



# UNECE ACTIVITIES ON INTEGRATING STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

10<sup>th</sup> Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting, Luxembourg, 13 March 2024  
Taeke Gjaltema and Sara Stewart | UNECE



**UNECE**



Funded by  
the European Union

# PROJECT OVERVIEW

UNECE has led an EU-funded project to develop capacity in geospatial and statistical data integration



Foster stronger links  
between statistical and  
geospatial communities  
across the region



Facilitate greater  
collaboration amongst  
statistical and geospatial  
organisations

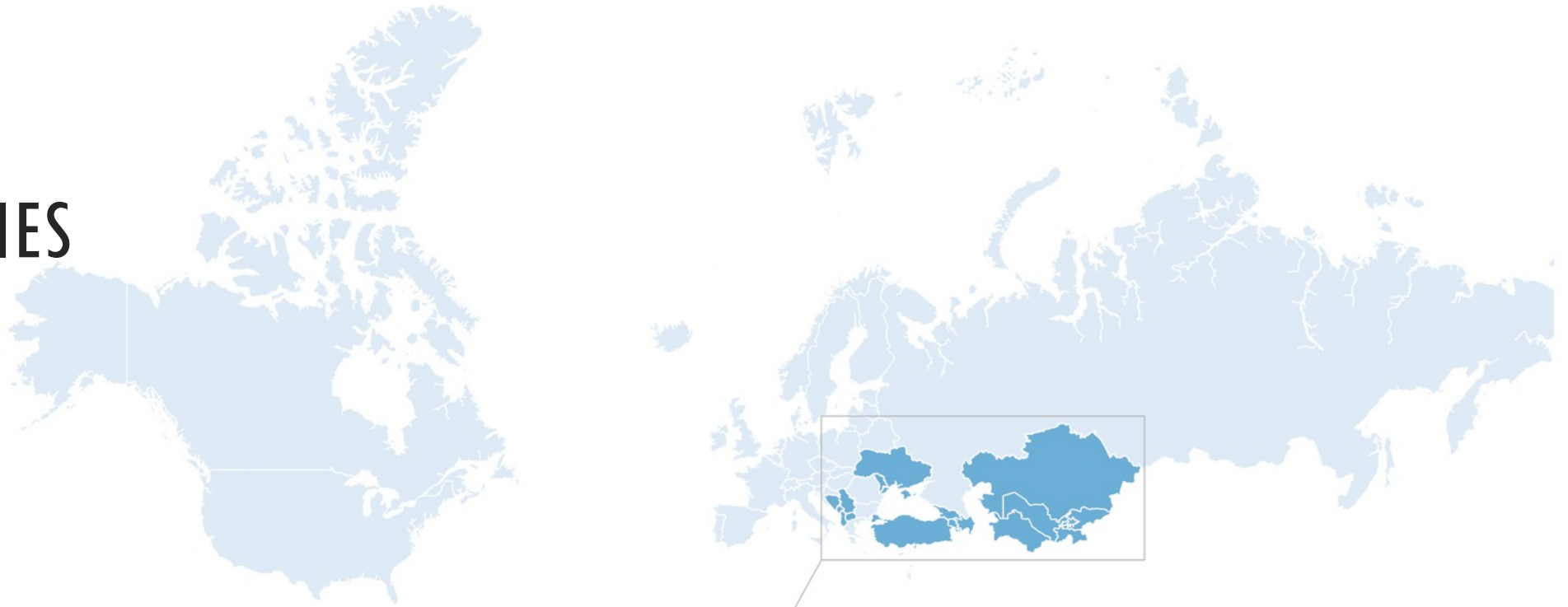


Encourage greater  
integration of geospatial  
and statistical information



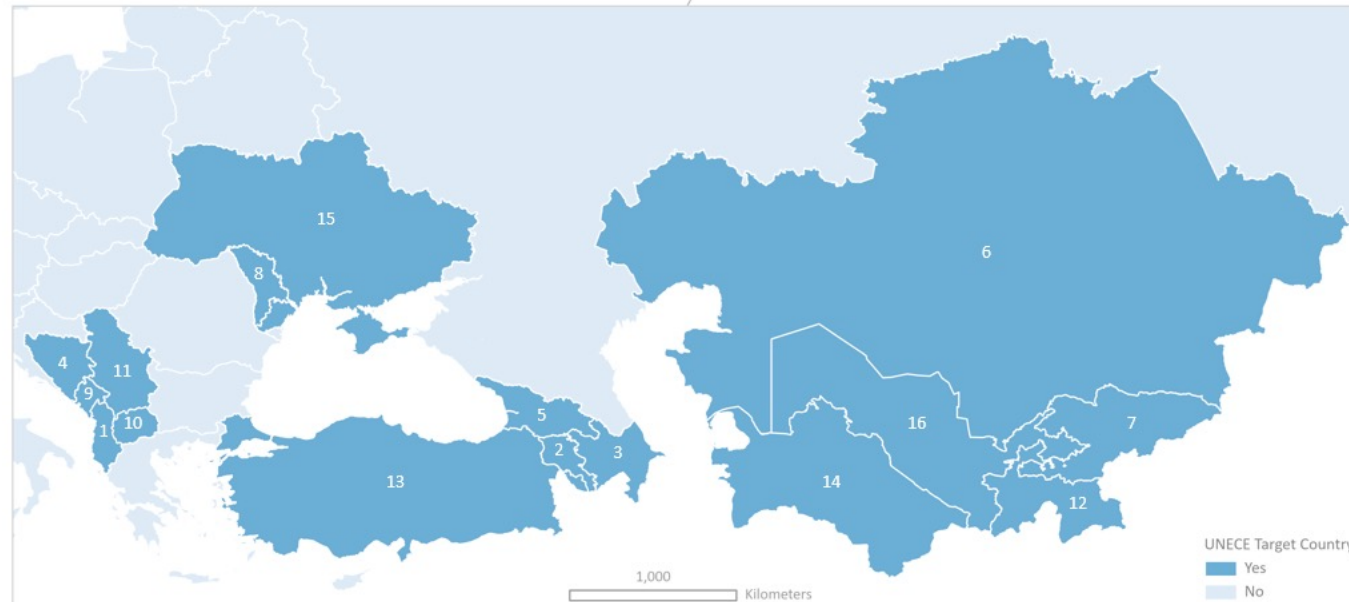
Promote stronger  
institutional partnerships  
and the use of common  
standards

# TARGET COUNTRIES



## UNECE Target Country

1. Albania
2. Armenia
3. Azerbaijan
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina
5. Georgia
6. Kazakhstan
7. Kyrgyzstan
8. Moldova
9. Montenegro
10. North Macedonia
11. Serbia
12. Tajikistan
13. Turkey
14. Turkmenistan
15. Ukraine
16. Uzbekistan



# PROJECT ACTIVITIES



Developed an online survey and issued to all national statistical and geospatial organisations across the UNECE region to gain stakeholder insights on data integration.



Authored a report describing the issues and obstacles hampering the greater integration of geospatial and statistical data, and potential solutions for overcoming them.



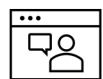
Led the organisation of the Joint UNECE/Eurostat/UN-GGIM: Europe Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Data and supported the participation of target country delegates.



Established a UNECE-led task force on standards issues relating to data integration and supported its functioning and activities.



Supported the development of recommendations and related actions to improve the interoperability of statistical and geospatial data through the use of common standards.



Created supportive material on data integration including a community wiki space and a blog series called INGEST.

The survey was developed to:

- Obtain insight from the statistical and geospatial communities.
- Ensure the views of key stakeholders were included in the project.
- Acquire user feedback to inform the direction of project activities.

The survey explored four key areas:

1. Use of data and technology.
2. Involvement in wider activities at national and international levels.
3. Issues and obstacles to greater data integration.
4. Opportunity to register interest in future project activities.

