



Reporting on the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Inter-plenary Period 2025 - 2026

Introduction

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information in Europe and ensuring that the work of the Regional Committee is aligned to the global UN-GGIM programme¹.

The UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025-2030², adopted at the Twelfth Plenary in June 2025, provides the strategic framework to guide the Regional Committee's activities over the next five years. The strategy reflects a comprehensive review undertaken by the Executive Committee in response to significant shifts in the global geospatial landscape, including the emergence of artificial intelligence as a transformative technology, the growing recognition of geospatial data's critical role within integrated data ecosystems, and the imperative to position geospatial information centrally within the post-2030 development agenda. Throughout the revision process, it was essential to ensure alignment with the global UN-GGIM Strategic Framework and to reflect the evolving priorities of Member States across the region as they navigate complex challenges including climate resilience, sustainable development, and data governance. A regional consultation conducted in April and May 2025 engaged 23 Member States and 4 observer organisations, with 93% of respondents expressing strong identification with the existing vision and mission and overwhelming support for the three strategic pillars of Sharing Knowledge, Raising Awareness, and Strategic Leadership. This feedback confirmed that core strategic elements remain valid and relevant, whilst informing refinements to address emerging global priorities including data integration, artificial intelligence governance, and climate action.

The period 2025-2026 represented a transition year, during which the previous Work Plan 2022-2025 successfully delivered most of its aims and tasks across five established lines of work. The Executive Committee prioritised development of the new Work Plan 2026-2030 to serve as the essential bridge between strategic vision and operational delivery. This transition period enabled the region to reflect on what had worked well, understand remaining challenges, and engage Member States in shaping priorities for the next phase. The development process drew on inputs from the Executive Committee, leads of current working groups, and Member State engagement, ensuring that the new work plan would be grounded in regional realities, capacities, and ambitions.

The refreshed work plan is structured around three guiding principles: ensuring impact for all Member States, encouraging active participation in working groups, and maintaining flexibility for realistic delivery. This approach recognises that sustainable progress depends on shared ownership and the meaningful contribution of Member States and observers, allowing smaller contributions from many organisations to multiply outcomes and benefits for all.

¹ Article 2 - Purpose and Activities of the [Rules and Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe](#)

² [UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025 - 2030](#)



Reporting on the work carried out 2025 - 2026

The Work Plan 2022-2025 was designed to implement the previous UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy, with activities coordinated across five established lines of work: Data Integration, Sustainable Development Goals, the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), Data Strategy and Policy, and Geodetic Reference Frames. All five lines of work either progressed significantly in advancing their respective mandates or in some cases completed and delivered their tasks.

The Data Integration and the Sustainable Development Goals Lines of Work completed their mandates. The UN-IGIF Europe working group continued to contribute expertise to the global HLG-IGIF processes, whilst the Data Strategy and Policy line of work completed its analytical foundation work. The Geodetic Reference Frames group demonstrated maturity, strengthening regional coordination mechanisms while deepening international collaboration.

The successful continuation and/or completion of these substantial work plan objectives demonstrates the capacity and commitment of European member states and observers to advancing geospatial priorities at both regional and global levels. With the bulk of the 2022-2025 work plan largely delivered, the region is well-positioned to transition toward implementation of the revised strategy through a comprehensive new work plan for 2026-2030.

Updating the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan

Data Integration & Sustainable Development Goals

As was reported at the twelfth plenary, the Data Integration and the Sustainable Development Goals Lines of Work completed their mandates.

Following a comprehensive review of the Data Integration line of work, including a survey conducted in July 2025, a review of results, and a formal written procedure across member states, a clear consensus emerged to merge the Data Integration line of work with the Sustainable Development Goals working group.

