



Updating the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025 – 2030

Context and overview of the process

The UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy outline the aims and objectives of the Regional Committee ensuring that these remain valid and relevant to our region. The [current strategy](#) was adopted at the Eighth Plenary in October 2021, with the more detailed work plan adopted a year later in 2022. In the intervening four years several changes have taken place, shifting the operating landscape of UN-GGIM: Europe. Within political Europe the June 2024 European Parliamentary elections and the start of a new European Commission cycle signalled an update in policy and direction; the emergence of artificial intelligence triggered shifts in more than just technology; and UN-GGIM itself went through several major changes including the work by Member States to strengthen the core Secretariat in New York, the establishment of two Centres of Excellence and a growing global work plan.

In December 2024 the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee discussed this shifting landscape during an in-person workshop. It was agreed that these were enough to warrant a review of the UN-GGIM: Europe strategy, which had been drafted as the world was emerging from a pandemic and the shadow of its global disruption.

The Executive Committee were also aware that the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025-2030 was being updated for presentation at the Committee of Expert's Fifteen Session. And while it seems that the review of the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy is being done in isolation of the global strategy this is not the case. UN-GGIM: Europe, together with the other Regional Committees, have been supporting the UN-GGIM Bureau and Secretariat in New York in the process of revising the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework. So, the revised UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025 - 2030 is in step and indeed informed by the global framework which will be presented at UN-GGIM15 in August 2025.

In parallel, the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe have been working on reviewing the Europe Strategy, keeping the global context in mind while ensuring that our regional needs continue to be met. It is important to keep in mind that the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy is a community document not just an Executive Committee document, and for this reason a regional consultation was conducted to engage with the Member States and other important partners across the UN-GGIM: Europe Region. The regional consultation was conducted via an online survey, with responses collected between April and May. In total 43 responses were received, from 23 Member States¹ and 4 observer organisations². The geographic spread of the respondents is fairly representative across region spanning northern, central, western and eastern Europe. As expected, most responses were from geospatial agencies (56%), just over a quarter of responses (30%) were from the statistical community, two Member States provided a national response that included views from the country's geospatial and statistical organisations, and one response was from a national environmental body, the remaining responses (9%) were from international bodies, organisations and associations.

Although the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy needs refreshing and updating, it is not proposed to change key elements. The overwhelming majority (93%) of respondents agreed that they identify with the existing vision and mission. The survey asked about the three Strategic Pillars of UN-GGIM: Europe,

1 Armenia, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovenija, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and United Kingdom

2 Eurostat, EuroGeographics, EuroSDR and EARSC



and again overwhelmingly the majority is in favour of the three pillars and their aims and focus. The Strategic Leadership scored the highest with 100% of respondents thinking it is relevant. The Raising Awareness pillar is believed to be relevant by 98% of respondents and the Sharing Knowledge pillar by 95% respondents. In terms of the aim of each pillar again the response was positive Strategic Leadership (100%), Raising Awareness (95%) and Sharing Knowledge (98%). When asked about the focus of the pillars the respondents again reacted positively, but with slightly lower scores - Strategic Leadership (97%), Raising Awareness (95%) and Sharing Knowledge (92%). The survey asked for open responses, asking for survey participants to expand on the revisions they believe are needed. These have been considered and included in the review of the strategy.

The Regional work plan, which will be reviewed after the UN-GGIM: Europe strategy is adopted, is the blueprint for implementing the strategy. The survey also asked a few questions about the work plan and participation in the lines of work. Most respondents indicated that they participated in at least one of the lines of work, only 18% replied that they have never contributed or participated to any at all. The participation of the lines of work are as follows: Data Integration (65%), Sustainable Development Goals (45%), UN-Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (43%), Geodetic Reference Frames – Europe (25%), Data Strategy and Policy (20%) and Core Data (23%) this last was Working Group from previous work plan.

