2014.pdf>

² <https://un-ggim-europe.org/>

³ <https://twitter.com/UNGGIMEurope>

⁴ <https://www.linkedin.com/company/un-ggim-europe/>



- worked in collaboration with Eurostat to organise and hold the tenth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe in Brussels Belgium in November 2023;
 - worked in collaboration with the National Geographic Institute of Belgium to organise the UN-GGIM: Europe tenth anniversary dinner.
- Assist the Executive Committee in maintaining cooperation with UN-GGIM and its regional entities:
 - maintained regular contact and liaison with UN-GGIM Secretariat through emails, regular calls and in person meetings to facilitate work at the regional and global levels;
 - participated in the Expanded Bureau meetings;
 - participated in inter-Regional Committee meetings to foster and grow the collaboration and communication between the five UN-GGIM Regional Committees;
 - liaised with UNECE to establish, maintain and increase the collaboration between the UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE as part of the collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE. The 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 2023, the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat is in collaboration with the UNECE SD to renew the collaboration agreement;
 - provided input to the preparations for the 2nd UN World Geospatial Information Congress which took place at Hyderabad, India in October 2022, including co-organising a side event in diversity and inclusion and presenting on behalf on UN-GGIM: Europe at the Congress;
 - worked in collaboration with the UN-GGIM Secretariat, Bureau and the other four Regional Committees to organise side events and meeting on the sides of the twelfth session and thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts;
 - working in collaboration with National Geographic Institute of Belgium, and EuroGeographics is organise and hold the UN-GGIM Policy and Legal WG and EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network joint event in February 2024.
- 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;
 - worked with the Lines of Work Data Integration, SDGs and UN-IGIF to host a total of eight UN-GGIM: Europe webinars ⁵on the EuroGeographics webinar platform; the webinars include speakers from different European organisations and entities and attracted in total 861 attendees from 75 countries, including participation from all five UN-GGIM Regional committees;
 - organised and facilitated a panel discussion on *GEO4SDGS: Relevance to the Digital Age Panel* at the Geospatial World Forum 2023 in May of this year;
 - worked in collaboration with UNECE to organise the *9th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information* and the *Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Workshop on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information* in Belgrade Serbia in October 2023;
 - facilitated the participation of the Executive Committee to a working lunch on *Enhancing the Implementation of the SDGs with Authoritative Geospatial Data* organised by EuroGeographics at the European Parliament in Strasbourg France in October 2023;
 - making preparations to organise and facilitate a workshop on *UN-GGIM: Europe contributing to European data strategy* at the INSPIRE Conference in November 2023.

⁵ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/un-ggim-europe-webinar-series/>