The decision reflects both operational realities, participation levels and concrete deliverables had declined, and strategic recognition that data integration serves as a key enabler for producing SDG-relevant statistics by combining Earth observation, geospatial, and administrative data sources. Feedback from the member States and observers in the group indicated that data integration and SDGs are fundamentally interconnected, with overlapping objectives and complementary approaches. Stakeholders noted that consolidating these lines of work would avoid duplication of effort, develop stronger guidance and best practices for SDG indicator production, and allow organisations working on data integration to continue their contributions within a more strategically focused framework.

This decision is reflected in the new Work Plan 2026-2030 proposed for adoption at this thirteenth plenary through the establishment of the Data in Response to Global Agendas Working Group, which integrates both lines of work whilst positioning data integration as a core cross-cutting theme supporting the broader global development agenda.



UN-IGIF

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - Europe

This report is provided as a summary of the activities and discussions that have been undertaken by the UN-GGIM: Europe UN-IGIF Working Group since the Twelfth Plenary in 2025. The Working Group is supported by an active community of Member States and observer, who contribute to its tasks and outcomes.

The tasks and outcomes of the Working Group continue to be guided by the four principles that have underpinned activities during the reporting period. These are that the work is focused on providing:

- Expert contributions
- Avoiding duplication
- Sharing knowledge
- Promoting regional successes

A major deliverable over the last twelve months was the **Workshop on geospatial information management arrangements and the wider integrated data ecosystem in Europe and neighbouring regions** a detailed overview of the workshop is provided later in this report.

Understanding how Member States within UN-GGIM: Europe are using and implementing the UN-IGIF has been an important activity for the Working Group. One of the calls for action from the Twelfth Plenary was for “Member States are asked to respond to the Regional Survey on awareness and uptake of UN-IGIF”, we are pleased to report that 52 responses from 33 countries were received. This has strengthened our understanding of the use of the UN-IGIF across our region and was an important source of insight to support the Workshop that was hosted in Vienna in February 2026.

The analysis of the survey responses showed that nearly 90% of respondents are aware of the UN-IGIF, this is significant as the survey was sent to a much wider group than earlier surveys and demonstrated that the awareness of the UN-IGIF expands beyond the core group of national mapping and statistical organisations.

A second important finding is that although nearly 90% of respondents were aware of the UN-IGIF, only around 40% are using it at the national level, or within their organisations, 10% have reviewed the UN-IGIF but decided not to use it, and the remainder are not using the UN-IGIF. This shows that there is still the opportunity for Member States to use the UN-IGIF, and there could be a focus on understanding why the framework is not being used.

When looking at how the UN-IGIF is being used, there was a strong preference towards using it to support existing national spatial data infrastructures, followed by Reviewing/strengthening an existing national geospatial strategy, and then to develop a Country-level Action Plan.

It is worth noting that of the 50% of respondents who are not using the UN-IGIF the most common reason was that existing national geospatial strategies are still current and do not



need updating, followed by the view that long-standing national spatial data infrastructures already address many of the principles of the UN-IGIF.

We would like to thank all the Member States who took the time to respond to the survey and share their experiences. We will continue to use the information to develop initiatives that support Member States to use the UN-IGIF in a way that that supports their national priorities.

The second priority of the workshop was to share knowledge between participants detailed case studies were shared from several Member States showcasing the wide range of ways the framework is being used across our region. Detailed presentations were provided by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Serbia, Slovenia, Türkiye, and Ukraine.

During the lifecycle of the Working Group, we have seen the impact that communication and outreach events have had in sharing the benefits of the UN-IGIF, to continue this impact the working group has developed a short podcast series that will soon be launched. This podcast series will mainly focus on the topic of sustainable finance, and will cover UN-IGIF Strategic Pathway 3 – Finance; Case studies; building the business case for investment. We thank all the participants who have contributed to the development of the podcast series.

Call for action

- i. Plenary is requested to note the progress made by the UN-IGIF Europe Group to showcase the value of the UN-IGIF as an overarching framework that Member States can use.
- ii. Support the inclusion of the UN-IGIF as one of the new working groups on the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026-2030 and contribute views on how the Working Group can support Member States needs.
- iii. Encourage a broad and diverse set of active participants to successfully deliver outcomes for all Member States across our region.