When asked about barriers to participation, by far the biggest barrier is lack of resources (63%) which is largely outside the control of the Regional Committee. Some respondents (13%) indicated that topic was not relevant to organisation, which is understandable given the specialisation of some of the lines of work, and not a concern that needs to be addressed. The other obstacles indicated: Not aware of the activities (15%), Not sure how to take part/contribute (13%) and Lack of expertise in the line of work (8%) are issues which can be addressed by the Regional Committee going forward.

The revised UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025- 2030 has been updated taking into consideration the direction of the UN-GGIM Strategic Framework 2025 - 2030 being drafted, the responses of the regional consultation of the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy and the views of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe. The revision has not changed key elements of the previous strategy, it has been more of a review and a refresh, to ensure that the vision and direction of UN-GGIM: Europe for the next 4 – 5 years is in alignment with the regional context and landscape. The Executive Committee thanks all the UN-GGIM: Europe members for their engagement and response to the survey ensuring that the revised strategy is a community document that reflects the needs and objectives of the region.

The next step following the adoption of the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025- 2030 will be a revision of the work plan to implement this new strategy. This will be developed in consultation with our working groups, lines of work and interested members in the coming months, to be presented to the Regional Committee at the Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe in 2026.

Action for the Member States of UN-GGIM: Europe

- Members are asked to approve the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025- 2030.



UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025 - 2030

Foreword

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information in Europe, aligning to the global UN-GGIM programme as approved annually by the Committee of Experts. The mission of UN-GGIM: Europe to *maximise the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world* has never been more apt as Europe faces a complex and changing environment. Issues such as climate resilience, sustaining economic growth and technological disruptions impact all of us across the region. Meanwhile we continue to contribute to the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and prepare to contribute to the post-2030 agenda under the motto leaving no one behind.

In spring 2025, the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee (ExCom) reviewed the many notable contributions that the Europe Region had made to the global agenda. Also noting the changing landscape, both on a global and on a European level, the ExCom felt that it was an appropriate time to set out a new forward-looking strategy to act as a framework and guide a collaborative work plan for the next five years.

UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom still considers that the three main strategic pillars of Sharing Knowledge, Raising Awareness and Strategic Leadership form a helpful framework around which the regional strategy and work plan may be formed. This strategy will remain in place for five years from endorsement in 2025.

In seeking endorsement of the strategy, the UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom are clear that its maximum success is dependent on the widest participation from UN Member States across the Europe region. ExCom encourage Member States and observers to become involved and commit to a sustained programme of work through which we share best practice, learn from one another and continue to provide inspiration to colleagues on a global basis. The UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom will take a leading role in involving as many Member States as possible to maximise our joint contribution to the global strategy framework.

The UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom is grateful to those who have collaborated so effectively to deliver this revised Strategy and are delighted to present it to the Twelfth Regional Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe for adoption in June 2025.

Preamble

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) is a formal intergovernmental mechanism to discuss, enhance and coordinate global geospatial information management activities by involving Member States of the United Nations. Since its inception in 2010 it has played a leading role in making joint decisions and setting the direction on the management of geospatial information in national and global policy frameworks.

UN-GGIM works with governments to improve policy, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks. It also addresses global issues and contributes to collective knowledge as a community

with shared interests and challenges and it develops effective strategies to build geospatial capacity in both developed and developing countries. UN-GGIM provides a forum to liaise and coordinate among and between Member States and International organisations.

The Europe Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe) is open to UN Member States in Europe and to UN Member States that are part of UN Economic Commission for Europe, and has, in this context, a collaboration agreement with UNECE. UN-GGIM: Europe also welcomes the participation from professional, research and academic organisations and associations, and private sector companies involved in geospatial and statistical information management either as Observers to UN-GGIM: Europe or through the Geospatial Societies, UN-GGIM Academic Network, and the UN-GGIM Private Sector Networks. The strategic leadership of UN-GGIM: Europe is provided by the Executive Committee.

