
Joint UNECE and UN-GGIM: Europe



Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards 2017

Stockholm, Sweden 6-8 Nov, 2017



Introducing UNECE Statistics





Our work in statistics



- ❖ Intergovernmental process – under the Conference of European Statisticians (CES)
- ❖ Major international organisations involved to ensure coordination and avoid duplication (Eurostat, OECD, IMF, UNSD, ...)
- ❖ All work is demand-driven – reflects topics that interest chief statisticians
- ❖ Work is often “cutting-edge”, developed in UNECE and then used globally

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



Introducing the standards

- ❖ Statistical models and frameworks are more conceptual, geospatial standards are more technical
- ❖ Important to build understanding between the communities and identify areas for common projects
- ❖ Demand for information is growing - the two communities will need to collaborate, and can learn from each other

Group discussion: Future work



- ❖ Consider in GSBPM and GSIM reviews how geospatial processes and information can be represented
- ❖ Encourage statistical offices to consider geospatial data as part of their core data
- ❖ Include statistics in UN-GGIM fundamental data
- ❖ Common projects based on user needs
- ❖ Collaborate on address and building registers, e.g. a reference ontology for addresses and buildings
- ❖ Project on data exchange – how to connect statistical and geospatial offices.

Group discussion: Future work



- ❖ Keep communicating
- ❖ Develop communication materials to explain the different frameworks and how they work together
- ❖ Engage vendors to build tools to support standards
- ❖ Common core metadata for geospatial data
- ❖ Identify key people in both communities who can make decisions and lead the way.
- ❖ Consider opportunities in relation to SDGs and the 2020 census round

Collaboration across communities



- ❖ Both provide information for better decision making
- ❖ Understand interdependencies, gaps and overlaps
- ❖ International collaboration should be supported by senior managers, through national institutional arrangements, long term, sustainable commitments with clear business requirements
- ❖ Broaden the communities - industry, ministries, mapping agencies, INSPIRE, earth observations, ISO, UN Expert Group on Classifications.
- ❖ How can the communities work together to provide answers to user questions?

Proposals for future work

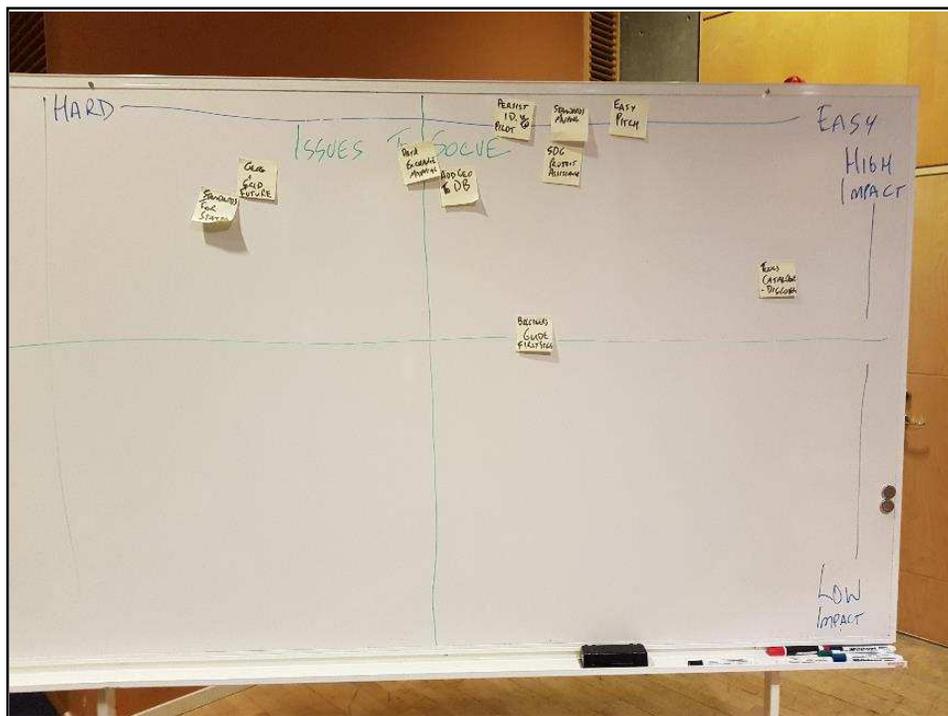


- ❖ A “pitch statement” to get senior management buy-in and funding
- ❖ Pilot on persistent identifiers for statistical and geospatial data
- ❖ Beginners guide to standards from both communities
- ❖ How to store geospatial concepts in existing databases
- ❖ Standard language and semantics

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

- ❖ Find owners for these activities
- ❖ UNECE / UN-GGIM: Europe to discuss future activities in Geneva next week
- ❖ Build on what we have started this week