



# Twelfth Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

## Report from UN-GGIM: Europe UN-IGIF Working Group

This report provides a summary of the activities and discussions that have been undertaken by the UN-GGIM: Europe UN-IGIF Working Group since the Eleventh Plenary meeting in 2024. The United Kingdom, represented by Ordnance Survey, Chairs the Working Group. An active community of Member States and Observers participate in the Working Group and contribute to its tasks and outcomes.

### Operating context

We recognise and thank all the Member States and Observers who contribute to the discussions and activities of the Working Group. This hard work, commitment and focus is appreciated especially recognising that many Member States are also seeking to implement the UN-IGIF at a national level. Sharing these experiences is a key benefit of the Working Group, and we encourage other Member States and observers to participate, contribute to the deliverables and maximise the benefit that the UN-IGIF can bring at the national level.

The Working Group conducts its meetings virtually and has formally met seven times during the operating period. Where opportunities presented themselves members of the Working Group have met in-person in the margins of other events such as the Fourteenth Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2024, the Seventh UN-GGIM High Level Forum in October 2024, and the Fifth Meeting of the HLG-IGIF in February 2025. This meeting cadence works well for the member of the group.

The number of Member States and Observers participating in the Working Group has increased slightly over the last twelve months and we have been pleased to welcome Ireland and Malta to the group.

### Work Plan

The work plan has been developed around four main deliverables, these provide guidance to the overarching operating framework and are not designed as individual tasks. Individual tasks and outputs can, and should, cover one or more of the deliverables.

During the operating period 2024-2025 the deliverables were:

1. **Expert contributions**
  - a. Promote regional experts by contributing experts to global tasks
  - b. Support the European representatives on the HLG-IGIF
2. **Avoid duplication**
  - a. Make sure regional activities support global plans
  - b. Global outputs should be transferrable into UN-GGIM: Europe

For more information on the UN-IGIF Working Group please visit our webpage ([Working Groups | UN-GGIM Europe \(un-ggim-europe.org\)](#)) or contact James Norris (Chair) via email at [james.norris@os.uk](mailto:james.norris@os.uk)



### 3. Share knowledge

- a. Act as a convening body for UN-GGIM: Europe
- b. Host knowledge share events such as webinars or seminars

### 4. Promote regional successes

- a. Provide regional case studies
- b. Support Member States to develop Country-level Action Plans.

## Activities

The High-Level Group of the UN-IGIF holds regular planning and deliver meetings. The Fifth meeting of the **HLG-IGIF was held in February 2025<sup>1</sup>**. The main focus of the meeting was to understand the priorities for the UN-IGIF over the next 12 months, and to assign tasks and responsibilities for each of those priorities. The UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group contributed to the discussion by identifying 11 regional priorities which were included in the discussions. These priorities were summarised under three main subject areas.



A summary of these priorities can be found in Annexe 1. A total of 83 priorities were identified at the global level, these had been summarised and prioritised down to 36 that were discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that many of the activities would be the responsibility of the UN-GGKIC to deliver, but that some key strategic accountabilities would remain with the HLG-IGIF and its Working Groups.

- This work aligns with the following deliverables of the Working Group: Expert contributions; Avoid duplication

Following on from the finalisation and publication of the global UN-IGIF **Capacity Development Questionnaire** a small task team was formed within the Working Group to assess and understand the results of the questionnaire at a regional level. It was interesting to note that whilst many Member States in UN-GGIM: Europe are aware of the UN-IGIF uptake and development of Country-level Action Plans are lower than in other regions. The Working Group

<sup>1</sup> <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2025/Jeddah/>



is developing a regionally focused questionnaire to understand these reasons in more detail. This will enable the Working Group to develop and shape its future activities to align with regional needs. It was decided that publishing the questionnaire in the lead up to Twelfth Plenary is not the optimum time, especially with the number of global consultations that are also taking place. The questionnaire will be published over the summer and the results will be used to align activities with the refreshed Regional Strategy 2025-2030.

- This work aligns with the following deliverables of the Working Group: Share knowledge; Promote regional successes.

During the series of webinars that UN-GGIM: Europe hosted in 2024, and following the publication of the HLG-IGIF's Sustainable Funding Guide the topic of funding/financing UN-IGIF activities was identified as an area which could be explored in more detail. The Working Group is currently working to develop a **Sustainable Financing Podcast** series which will be available to all Member States. The short podcast series will cover the sustainable financial development of the UN-IGIF, the importance of financial resources, and the need for sustainable systems. A set of case studies, drawn from countries in UN-GGIM: Europe and other regions will be used to highlight these benefits.