Background

UN-GGIM: Europe is one of five regional recognised bodies of UN-GGIM, and was formally established in 2014, during the first plenary meeting held in Chisinau, Moldova. Its strategy and activities are driven by the Executive Committee. A multi-year Work Plan is reviewed and approved by the Plenary Committee defining the operational activities and initiatives that Member States and Observers can contribute to. Members States and observers are invited to join the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Groups which are aligned to the global UN-GGIM Programme.

According to the Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe, the Region *shall identify European issues relevant to geospatial information management and recommend necessary actions on them for the furtherance of the discussions in UN-GGIM so that the economic, social and environmental benefits of European geospatial information are maximized* (Article 2 of the Articles³ of UN-GGIM: Europe).

From its creation the aim of UN-GGIM: Europe has been to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information in Europe. Since its formation it has promoted the collaboration between national mapping and cadastral authorities and national statistical institutes in the European Region, along with European Institutions and observer bodies. The Regional Committee operates in a mature and complex environment across the Region and actively works to maximise synergies, avoid duplication of effort, and reduce workloads and costs where practical. This includes improving the joint response to user needs and requirements, encouraging geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing, and optimising the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.

UN-GGIM: Europe takes a leading role in showing good practices in the use of reliable location-related reference data, the integration of data sources as well as developing contributions towards monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). UN-GGIM: Europe has also taken a leading role in shaping and delivering many of UN-GGIM's core activities including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), the Global Statistical Geospatial and Framework (GSGF), the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (GGCE) and Global Framework for Effective Land Administration (FELA). These

³ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UN-GGIM-Europe-Articles-and-Rules-v2-Adopted2014.pdf>.

demonstrate UN-GGIM: Europe's active role in bringing different domains together. UN-GGIM: Europe has been a driving force in strengthening interregional cooperation, underlining the importance of DEI in the geospatial community and determine our collaboration with the private sector.

UN-GGIM has continued to grow and change over the last fifteen years. This can be seen in the new areas of work that have been added to the Programme of Work and reflect a changing global community which focuses on geospatial data at individual, national, regional and global levels. We have seen a paradigm shift in the importance of geospatial data within the wider data ecosystem. At the same time, issues related to effective and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence, data privacy, data confidentiality, and data ethics are at the top many national agendas. We have seen how strategies, frameworks, standards, and policy developments can be combined to harness, showcase, maximise, and protect the value of data. The establishment of multiple global UN Centres of Excellence are proof the value of geospatial data is widely acknowledged, and our community continues to grow. The Centres now play an integral role in closing the digital divide, bringing Member States, academics and the private sector together and leaving no one behind.

Now, more than ever, there is global awareness of the importance of having location-based data available to face the social, economic and environmental challenges that societies face. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, and more recently the Pact for the Future, among others, have shown us the critical need for trusted and authoritative location-based data and information to be accessible, usable and time-relevant. The Covid-19 pandemic, conflicts around the globe, and increased frequency and severity of natural hazards have demonstrated the importance of robust and resilient infrastructures to keep societies functioning and interconnected at a time of crisis.

Following the European Parliamentary elections in June 2024, the new Commission has proposed an ambitious agenda where data, including geospatial data, play a foundational role across multiple strategic priorities aiming for a digital transformation benefiting people and planet. In Europe the European Green Deal continues to advance the UN Sustainable Development Goals. While the recently published Competitiveness Compass for the EU and the emerging European Data Union Strategy have data as their backbone, seeing economic growth and prosperity through innovation and decarbonisation – echoing some of the aims of the Pact for the Future.

The Open Data Directive and High Value Datasets regulation is a strong policy driver, with geospatial data explicitly mandated alongside statistics, earth observation, and meteorological data. This convergence creates opportunities for integrated data ecosystems where geospatial serves as the framework connecting statistical indicators with Earth observation insights, to unlock intelligence from data for evidence-based policymaking. In the context of the European Statistical System, it is also important to recognize the opportunities for the development of location-based information; Population and Housing Censuses have been leveraging the foundation of point-based data and the constitution of national spatial data infrastructures, ensuring that statistical information can be integrated within the broader data ecosystem.

