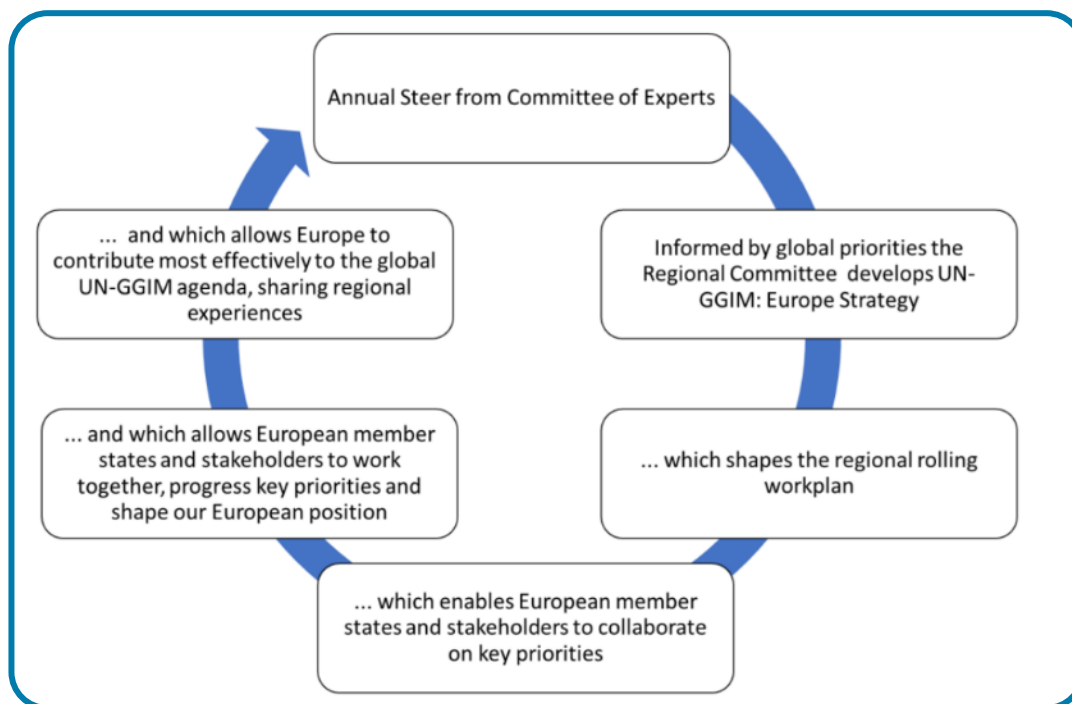




Covering note for Thirteenth Plenary

The UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025-2030 was adopted by UN-GGIM: Europe at its Twelfth Plenary in June 2025. In addition to adopting the strategy, the Plenary requested that the Executive Committee should undertake a review of the existing work plan, and if necessary, develop a new work plan which to support the delivery of the strategy. It was discussed that a new work plan should be the link between the strategy and the operational delivery allowing Member States and observers of UN-GGIM: Europe contribute to achieving the vision and mission of UN-GGIM: Europe.

One of the core principles of the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy is that it has been developed to make sure that our European activities respond to the changing needs and requirements of the annual Committee of Experts meeting, the priorities of Member States, and to provide a feedback loop into the global agenda of UN-GGIM at the Committee of Experts meetings. This feedback loop is represented below.



In response to this request, and considering the feedback loop discussed above, the Executive Committee set up a small task group to review the previous work plan and assess what changes could be made and to recommend a new UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026-2030. The task group work with the Executive Committee to understand their high-level vision, objectives and outcomes for the new work plan. It also worked closely with the leads of the five Lines of Work to understand the progress the Lines of Work



have made to achieve their tasks. It also consulted with Member States during the Twelfth Plenary (June 2025) and the Workshop on geospatial information management arrangements and the wider integrated data ecosystem for Europe/Eastern Europe and the neighbouring regions (February 2026).

These views have been consolidated, and a new work plan has been developed which is positioned as a practical framework for implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025–2030. It remains high-level in regional ambition, but more focused than the previous work plan.

The Work Plan 2026-2030 will have three Working Groups (and is flexible to allow Member States to suggest enhancements and additional activities). The Working Group will be:

1. **The UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in Europe.** This is a continuation of activities from the current work plan.
2. **Geodetic Reference Frames in Europe.** This is a continuation of activities from the current work plan.
3. **Data in response to global agendas.** This is a new activity.

Two of the three Working Groups are based on existing activities and should transition smoothly to the new operating model. There will be an opportunity for these two Working Groups to review their Terms of Reference and adjust their respective work plans to make sure they continue to meet the needs of Member States.

