



## UN-GGIM: EUROPE – Secretariat

### Report to Eleventh 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. Kadaster Netherlands covered some of the cash costs for some Secretariat activities in the past. The agreement was once again extended in January 2023 for a further period of two years. An annual assessment of the performance of Secretariat is carried out, the outcome has regularly been excellent. The last assessment was carried out in December 2023.

The role and responsibilities of the Secretariat are defined in the approved articles of UN-GGIM: Europe<sup>1</sup> as well as the work plans approved at the annual plenary meetings of the regional committee.

This report provides an overview of the activities and tasks carried out by EuroGeographics, on behalf of the Secretariat, since the last Regional Plenary Meeting. This document also provides the line of thought by the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe on providing sustainable funding for the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat.

#### 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 seven months since the tenth Plenary Meeting held in in November 2023.

- Support the effective and smooth operation of UN-GGIM: Europe:
  - arranged and acted as secretary to the Executive Committee at their meetings - four regular meetings were held in the past 7 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 website<sup>2</sup>;
  - undertook and managed communication about the activities of UN-GGIM: Europe through news items, direct emails and via social media: X<sup>3</sup> (formally known as Twitter) account which currently numbers over 1600 followers and a LinkedIn account<sup>4</sup> was created in July 2023 and has grown to over 587 followers in twelve 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;

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

<sup>2</sup> <https://un-ggim-europe.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://twitter.com/UNGGIMEurope>

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



- provided support to UN-GGIM: Europe members in preparation for their participation at the fourteenth session of the Committee of Experts which will be organised in August 2024. Support includes drafting reports on the work of UN-GGIM: Europe, contributing to the UN-GGIM interregional report, supporting the Executive Committee develop region-wide perspective and statements on the items on the Committee of Expert's programme of work, and event communications and social media;
  - forwarded communications and outputs from the UN-GGIM Secretariat and Committee of Experts to the Regional Members and relevant stakeholders;
  - worked in collaboration with UNECE to organise and hold the eleventh plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe in Geneva Switzerland in June 2024;
  - worked in collaboration with UNECE to coordinate and hold a joint Common Day overlapping with the eleventh plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe and the overlapping with the 72nd Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES).
- Assist the Executive Committee in establishing and 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 came to an end ed in December 2023, the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat worked with the UNECE Statistical Division to update and renew the collaboration agreement for a further three years;
    - worked with the other four Regional Committees to organise interregional collaboration and coordination.
  - 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 UN-IGIF to host series UN-GGIM: Europe webinars<sup>5</sup> on the EuroGeographics webinar platform;
    - worked in collaboration with UNECE and Eurostat to organise the *10th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe - ESS - UNECE Meeting on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information* in Luxemburg in March 2024;
    - contribute to the steering committee of the European Forum of Geography and Statistics (EFGS)
    - organised and facilitated a workshop on *UN-GGIM: Europe contributing to European data strategy* at the INSPIRE Conference in November 2023;
  - co-organised a joint workshop in collaboration with the UN-GGIM Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks, and the EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network in Leuven Belgium in February 2024.

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



## Sustainable funding for the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat

Line of thought by the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe on providing sustainable funding for the UNGGIM-Europe Secretariat.

Noting that:

- The cost of the Secretariat has increased both due to higher prices (inflation etc.) and growth in the range of activities that the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat is supporting, reflecting the work of the wider UN-GGIM community (in turn leading to more travel cost etc.).
- The additional cost of the secretariat that needs to be sustainably funded is around 15k euro per year.
- The Netherlands formally sponsors the appointment of EuroGeographics as the secretariat of UNGGIM-Europe through a Service Level Agreement, but funding is a separate arrangement that has to be arranged and decided upon by all members.
- Cost of travel, lodging and work hours of members participating in the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe and other Working Groups and any representation activities are covered by the members themselves.

Considering that:

- The UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee are extremely satisfied by the Secretariat service provided by EuroGeographics and strongly recommend that this arrangement is kept in place.
- The UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat provides a crucial role in the functioning of our community.
- It is crucial for our lines of work that the Secretariat retains the possibility of traveling in person to important events and meetings across Europe and, where beneficial, the globe.
- Currently EuroGeographics provides funding for the resourcing of the Secretariat. This cost is covered by the membership subscriptions of EuroGeographics members. The resourcing costs of the Secretariat (staff cost) will continue to be met by EuroGeographics. The Netherlands has been willing to one-off cover additional costs (e.g. travel) for the Secretariat in the past, but this is neither sustainable or a fair option to consider going forward in 2024 and beyond.
- The Secretariat can function most effectively if funding is secured for a longer period of time

Expresses that:

- The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe finds it important that this topic is discussed in a timely and transparent manner to obtain a mandate from our Members and across the community to further work out these options at hand.
- The Executive Committee of UNGGIM-Europe would like to hear from our members how they feel about the options at hand. The following options can be put forward:
  - Asking members of our community that are not EuroGeographics members (either individually or collectively through a representative body) to contribute to the funding of the secretariat.
  - Ask observers to contribute to the funding of the secretariat, as they also benefit from their participation in the community that the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat maintains.
- If additional funding is realised, a yearly financial report will be presented to the UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary to give transparency to the spending of the Secretariat.