The EU Space Programme, with its initiatives like Copernicus and Galileo, continue to enhance the contribution of Earth observation to the EU's digital and green transitions priority policies. While policies and legislations that support Green Data for All, open public sector data, common data spaces, data governance, the ethical use of artificial intelligence and digital transformations are aiming for integrated data ecosystems rather than siloed approaches.

While the European Union is a subset of the region covered by UN-GGIM: Europe, its data policies and legislation have a broad regional impact. At a national and regional level developments in policy frameworks continue to shape the way Member States collect, share, and use data. This can be seen through the emergence of data-centric legislation and strategies in the EU, and in non-EU Member States.

This Strategy and associated Work Plan, complement the changing data scene across our region and reflects the expertise within and across Member States. It aligns with the changing focus of UN-GGIM and ensure that UN-GGIM: Europe and its activities remain fit for purpose.

Implementing the Strategy

This revised strategy provides the vision and direction of UN-GGIM: Europe for the next 4 – 5 years, once adopted the next step is draft a work plan to implement it. This new work plan will serve as the bridge between strategic aim and operational reality, enabling the Europe Regional Committee execute its strategic vision into tangible results. The revised workplan will be developed in consultation with our working groups, lines of work and interested members in the coming months. It will be presented to the Regional Committee at the Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe.



Vision & Mission Statement

Building on the overarching vision of UN-GGIM of *positioning geospatial information to effectively address global challenges*, UN-GGIM: Europe mission is:

Maximise the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world.

Through identifying opportunities, understanding and solving common challenges across the Europe Region. By collaborating with partners to enhance the use of geospatial data and its integration with statistics to inform and drive action.

The Strategic Pillars

Three main strategic pillars support UN-GGIM: Europe mission and shape its strategy for the next five years.

	Sharing Knowledge	Raising Awareness	Strategic Leadership
AIM	<i>Providing the tools for society to use geospatial information for good</i>	<i>Bringing everyone together by showcasing the added value of geospatial information</i>	<i>Providing strategic alignment with the wider European and global framework in which we operate</i>
FOCUS	<i>Prioritising contributions and creating a work plan to take action</i>	<i>Determining relevant partnerships and initiatives to leverage the work</i>	<i>Guiding the core areas of work and strengthening the role of UN-GGIM: Europe</i>
GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and deliver a Work Plan that links global objectives to European and individual Member States priorities Consolidate the role of geospatial data in addressing SDG indicators Support the provision of geospatial pan-European datasets and derived products as a relevant input for the geospatial and statistical data integration Promote relevant frameworks and standards as tools for Member States Leverage the use of geospatial information and improving its national implementation Embed the principles of DEI and ethical and responsible use of AI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage geospatial data harmonization and quality – official and authoritative geospatial data is key Actively contribute to the work and promote IGIF as an evaluation system and support Member States to implement the UN-IGIF Initiate and promote engagement with relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure greater participation and bridge internal regional gaps Proactively display its work through initiatives and events on specific subjects showcasing the value of geospatial data Bring other data communities in terms of application and data combination and work on data interoperability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the global UN-GGIM architecture and cross border cooperation Promote the value of geospatial data and its integration with statistical data Leverage the value of geospatial data to support better decision-making processes to address critical socio-economic and environmental issues Support national capacity building and development in geospatial data and promote cooperation between Member States Create an environment that develops initiatives to promote a clear governance of geospatial data in Europe Provide guidance to officially establish the cooperation between geospatial and statistical organisations in Member States Focus on embedding geospatial data within the post-2030 development agenda

TRANSLATED INTO UN-GGIM: EUROPE WORK PLAN



The three pillars in more detail

The strategic pillars provide a framework for strategic action and are translated into UN-GGIM: Europe work plan. The scope of action of each strategic pillar is not self-contained, but rather interdependent from one another, with linkages and interconnected actions supporting and contributing to the effective implementation of each strategic pillar. The strategic pillars hold a complementary nature and their combined actions drive the success of UN-GGIM: Europe and the results and outputs of the work plan should provide tangible outcomes to assess the strategic achievements.

