



Thirteenth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe

Session 4: Discussion - Europe contributing to the global agenda

24 June 2026 11:15 – 12:15

Discussion Note

1. Context

Following presentations from the UN-GGIM Secretariat and some of the different UN-GGIM functional groups in Session 4, this discussion explores how European Member States and observers can contribute more effectively to UN-GGIM's global priorities, bringing our regional perspectives and expertise to the Committee of Experts' agenda. Creating equitable opportunities for knowledge exchange and ensuring diverse voices shape the global geospatial agenda

2. Discussion prompts

Global priorities and European positioning

- Looking at the Committee of Experts' current priorities—the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF), land administration and management (EG-LAM), statistical-geospatial integration, disaster risk management, and sustainable development monitoring, where does Europe see the strongest alignment with our regional challenges and opportunities?

Slido question – word cloud

- *Which of these priorities resonates most with the issues you're grappling with in your countries?*

Current European participation: patterns and gaps

- When we look at European participation across functional groups, an interesting pattern emerges: some member states: UK, Germany, Finland, Norway, Sweden, appear consistently across multiple functional groups. Other countries are represented in one or two groups, or not at all. This is not a criticism, but raises some important questions:
 - Are the same countries participating in multiple groups because they have the resources and capacity to do so?



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- Are other member states not aware of opportunities? Or do they see limited relevance to their national priorities?
- Is participation a choice, or are there real barriers keeping some countries from engaging?
- How can we ensure that all European member states who want to participate, regardless of size or resources, have opportunity to contribute?"

Barriers to meaningful participation

For member states not currently engaged in UN-GGIM's functional groups, or for those in just one or two: What are the real barriers?

Slido poll:

- *Capacity or resource constraints (staff time, funding, expertise)?*
- *Awareness or visibility of opportunities (not knowing groups exist, how to join, or what they do)?*
- *Geographic or timing constraints (meetings in difficult time zones or locations)?*
- *Perceived relevance (not seeing how global work connects to national priorities)?*
- *Language or accessibility barriers?*
- *Something else?*

Slido word cloud:

- *What would help overcome these barriers and create more equitable participation?*

Next steps: enabling broader participation

Slido word cloud:

- *What would help us strengthen and broaden European participation in UN-GGIM's global work? What would make a difference:*



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Closing:

UN-GGIM's strength comes from diverse voices and shared learning. As Europe, we have an opportunity to ensure that geospatial expertise and perspectives from all our Member States regardless of size or resources contribute to the global agenda. That means creating equitable access to participation and actively seeking out and amplifying the knowledge and solutions each country brings.

Regional Participation:

European Membership and Participation of UN-GGIM Functional Groups:

Name	Co-chairs	Members
High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	-	Member States nominated by UN-GGIM: Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany • Netherlands • Sweden • United Kingdom
Subcommittee On Geodesy	Germany	Member States nominated by UN-GGIM: Europe: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium • Finland • France • Germany • Norway • Republic of Moldova (the) • Spain • Sweden • United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (the)
Expert Group Land Administration and Management	Netherlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium • Finland • Germany • Netherlands (Kingdom of the) • Norway • Spain



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweden • United Kingdom
Expert Group Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finland • France • Germany • Ireland • Italy • Norway • Poland • Russian Federation • Sweden • United Kingdom <p>Other organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurostat/European Commission
Working Group UN-GGIM-IHO Joint Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croatia • Denmark • Germany • Italy • Netherlands (Kingdom of the) • Norway • Portugal • Romania • Slovenia • United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
Working Group Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <p>Other organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milan Polytechnic University (Italy)
Working Group Policy and Legal	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belgium • Finland



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Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management		<ul style="list-style-type: none">ItalyPolandUnited Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland <p>Other organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">EuroGeographics
Working Group IAEG-SDGS	Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IrelandDenmarkItaly <p>Other organisations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Eurostat/European CommissionEuropean Environment Agency (EEA)Utrecht University (Netherlands)