Data Strategy and Policy

The main aim of the Data Strategy and Policy Working Group is to contribute to understanding the linkages of European policy with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF).

The 2024–2029 European Commission cycle has a renewed vision and ambition, where data and digitalisation will play an integral role, while ensuring that the goals of the European Green Deal continue on course. These ambitions are renewing the policy landscape of the region, and during this inter-plenary session the working group has focused on analytical work. With regards to the Data Strategy and Policy, the group is finalising a report on EU data initiatives and activities. It has now become apparent that this topic is quite dynamic, particularly in light of the recently proposed changes to the INSPIRE Directive. The group aims to finish and deliver the report by the end of 2026.



GRF Geodetic Reference Frames - Europe

Since the last plenary meeting, GRF Europe has continued to develop as a regional platform for dialogue and coordination on global geodesy supply chain matters in Europe. The group has been active in connecting with European organizations engaged in geodetic work, in particular the European Commission and technical bodies such as EUREF and EuroSDR. GRF Europe received a strengthened mandate through the updated UN-GGIM: Europe strategy. This mandate will support the work foreseen around the implementation of the UN-GGCE's Joint Development Plan for Global Geodesy, the discussions on an International Governance Model for Global Geodesy conducted primarily through the UN-GGIM platform, and the discussions with the European Commission, in a leading role, on a governance model for the geodetic supply chain in the European region.

Achievements

- **International Collaboration and Capacity Development:** GRF Europe coordinated the European contribution to the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy Working Group on Frequency Protection for Geodetic VLBI. Beyond bilateral exchanges between the GRF Europe chair and member states, a webinar was organized with EuroGeographics to call all NMCAs to action. GRF Europe also established a bilateral relationship with the European Commission's Frequency Manager for the EU Space Programme.
- **International Collaboration and Capacity Development:** Through the GRF Europe network, participants were encouraged to contact their national space representative, whether a space agency or a body with a comparable mandate, in order to be selected to represent their country in the Geodetic Task Force under the EU Space Programme Committee, Galileo and EGNOS configuration (SPC-GEC). The task force ran successfully from September to March, with active engagement from the GRF Europe network. Follow-up work is expected, and GRF Europe remains committed to supporting it.
- **Awareness-Raising and Communication:** Members contributed to communication efforts raising awareness of the UN-GGCE, the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, and the strategic importance of geodesy, with particular focus on national audiences and professional networks.
- **Awareness-Raising and Communication:** Members took an active part in the strategic reframing of the term Global Geodetic Reference Frame as Global Geodesy Supply Chain.
- **Technical Contributions:** An update to the EUROCONTROL technical report on geodetic reference frames is under review as of June 2026. The report provides guidance on the use and interoperability of geodetic reference frames in the context of air navigation and safety. The update addresses minor comments and introduces a new chapter on height systems.
- **Regional Coordination Mechanism:** Progress has been made on a European contact point register, which strengthens regional coordination and the visibility of geodetic expertise across the region.



Call to action

The plenary is invited to:

- Recognize the substantive delivery of work by GRF Europe during a transition year for UN-GGIM: Europe
- Note the active work on the strategic reframing of the term *geodetic reference frame* as *geodesy supply chain*
- Contribute actively to the European and global discussions on a governance model for geodesy

Workshops and events

Workshop on geospatial information management arrangements and the wider integrated data ecosystem in Europe and neighbouring regions

The Workshop on Geospatial Information Management Arrangements and the Wider Integrated Data Ecosystem for Europe, Eastern Europe, and Neighbouring Regions³ took place at the UN Office at Vienna from 11–13 February. Jointly organised with UN-GGIM and the UN-IGIF workstream, and partly funded by Eurostat, it brought together more than 50 experts from all continents.

