

# Implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe work plan

## Data Strategy and Policy



**UN-GGIM  
EUROPE**

UNITED NATIONS  
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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# Data Strategy and Policy

*Policies that support open public sector data, common data spaces, data governance, ethical use of artificial intelligence, and concepts towards a geospatially enabled 'knowledge infrastructure' have an impact on data.*

*In Europe, the political programmes and the European Green Deal establish a green transformation in the light on the UN SDGs. The European data strategy, and its proposed Regulation on European data governance, has the ambition of a 'society empowered by data', anchoring data as the basis for better decision making. While the European Union is a subset of the region covered by UN-GGIM: Europe, its data policies and legislation have a broader regional impact.*

## Aim and expected outcomes

- To contribute to the development of relevant policy and data strategies regarding the management and use of geospatial data to maximise its value in addressing the challenges of a green, sustainable and digital Europe.
- Understand the linkages of European policy with the IGIF.

## Related UN-GGIM Activities

- IGIF Strategic pathways on:
  - Policy and Legal
  - Data
  - Standard
- Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management

# UNGGIM Meeting

Noted that the Authoritative Data Paper is intended as a policy and legal guide to help national geospatial entities, including national mapping, cadastral and land registration authorities, as well as the private sector and civil society, to better produce, sustain and govern the use of geospatial information that is deemed authoritative and trusted, and to be used as a supplement in the implementation of the UN-IGIF strategic pathways relating to authority and authoritativeness;

Endorsed the paper entitled 'Authoritative data in an evolving geospatial landscape: an exploration of policy and legal challenges' (Authoritative Data Paper), developed through a collaborative and inclusive global consultation process to address the issues related to authoritative data;

# General conclusions from Leuven meeting

Recommended to Focus on frameworks that can be implemented.

Noted the need for better communication on policy and legal frameworks developed in simple, clear and intelligible language.

Decided to engage further with the wider community (data, AI, legal, technology and innovation) to consider how ongoing policy developments could benefit from and incorporate a geospatial component. Recommended to engage further the functional groups of UN-GGIM to strengthen interlinkages, joint activities, interactions, seminars, and meetings with WG related to authoritative data such as land, marine, and names domains.

Welcomed the development of use cases by the WG on Climate and Resilience and the invitation to bring perspectives on authoritative data and 'fit for purpose data for crisis'.

Noted the need to collect relevant frameworks, agreements and materials that can support advancing the paper on authoritative geospatial data for crisis, and annex them in the paper.

Noted the need to consider policy and legal gaps related to geospatial information management at national and regional levels, and to resolve them with the wider community.

Called for the overall consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion principles in developing policy and legal frameworks.

# Working Group on Policy and Legal frameworks For Geospatial Information Management - summary notes

Participants exchanged views on the topic of Authoritative data for crisis including the considerations of crisis being in different phases that warranted different modalities of responses such as with reference to the tsunami that affected Aceh (2004). Participants further noted the absence of authoritative data at the time, and the need at the time for a continuous response to the crisis consequences. Considered the needs for legislation for sharing and using data in the context of the COVID-19 crisis.

The need to get necessary approval for the release of the hydrographic and bathymetric data, and of the lengthy timeline to get the said approval.

The importance of centralizing the data in the context of crisis response, as per the Convention. There was a need for another larger framework, with a broader context, that would be a Geospatial Convention, which could refer to other conventions and that could have several protocols, such as on **authoritative data for crisis**. The use cases are key and should be by thematic or by country.

# Working Group on Policy and Legal frameworks For Geospatial Information Management - summary notes

It would be useful to consider a new innovative approach to disaster response and suggested holding seminars on the topic. The approach by phase would be suitable, including how the data collected in the context of crisis could be recycled to the more regular data lifecycle.

Regarding artificial intelligence, a participant noted ongoing development of legal and policy frameworks around AI and urged the geospatial community to get involved in and shape the development of these laws, regulations, and policies - at both the national and international level.

