

Eleventh Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Report from Line of Work Data Integration | 12/2023 – 05/2024

Executive Summary

This report summarizes the outcome and findings for months 12/2023 – 05/2024.

From the organisational point of view the former Working Group on Data Integration is divided into two Lines of Work (LoW), Data integration and SDG. Germany is responsible and chairs the LoW Data Integration, co-chaired by Austria and Belgium. Portugal is responsible and chairs the LoW SDG, co-chaired by Germany.

The first physical meeting of this current working phase was conducted jointly for the Line of Work on Data Integration and SDG on 15-16 April 2024 at Statistics Portugal in Lisbon. 31 participants, including newbies from Armenia and India and three new observer organisations (UN-GGIM Academic Network, EARSC, OECD) have been present.

The participants agreed upon the following results:

- a. Evaluate previous recommendations from the reports since 2014, identify obstacles and prepare/communicate them in a new/simpler way for political decision-makers.
- b. Prepare a use case to describe successful data integration. Also describe obstacles and risks.
- c. Carry out a questionnaire campaign to query data integration methods in other domains (such as agriculture, environment, transport, libraries, etc.)

The Plenary is kindly asked to acknowledge the following call for action by the Line of Work on Data Integration:

Call for action

- 1 The Plenary is kindly requested to approve the ongoing work of the Line of Work on Data Integration within the Work Plan 2022 – 2025
- 2 The Plenary is kindly requested to adopt the decisions (tasks) being made within the Line of Work on Data Integration at the physical meeting in Lisbon in April for the remaining working period.
- 3 The Plenary is kindly requested to further promote the function of the Line of Work as 'Advisory Group' to continuously contribute to global and regional data integration issues



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1. General management issues

The Line of Work on Data Integration is chaired by Germany. Currently 20 European UN Member States comprising 25-30 National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities or National Statistical Institutes are members of both Lines of Work. Eurostat, DG REGIO, the European Environment Agency (EEA) as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC) actively cooperate in both Lines of Work “Data Integration” and “SDG”.

The first physical meeting of this current working phase was held jointly with the Line of Work “SDG” on 15-16 April 2024 at Statistics Portugal in Lisbon. 31 participants including newbies from Armenia and India and three new observer organisations (UN-GGIM Academic Network, EARSC, OECD) have been present. The lead of the Line of Work on IGIF participated and presented issues and tasks, too.

2. Progress according to the new work plan 2022 – 2025

2.1. Line of Work on Data Integration

In 2023, the following three webinar series were conducted. The underlying rationale translates a narrative thread focusing on previous findings, data sources and methods, data integration and policy needs. Each webinar was coordinated by a different institution and several institutions contribute to them, by giving a broad perspective of the subjects discussed. Each webinar had a concept note indicating the main content of the webinar and an evaluation report giving the main outcomes and findings.

The webinars were recorded, and all material was uploaded to the UN-GGIM: Europe’s website.

	Webinar	Contributors	Date	Coordinator
Line of Work Data Integration				
#1	Data integration in Europe – challenges, findings, added value and cost savings	Eurostat DG REGIO JRC	March 15, 1 pm ✓	Cristian Fetic, Hannes Reuter, Bianka Fohgrub (Eurostat)
#2	Linked Data in the European spatial data infrastructure – an operational view	EFGS NLS FI Kadaster NL	7 November, 1 pm ✓	Markus Jobst (BEV Austria)
#3	The way towards a Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure	Geospatial World EuroSDR swisstopo	19 June, 1 pm ✓	Nathalie Delattre (NGI Belgium)

Figure 1: Conducted webinars within the Line of Work on Data Integration in 2023

The main outcomes of the webinars on DI can be summarized as follows:

- **Use cases and best practices on data integration methods & recommendations and guidelines** are still relevant
- **Linked data approaches** need to be better explained to national statistical and geospatial agencies
- **Geospatial knowledge is essential**
- The **geospatial knowledge** concept is now in application **in many fields** like education, land monitoring, ecological transition and mobile maps applications
- GKI is a concept but defining a step-by step approach or methodology to set-up GKI and clearly defining processes



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- There is a huge **gap** between the **technical implementation** (vocabularies, thesaurii and ontologies) and **policy makers** for the topics of **linked data** and **geospatial knowledge infrastructures**.

In Lisbon the Line of Work members discussed the outcomes and findings of the webinars.

The participants agreed upon the following tasks:

- a. Evaluate previous recommendations from the reports since 2014, identify obstacles and prepare/communicate them in a new/simpler way for political decision-makers.
- b. Prepare a use case to describe successful data integration. Also describe obstacles and risks.
- c. Carry out a questionnaire campaign to query data integration methods in other domains (such as agriculture, environment, transport, libraries, etc.)

The Plenary is kindly requested to approve the ongoing work of the Line of Work on Data Integration within the Work Plan 2022 – 2025. It is worth noting, that the new tasks on Data Integration have been cross-checked with the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat, other working groups, and ongoing activities (e.g., UNECE, GEO).

3. Related Activities of the Line of Work supporting the work plan 2022 – 2025

According to the Work Plan the Line of Work continues to contribute to following activities.

3.1. Contribution to the UN EG ISGI

Members of the UN Expert Group on the Integration of Statistics and Geospatial (UN EG ISGI) have been present at the Lisbon Meeting to share their work within the UN-GGIM: Europe Line of Work on Data Integration.

The Plenary is kindly requested to further promote the function of the Line of Work as ‘Advisory Group’ to continuously contribute to global and regional data integration issues addressed by global and European activities.

3.2. Support of international coordination activities

Members of UNECE, OECD, EARSC and the UN-GGIM: Academic Network have been invited to the Lisbon meeting and gave overview presentations about their work.

Particularly, a regular exchange on activities between the EC unit responsible for EuroGEO and the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee / Secretariat seems to be key as EuroGEO will increase its activities due to a budget assigned.

The support of international activities includes the participation and presentations at European conferences, workshops:

Conferences	Dates
EFGS Conference 2024, Ljubljana	10-12 December 2024

4. Attachments

- All documents of the webinars are uploaded to the UN-GGIM: Europe Website: <https://un-ggim-europe.org/un-ggim-europe-webinar-series/>



5. Call for action

The Plenary is kindly asked to acknowledge the following call for action by the Line of Work on Data Integration:

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