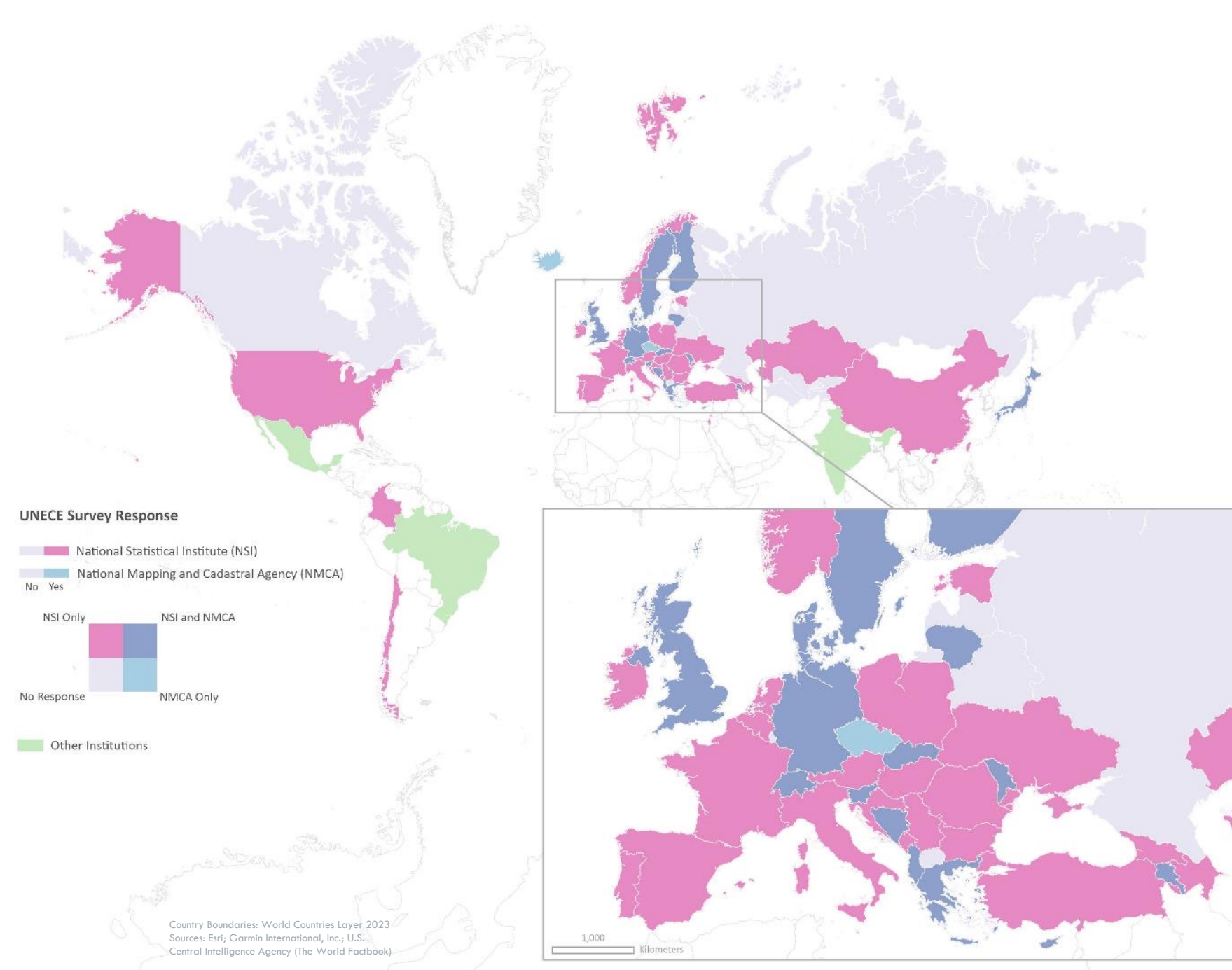


# UNECE SURVEY ON THE INTEGRATION OF STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION

# SURVEY RESPONSE

- 67 organisations (15 from target countries)
- 49 countries (including 11 target countries)
- 45 National Statistical Institutes (NSIs)
- 18 National Mapping and Cadastral Agencies (NMCAs)
- 4 other bodies
- 17 countries with responses from both NSI and NMCA

**Thanks to everyone who responded for their valuable insights!**



# SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the survey, some recommendations were made:

1. Identify and promote sustainable funding resources and models to support data integration activities at national levels.
2. Enhance communication and engagement strategies to grow awareness of the benefits of data integration and better support the sharing of best practice and new technologies.
3. Promote greater data standardisation and interoperability through harmonised standards, operating models, production processes and services.



<https://statswiki.unece.org/x/OwLnFw>



# JOINT UNECE / EUROSTAT / UN-GGIM: EUROPE WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATING STATISTICAL AND GEOSPATIAL DATA

4-5 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia

- UNECE led its organisation in collaboration with Eurostat, UN-GGIM: Europe and the host, the Republic Geodetic Authority of the Republic of Serbia.
- Feedback from the UNECE Survey guided the design and structure of the workshop.
- The workshop focused on three main themes:
  - Effective Governance
  - Data and Technology
  - People and Partnerships
- Discussions: how to optimise current governance and policy frameworks, identify the skills needed to progress data integration activities, determine the best ways to communicate and engage with key stakeholders, and identify the building blocks needed to form successful and sustainable partnerships both now and in the future.