The third activity is new and there will be a set of dedicated discussions during the Thirteenth Plenary in June 2026 in Geneva to allow participants to understand the topic in more detail. The first discussion will take place in Session 1 “Implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy” this will include an overview of the new work plan and the three Working Group. The second discussion will take place in Session 5 “Towards an Integrated Data Framework for the Next Global Development Agenda: Opportunities and Priorities”. This more detailed discussion has been developed to allow participants to share their feedback, understand the initial areas of focus for the Working Group and to identify an initial set of UN-GGIM: Europe participants who are interested in supporting this work. A separate briefing note has been developed to support this discussion.



It is also proposed that all the activities in the work plan are referred to as Working Groups, this aligns with global good practice and simplifies the way we refer to the activities.

As a result of the change in focus going forwards the following Lines of Work which were operational as part of the UN-GGIM: Europe 2022-2025 Work Plan phase have completed their activities and will close: Data Integration; Sustainable Development Goals; Data Strategy and Policy.

The Thirteenth Plenary is asked to:

- **Endorse the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026-2030.**
- **Express its appreciation to the leads of the five Lines of Work that have been active between 2022 and 2025, and acknowledge the leads Lines of Work on Data Integration, Sustainable Development Goals, and Data Strategy and Policy for bringing them to successful conclusion.**
- **Express its thanks to all Member States and Observers who contributed to all the five Lines of Work, recognising that every contribution whether large or small further the work of UN-GGIM: Europe.**
- **Consider how Member States and Observers can contribute to the activities included in the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026-2030 and encourage active participation from all parts of the UN-GGIM: Europe community.**



UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026–2030

1. Purpose and context

This draft work plan is intended to support the delivery of the **UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025–2030**, which was adopted at the UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary in **June 2025**. The overarching mission for UN-GGIM: Europe is to *Maximise the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world*. The development of this work plan is the bridge between this strategic mission, and the operational delivery where Member States and observers of UN-GGIM: Europe contribute.

The need for a refreshed work plan to support the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025-2030 was agreed at the Twelfth Plenary, with the Executive Committee tasked with bringing a draft version to the Thirteenth Plenary for review and adoption. In shaping this the Executive Committee believes that the new work plan should be based on three main principles:

1. It must have impact for all Member States within UN-GGIM: Europe.
2. It should encourage Member States to actively participate in the working groups to make sure the outcomes are delivered.
3. It should outline high-level activities and remain flexible enough to support realistic outcomes over the four-year period.

These three principles have been designed so that the refreshed work plan continues to deliver regional impact, provide deliverables that demonstrate global leadership, focus on regional integration across different domains (statistical and geospatial) while maintaining a flexible delivery approach. This flexible approach recognises that while Member States may have competing national and international priorities smaller contributions by many organisations multiply the outcomes and benefits for the benefit of all Member States.

To develop the work plan the Executive Committee appointed a small working group to bring this proposal together. The working group included representatives from the Executive Committee, the leads of the current working group activities, Member State representatives and Secretariat support and guidance. The Executive Committee thanks the working group for their work.



2. Rationale for development

This draft has been developed on the basis that it recognises that the new strategy has been adopted, it treats the work plan as the main delivery mechanism and draws on inputs from the Executive Committee, the existing Lines of Work, and Member State engagement at event like the UN-IGIF Workshop held earlier this year. Importantly, it has not been produced in isolation. This draft work plan is the starting point, there will be opportunities ahead of its adoption at the Thirteenth Plenary for Member States to review, comment and suggest extra areas of focus. Additional suggestions and improvements to the work plan are welcome, and Member States are encouraged to consider how any additional tasks will be resourced and delivered.

3. Learning from the current work plan

An important phase in the development of this work plan was to understand what worked well with the previous activities and where there had been challenges. Formal reports from the current Lines of Work have been provided at previous Plenary Meetings.

Further analysis has been undertaken with the leads of the lines of work which identifies that two of the current Lines of Work (Data Integration and Sustainable Development Goals) had delivered their previously defined outcomes, the Data Strategy and Policy community of interest did not attract sufficient resources to deliver the expected outcomes and the activities on the UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework and Geodetic Reference Frames are growing in their membership and tasks.

The previous work plan achieved its original objectives and provided useful progress in many areas. This can be demonstrated through the number of reports, webinars and workshops that have been convened by UN-GGIM: Europe. However, it is fair to say that there were challenges in translating the broad mandate into clear work packages without adequate inputs from Member States to aid the delivery, momentum also slowed with several of the activities reaching conclusion before the end of the work plan period.



The analysis suggests that the next plan should preserve what has worked, a focus on collaborative delivery, visible outputs, and active participation from a wide range of participants from across our region.