# European Green Deal

## GreenData4All

### *INSPIRE as an enabler for the Green Deal dataspace*

GreenDeal Data Space consist of:

- 1) Green data 4all
- 2) Circular economy data space
- 3) Destination Earth
- 4) Zero Pollution
- 5) Services

- The European Data Strategy announces a 'GreenData4All' initiative as a driver for a possible review of the legal framework.
- Better availability and accessibility of environmental data will help to deliver on EU Green deal strategies.
- European Green Deal as political driver for developing a EU Green Deal data space.
- INSPIRE Directive is an important instrument for bringing data from public administrations into the Green Deal data space
- **Evaluate the INSPIRE Directive** and look at the coherence with the public access to environmental information Directive 2003/4/EC
- **Revision of the INSPIRE Directive** - politically validated (DG ENV, CAB Sinkevičius, CAB Timmermans)



# Amendment to Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010

- The **long-awaited amendment** to Regulation (EU) No 1089/2010 as regards interoperability of spatial data sets and services was adopted by the College on 24 October 2023 and published in the Official Journal on 30/10 (<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/2431/oj>). The amendment introduces the following broad changes to the Regulation to simplify and make the implementation more flexible:
- replacing the explicit mentioning of code list and enumeration values in the IR text with a reference to the INSPIRE registry, where these values are now managed, under the governance of the Commission INSPIRE expert group (MIG);
- a clarification on provision of values for “voidable” attributes and those attributes for which no value may exist;
- and a mechanism to allow additional (national) coordinate reference systems, under the governance of the MIG.



# An initiative to rationalize reporting requirements under EU regulations

- **Change in the INSPIRE Directive 2007/2/EC**
- In Article 21(2) of Directive 2007/2/EC, the first sentence is replaced by the following:
- ‘No later than 31 March every two years, starting from 31 March 2025, Member States shall update, if necessary, a summary report. Those reports, which shall be made public by the Commission services, shall include summary descriptions of:’.

# INSPIRE Conference 2023

- Workshop: UN-GGIM: Europe contributing to European data strategy
- Structured data is widely available but not easily accessible...
- Lot of work focusing on unstructured data
- The data “interface” is often reports (\*.pdf etc)
- Green vs digital transition still need cooperation
- Green deal /Data spaces – wish list (dedicated training, metadata also for unstructured data, methods with linking text and data, transparent data management)  
Examples of digital twins – emodnet (European Marine Observation and Data Network (EMODnet))
- Smart cities
- IACs data – in INSPIRE geoportal
- AI is ok, needed people, who will skillfully handle AI

## Green Data 4 All - Indicative roadmap

- Political validation: 29/07/2021
- The evaluation Staff Working Document (SWD) for the INSPIRE Directive was published on the [“Have your say”](#) website in July 2022
- Revision



- Call for evidence -Q2023/Q2024 – simplification and modernization of requirements regarding INSPIRE data exchange requirements - adaptation to the relevant horizontal data regulations;
- INSPIRE data exchange at the heart of environmental policy needs, scope should be adapted to facilitate reporting in line with the EU acquis

# Conclusions next steps

- developing a comprehensive understanding of the distinctions and similarities between various data strategies. This will contribute significantly to the development of relevant policies and data strategies for managing and using geospatial data to support a green, sustainable, and digitally advanced Europe,
- to focus on identification of specific challenges that these strategies aim to address, such as environmental sustainability, digital transformation, data interoperability, and data sharing,
- to focus on how data integration is managed across different strategies. This includes technical standards, data governance models, and policy frameworks (open data) that facilitate data sharing and interoperability;
- cooperation and analyzing/checking how input from the UN-GGIM group using the integrated geospatial information framework (IGIF) influences other groups, such as the Data Integration Group, NMCA etc. may add value
- Highlight examples of contributions, such as best practices, and frameworks provided by group that support the development of relevant policy and data strategies regarding the management and use of geospatial data during meetings in European Commission