# JOINT WORKSHOP OUTCOMES

- Over 60 representatives of NSIs, NMCAs, intergovernmental organisations and private sector organisations attended, from 28 different countries.
- Some key takeaways:
  - Sharing experiences, best practices and connecting the statistical and geospatial communities provided inspiration for future work and further collaboration.
  - Frameworks are an important means of bringing different datasets together to solve common challenges.
  - Shared understanding of common challenges is needed at every level of organisation and the benefits of data integration should be more effectively communicated with decision-makers.
  - Participation of EECCA countries in data integration activities will ensure that the benefits are equally achieved across the region.

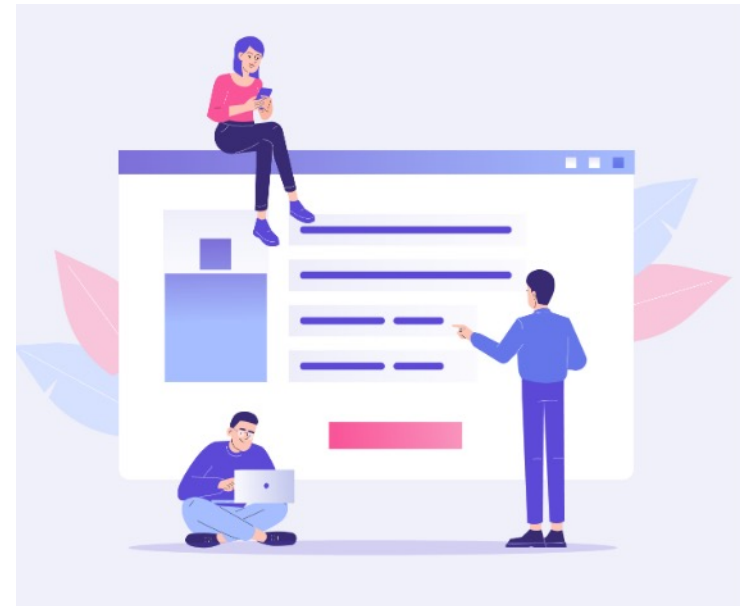
## Useful links:

- Workshop wiki page: <https://statswiki.unece.org/x/7AHnFw>
- INGEST blog post: <https://statswiki.unece.org/x/LQDfG>



# POST-EVENT SURVEY

- Issued to workshop participants to gain feedback on:
  - What they liked about the workshop
  - What aspects could be improved
  - The relevance to their own work areas
  - Interest in attending a similar event in the future
- 18 responses received with feedback including:
  - Enjoyed diverse range of topics
  - Interactive group work and networking activities
  - Very useful (78%) or partially useful (12%)
  - 100% would attend another workshop in the future
- Suggested future topics included data warehouses, Earth Observation, data science, and even more governance and policy-related topics.



## Post-Event Survey

October 2023

Please share your feedback on the Joint UNECE / Eurostat / UN-GGIM: Europe Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information.

**Thanks to everyone who responded for their feedback!**

# INGEST TASK FORCE ON STANDARDS ISSUES

## Aim:

- To support the greater harmonization and interoperability of statistical and geospatial information through the use of common standards.

## Forum to:

- Discuss the use of standards
- Explore issues and constraints
- Identify priorities and future actions

## Organisation:

- Co-chairs: Statistics Finland and Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland
- Secretariat: UNECE
- Members: 16 organisations from 12 countries (7 target countries), NSIs and NMCAs represented



# INGEST TASK FORCE ON STANDARDS ISSUES

## Activities:

- a) Understand the current use of standards and share use cases and best practice.
- b) Determine the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats regarding the organisational use of standards and the gaps present within and between organisations.
- c) Identify priorities for standards harmonisation work and recommend related actions.

## Meetings:

- Regular monthly meetings, plus additional sub-group meetings as required.
- In-person meeting in Belgrade on 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2023 for wider consultation.

## Output:

- A report containing recommended actions and methodological guidelines to support their implementation at a national level.



# WIKI SPACE

Over 10,000 views to date!



