
Joint UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe



Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards 2017

Stockholm, Sweden 6-8 Nov., 2017





Background to the workshop

- ❖ Links between statistical and geospatial information have been discussed several times by the CES
- ❖ New mandates to get more involved in this topic:
 - ECOSOC 2016
 - CES 2015, 2016
 - UN-GGIM 2017

Growing partnership with UN-GGIM: Europe



- ❖ Proposals for greater collaboration
- ❖ Idea of joint workshop as a “pilot”
- ❖ Chose topic of standards because of interest from Statistics Sweden
- ❖ More joint activities planned for the future



The workshop

- ❖ 80+ participants, 30+ countries
- ❖ Good balance between statistical and geospatial communities – opportunity to start to engage and discuss
- ❖ 2.5 days of presentations and discussions



Terminology

- ❖ Models / frameworks / standards
- ❖ Models and frameworks are generic for many different contexts - help countries to standardise and provide a benchmark
- ❖ Standards are more precise, defined and not too generic – so they can be interpreted in a specific way without risk of misunderstanding



Proposals for future work

- ❖ A “pitch statement” to get senior management buy-in and funding
- ❖ Pilot on persistent identifiers for statistical and geospatial data
- ❖ Beginners guide to standards from both communities
- ❖ How to store geospatial concepts in existing databases
- ❖ Standard language and semantics

Proposals for future work (cont.)



- ❖ Map the data exchange process between statistical and geospatial organisations
- ❖ Describe the standards from both communities and how they relate to each other
- ❖ Improve the discoverability of tools based on standards



Important outcomes

- ❖ Standards and interoperability are important, but the biggest issues are institutional, e.g.
 - Partnership mechanisms
 - Communication
 - People
- ❖ Two communities working together in cooperation and friendship to solve issues:
Building a geo-statistical community



Next steps

- ❖ Revision of the UNECE models
- ❖ Supporting the UN-GGIM EG-ISGI
- ❖ Testing on national level, setting up linked services