Sharing Knowledge

This Pillar is focused on delivering activities that are relevant for European Members and looks to provide the tools for society to identify and realise the benefits of using geospatial information integrated with statistical information.

This Pillar establishes the key areas of action and investment by UN-GGIM: Europe. It informs the main activities to be delivered by the Working Groups and is supported by an objective work plan with tangible results and outcomes.

In the context of this strategic Pillar, work should be carried out in order to:

- Promote relevant policies and frameworks as tools for Member States including the Integrated Geospatial Framework, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and initiatives such as the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.
- Consolidate the role of geospatial information in achieving international agreements such as the Agenda 2030 and for Sustainable Development and continuing to identify methodologies and use of geospatial information for the SDG indicators.
- Support the provision of geospatial pan-European datasets and derived products as a relevant input for the geospatial and statistical data integration.
- Leverage the use of geospatial information and improving its national implementation.
- Take advantage of Earth observation to broaden the scope of thematic production.



Raising Awareness

This Pillar is centred on raising awareness of the value of geospatial data through identifying and building relevant partnerships and initiatives which support the Mission of UN-GGIM: Europe.

Raising awareness for UN-GGIM: Europe is crucial for ensuring greater levels of participation in the Work Plan and making sure that the outcomes from the Work Plan are adopted as widely as possible. Key to this is engaging with the regional audience, reaching out to policy makers both on national as a regional level, strengthening cross regional cooperation, building bridges between different data communities, and establishing partnerships to showcase the value that geospatial and statistical information can bring.

In the context of this strategic Pillar, work should be carried out in order to:

- Encourage geospatial data harmonization and quality and promote the role of official and authoritative geospatial data, including leveraging the value of geospatial information and improving its sub-national implementation.
- Actively promote the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework as an evaluation system for Member States, especially those that already have national frameworks in place. Linked to this is to contribute to the development and uptake of the IGIF.
- Bridge the gap between different data communities, showcasing the work on data interoperability and application through combining data from different sources.
- Promote engagement with relevant partners, and stakeholders, including academia and the private sector, to ensure greater participation and bridge internal regional gaps.
- Support Member States to develop their capabilities and build capacity in country especially enabling them to evaluate and assess the relevance of the IGIF.



Strategic Leadership

The Pillar on Strategic Leadership focuses on how UN-GGIM: Europe continues to be an active and relevant body within the European Region. There are several organisations and initiatives within and across the Region dealing with geospatial information, and this Pillar is critical to developing and showcasing the added value the UN-GGIM: Europe brings. Whilst at the same time avoiding duplication of efforts.

Alongside the Articles of Association, this Pillar sets out and shapes the strategic direction for UN-GGIM: Europe and acts as a guide to set out the core areas of work in the Work Plan.

Strategic Leadership drives UN-GGIM: Europe forward advocating and acting as a voice for Regional activities, in existing as well as new and emerging domains where geospatial and statistical information has not traditionally been considered.

In the context of this strategic pillar, work should be carried out in order to:

- Support the establishment of UN-GGIM independent functional and financially stable UN organization.
- Promote the value of geospatial data and its integration with statistical data. Fostering the collaboration between geospatial and statistical communities and working together with current and prospective partners and stakeholders.
- Promote capacity building and development in geospatial information so that a wider range of communities make use and benefit from the value of this type of information. Support cooperation between Member States seeking to promote the sharing of experiences and the broad involvement of agencies and communities dealing with geospatial information
- Leverage the value of geospatial data to support better decision-making processes and address critical socio-economic and environmental issues.
- Contribute to discussions at Member State level to officially establish cooperation and provide guidance between geospatial and statistical offices.
- Support and promote the use of geospatial information to contribute to global and regional priorities like climate resilience, the implementation of DEI, a sustainable global geodetic reference framework and effective land administration.
- Build an environment to promote a more clear multi-level model of governance on how geospatial data should be produced and managed within the European context.