4. Proposed approach for the 2026–2030 work plan

We are proposing that the refreshed work plan should remain a **high-level regional framework**, consistent with the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025-2030, and which is structured in a way that gives greater clarity to delivery. In that spirit, the work plan has been developed around three activities.

1. **The UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework in Europe.** This is a continuation of activities from the current work plan and focuses on providing support to European Member States to understand and implement the UN-IGIF in their national context. It builds on the discussions and outcomes from the Eurostat-supported regional capacity strengthening workshop and should focus on understanding the issues and obstacles faced when implementing the UN-IGIF.
2. **Geodetic Reference Frames in Europe.** This is a continuation of activities from the current work plan and will continue to act as the regional platform that facilitates coordination, promotes understanding, and ensures an effective European contribution to the global geodetic agenda. A core task is to enhance the capacity of Member States to engage with the topic of geodesy and to support and use the outcomes that are being developed by the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.
3. **Data in response to global agendas.** This is a new activity which incorporates some of the existing areas of focus from the Sustainable Development Goals Working Group. It recognises that statistical and geospatial data are fundamental to the delivery of existing global agenda, a core task will be to identify how statistical and geospatial data can be incorporated into the development of future development agendas, both at a global level (the post-2030 Development Agenda) and the regional level (how UN-GGIM: Europe contributes to European priorities).
4. **[Open call for a fourth option – with resources, leadership and expected outcome.]**



Within this new structure, we reflect the three principles that the Executive Committee identified at the outset of the process. Firstly, the activities are relevant for Member States and will be able to directly impact and support national priorities. Secondly, the specific tasks will encourage broader participation of new contributors to the activities. Thirdly, the framework remains flexible but realistic to deliver tangible outcomes over the 2026-2030 timeframe which support and complement our Regional Strategy and the global UN-GGIM agenda.

5. Delivery model and expected outcomes

This new work plan is not a major change from the previous work plan; however it does provide the opportunity to reframe the activities with renewed purposes over the 2026-2030 timeframe. Evidence shows that the outputs from the previous activities, specifically the workshops, webinars, surveys and case studies have supported Member States.

This reframing of activities also allow the new Working Groups to generate new ideas and topics that can be turned into concrete tasks and outcomes. The focus will be on prioritising a small number of visible activities and outcomes that are relevant for all Member States across our region.

The Executive Committee will be accountable for making sure that each Working Group follows a consistent format, with regular reporting mechanisms in place. The Executive Committee are also responsible for connecting the work plan to regional and global priorities.

The Executive Committee will also support awareness, participation and communication across the Region, helping Member States, observers and partners to engage more effectively with the activities and objectives of UN-GGIM: Europe. This reflects the commitment of UN-GGIM: Europe to encourage wider participation, improve the visibility of its work and outcomes, and address barriers to engagement identified through the regional consultation process.

Importantly, the work plan remains open to refinement as regional needs develop. This work plan is grounded in the realities, capacities and ambitions of Member States. The Executive Committee welcomes Member States suggestions to include new Working Group with a request that any additional tasks will need to be adequately resourced to deliver outcomes.



6. Proposals for Plenary consideration

This new work plan has been positioned as a practical framework for implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy 2025–2030, grounded in the outcomes and learnings from the previous five Lines of Work and informed by direct input from their leads and contributors. It remains high-level in regional ambition, but more focused than the previous work plan.

Member States will have the opportunity to discuss the draft version of the work plan through the dedicated sessions at the Thirteenth Plenary. If any Member States cannot contribute during the Plenary the Executive Committee welcomes written contributions by Monday 22 June 2026.

The work plan has been developed and endorsed by UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee who have recommended that the work plan should be presented to the Thirteenth Plenary for its endorsement.

After the work plan has been adopted, all Member States, observers and members of the UN-GGIM: Europe community are encouraged to actively participate in in at least one of the working groups to make sure that the outcomes are delivered in a way that benefits the whole of UN-GGIM: Europe.

The Thirteenth Plenary is asked to:

- **Endorse the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026-2030.**
- **Express its appreciation to the leads of the five Lines of Work that have been active between 2022 and 2025 and acknowledge the leads Lines of Work on Data Integration, Sustainable Development Goals, and Data Strategy and Policy for bringing them to successful conclusion.**
- **Express its thanks to all Member States and Observers who contributed to all the five Lines of Work, recognising that every contribution whether large or small further the work of UN-GGIM: Europe.**
- **Consider how Member States and Observers can contribute to the activities included in the UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2026-2030 and encourage active participation from all parts of the UN-GGIM: Europe community.**