<https://statswiki.unece.org/x/3wDnFw>

 Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Data ★

Pages

Blog

Calendars

SPACE SHORTCUTS

Here you can add shortcut links to the most important content for your team or project. [Configure sidebar.](#)

PAGE TREE

- INGEST Blog Series
- Joint UNECE, Eurostat, UN-
  - Meeting of the Task Force
  - 9th Joint UN-GGIM: Euro
  - GeoStat 2023 - Timetable
- Presentations
- Steering Committee of Wor
- UNECE Task Force on Stand
  - Documents
  - Activities
  - Report

Space tools

## Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Data Home

Created by Tæke Gjaltema, last modified by Sara Stewart just a moment ago

Welcome to our space on the integration of geospatial and statistical data

Data is a critical resource for evidence-based decision-making and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has brought the need for harmonised data of increasing quality, accuracy, currency and granularity to the forefront of global, regional and national agendas to support the measurement and monitoring of its SDGs. The integration of geospatial and statistical data is one of the most promising ways to maximise the value of data-driven decision-making and global efforts to progress data integration have been ongoing for a decade, centred upon the work of the United Nations, its various bodies and expert groups, and increasingly extended and adapted to regional and national contexts through the work of UNECE, Eurostat, UN-GGIM: Europe, EFGS and others. The benefits of integrating geospatial and statistical data are great: enhancing the value of the geospatial and statistical data itself through improved quality, improving the interoperability of datasets, providing new possibilities for analysis and presentation, and resulting in greater insights which can inform decision-making and policy development across multiple levels.

This space is designed to bring together information on upcoming workshops, links to key groups and resources relating to data integration, as well as the home of a new blog series on integrating geospatial and statistical data, INGEST, which has recently been launched. Happy exploring!

### Workshops

Workshops on integrating geospatial and statistical data	When and Where
10th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting	13 March 2024, Luxembourg
INSPIRE Conference 2023 - "Green data for all"	28-29 November 2023, Brussels, Belgium and online
Joint UNECE, Eurostat, UN-GGIM Europe Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Data	4-5 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia
9th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting	3 October 2023, Belgrade, Serbia
Meeting of the Task Force on Standards Issues relating to the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	3 October 2023, Belgrade Serbia
EFGS 2022 Conference - Towards standardised geospatial statistics	27-28 October 2022, online
8th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – UNECE Meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	24 March 2022, online
EFGS 2021 Conference - Unlocking value from data	7-8 September 2021, online
Joint Workshop on the Integration between Geospatial and Statistical Information in	28 April - 12 May 2021, online



### Quick Links

[INGEST Blog Series](#)

[Joint UNECE, Eurostat, UN-GGIM Europe Workshop Report](#)

### Key Organisations:

[UNECE Statistics Division](#)

[Eurostat](#)

[UN-GGIM: Europe](#)

[UN-GGIM \(Global\)](#)

[European Forum for Geography and Statistics](#)

### Key Resources:

[The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework \(GSGF\)](#)

# INGEST BLOG SERIES



10 blog posts published to date:

1. Welcome to INGEST, our new blog series on integrating geospatial and statistical data
2. Data Integration: Key players and recent developments
3. UNECE Survey - Part 1: Background and Context
4. UNECE Survey - Part 2: Data and Technology
5. UNECE Survey - Part 3: Collaboration and Partnerships
6. UNECE Survey - Part 4: Issues and Obstacles
7. The low-down on the Joint Workshop on Integrating Statistical and Geospatial Information
8. The Global Statistical Geospatial Framework - A framework for the world
9. The UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - Strengthening geospatial information management
10. Unlocking the Power of Geospatial Data with GIS Data Integration: A New R Package

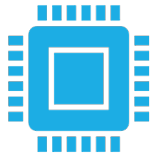
## Key stats to date:

- LinkedIn: 65,000 impressions and 1000 likes
- Blog: Over 4,000 views



<https://statswiki.unece.org/x/OwLnFw>

# FUTURE ACTIVITIES



INGEST Task Force on Standards Issues



Report containing recommended actions and guidelines produced by the Task Force.



Maintenance of the wiki space and addition of a forum.



Producing regular blog posts for INGEST



Some funding available for country-level assistance to UNECE beneficiary countries

**Please speak to myself or Taeke if you are interested!**



# THANKS FOR LISTENING

## Contact Details:

Taeke Gjaltema, UNECE Regional Advisor on Statistics ([taeke.gjaltema@un.org](mailto:taeke.gjaltema@un.org))

Sara Stewart, UNECE Consultant ([sara@geointelligence.space](mailto:sara@geointelligence.space))



**UNECE**



**Funded by  
the European Union**