- This work aligns with the following deliverables of the Working Group: Expert contributions; Share knowledge; Promote regional successes.

The UN-IGIF is the umbrella framework for UN-GGIM and most of the regional committees have activities which focus on the UN-IGIF within their regional work plans. UN-GGIM: Europe has contributed to a number of webinars which have been organised at the global level. This interregional collaboration is an important mechanism to promote the UN-IGIF as a concept, to provide a coordinated set of activities, and to maximise the impact of webinars and events. Most recently UN-GGIM: Europe has contributed to the “**First UN-GGIM Interregional Webinar on the UN-IGIF: Enhancing regional collaboration to support national implementation**” this webinar has been organised by UN-GGIM Americas on behalf of all the regional committees. UN-GGIM: Europe is contributing to the event through ExCom representation, providing regional experiences, and supporting the successful running of the webinar by moderating the event.

- This work aligns with the following deliverables of the Working Group: Expert contributions; Avoid duplication; Share knowledge; Promote regional successes.

## Call for action

1. Plenary is requested to note the progress made by the Regional Working Group and consider how to grow the number of active participants in the Working Group.
2. Member States are asked to respond to the Regional Survey on awareness and uptake of UN-IGIF
3. UN-GGIM: Europe is asked to provide input and support for the development of an in-person workshop and knowledge share event to maximise awareness and adoption of the UN-IGIF across our region.

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Annexe 1 – UN-GGIM: Europe priorities as submitted to HLG-IGIF

Priority Rank	Priority Activities for 2025	Needs to Support Activity
1	Continue to understand the needs and requirements for sustainable funding when the Sustainable Funding Working Group finalises its activities. How do we keep the focus on finance? Proactive communication of these documents through to regional groups and Member States.	Clarity of the activity as a priority at the global level. Links to a wider discussion about how to keep documents up to data and relevant. Especially when it relates to a topic that is as important as funding.
2	We need active engagement in the workplan of the UN-GGKIC so that we know what the Centre can do to support Member States. This will avoid duplication of efforts at the global and regional level.	It is hoped that this activity is already in progress, but there is lack of awareness at the operational/regional level which causes some concerns.
3	Understanding of how the HLG-IGIF sets and shapes the context and the activities for the UN Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, (the proposed Geospatial Information Ecosystem Centre) and how these are support existing regional priorities making sure all Member States benefit.	Coordination between HLG, UN-GGKIC, Regional Group.
4	Analysing the results of the survey and enlarge understanding how IGIF is being used. Also of interest is to see if the use has changed since issuing the survey.	Analysing capacity from working group IGIF Europe
5	Supporting Member States to develop the socio-economic justification ("Business Case") for investment.	Activity could be included as a work item as part of the Sustainable Funding Working Group. This is a different from funding for UN-IGIF implementation and should be a precursor to the investment process.

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6	Reflection that the UN-IGIF is a tool for national [geospatial] development. Make sure that we start to discuss the benefits of the UN-IGIF outside the geospatial domain.	Shaping the messaging from a communication and engagement point of view, with a strong link to the Strategic Framework 2025-2030 as to not leave the UN-IGIF as a tool in isolation.
7	Increasing the pool of experts who can contribute to the tasks of HLG-IGIF this could include a focus on regional priorities, concerns and opportunities.	Excom members of GGIM Europe, working group members
8	Develop use cases which can be used to promote the benefits of the UN-IGIF to countries	Could be built into the UN-IGIF development process so the HLG-IGIF gets more information on the status of implementation by all UN-GGIM Member States who are using the UN-IGIF
9	Strengthening the communication and promotion of the UN-IGIF. Can we bring existing elements (podcast, webinars, reports) into a single portal which can be accessed via the main UN-GGIM website?	Support by communication experts
10	Continue to encourage the translation of UN-IGIF documents to make them accessible to a wider audience.	Support by communication experts
11	Maximising visibility of the documents of the advisory committees so we can support the discussions benefit from the outcomes.	Better communication the wider 'leadership' of the HLG-IGIF i.e. how are the Regional Working Group Chairs able to contribute to the decision making process.

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