The Workshop was organised as part of a week-long series of events organised by the UN-GGIM Secretariat, UN Statistics Division, to advance the use of geospatial information and solutions at the country level. By holding the in-person workshop back-to-back to the UN-GGIM Expanded Bureau meeting and the Seventh meeting of the High-Level Group on the UN-IGIF (HLG-IGIF) on 10-11 February, allowed members of the Expanded Bureau, of the HLG-IGIF, and other countries and partners to engage, interact, and discuss upcoming priorities for advancing the programme of work of the Committee of Experts, strengthening and enhancing global geospatial information management, and implementing solutions for the SDGs.

The regional workshop focused on Europe's role in integrated data ecosystems, combining plenary discussions, thematic sessions, and country presentations on UN-IGIF implementation, including institutional reforms and closer collaboration between geospatial and statistical communities. Delegates noted that while Europe has a mature geospatial landscape with advanced infrastructure and strong cross-border cooperation, further harmonisation, interoperability, and coordination are still needed.

Technical presentations from UN entities showcased practical applications: FAO covered Earth-observation methods for monitoring land use, agriculture, and food security; UNODC presented geospatial analytics for tracking illicit trafficking and supporting crime prevention; and UNOOSA's UN-SPIDER programme demonstrated satellite imagery use for disaster risk assessment and emergency response.

³ Presentations - <https://ggim.un.org/meetings/2026/Vienna/workshop/>



Key challenges identified included institutional fragmentation, uneven digital capacities, limited resources, legacy system interoperability issues, and the need for sustained political support and consistent standards. Proposed solutions included coordinated national governance mechanisms, harmonised technical standards, and tailored capacity-building.

The workshop concluded that Europe's culture of cooperation and existing infrastructure position it well to accelerate UN-IGIF implementation, which is seen as essential for evidence-based policymaking and for supporting both the 2030 Agenda and the post-2030 development agenda.

12th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE Meeting

The 12th Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS – UNECE Meeting took place in Luxembourg on 25 March 2026, back-to-back with the GISCO meeting, with an audience composed of NSIs and NMCAs.

Chaired by Eurostat, the meeting provided updates on work carried out by Eurostat, UNECE, UN-GGIM: Europe, and the EFGS/GSGF CARE project. A core element of the meeting, alongside its broader aim of strengthening cooperation between NSIs and NMCAs on integrating statistical and geospatial information, was a report of the outcomes of the successful workshop held in Vienna the previous month. This was followed by a short breakout session in which participants commented on the workshop's results and offered further input for the preparation of the new UN-GGIM: Europe workplan, particularly around creating more opportunities for the two communities to cooperate without overlap.

Overall, the meeting saw rather good interaction, with the host satisfied by the level of discussion. The only negative remark concerned the low number of participants, though this was attributed to the financial constraints currently affecting all institutes and agencies.

Putting the lines of work into practice

Governance

It is the task of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe, the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat, and Regional Committee (through participation in the working groups and events) to forward the work of Un -GGIM: Europe.

The overarching role of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe is to provide guidance and oversight in the implementation of the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy.

The Regional Secretariat supports the Regional Executive Committee in the exercise of its function and assistance in the overall achievement of activities of UN-GGIM: Europe work plan. While also actively communicating the UN-GGIM: Europe activities and achievements to all relevant stakeholders across multiple channels.



Call to Action

The implementation of the lines of work and the priority areas is through the contribution and active input of the members of UN-GGIM: Europe working together.

The Regional Committee promotes and encourages the collaboration between national mapping and cadastral authorities, national statistical institutes and other geospatial bodies in the European Region, along with European Institutions and observer bodies. Members States and observers are therefore invited to express their interest and join the UN-GGIM: Europe activities and in participating in the lines of work.

Action proposal

The Executive Committee asks that:

1. Plenary is requested to note work carried out during this inter-plenary period;
2. To consider and note the call for actions noted by the individual Working Groups; and
3. To give the mandate to the Executive Committee to implement the proposed new work plan 2026-2030 to advance the work of UN-GGIM: Europe.