

I. Report of the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Europe

1. Reporting Period

1. This report highlights the activities carried out by the Europe Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information (UN-GGIM: Europe) in the past 12 months since the last meeting of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information in August 2017.

2. Activities and Areas of Work - achievements

2.1. Contribution to UN-GGIM

2. The Experts Committee mandated UN-GGIM: Europe to establish and lead a Global Working Group to draw together current projects from different UN-GGIM regional bodies to determine global fundamental geospatial data themes. In the past twelve months this Working Group had continued with its work, and has successfully fulfilled its mandate and terms of reference. A report on work of the UN-GGIM WG on Fundamental Data is being submitted to the Committee of Experts.
3. UN-GGIM: Europe continues with its active participation and contribution to Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicator (IAEG-SDGs) Working Group on Geospatial Information. Participating in the meetings and aligning the work of the regional Working Group on Data Integration to provide European input to the Expert Group.
4. UN-GGIM: Europe actively participated in the Fifth UN-GGIM High Level Forum held in November 2017 in Mexico City, Mexico, engaging with the programme of the HLF. Regional members also participated in the inaugural meeting of the UN-GGIM sub-Committee on Geodesy held in the fringes of the forum.
5. Members of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe contributed to the Expanded Bureau Meeting, which followed immediately after the High Level Forum in Mexico City.
6. UN-GGIM: Europe contributed to the 5th Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman in February 2018. UN-GGIM Europe to share experiences and knowledge about institutional arrangement for geospatial data management with the Regional Committee of Arab States.
7. UN-GGIM: Europe, through EuroGeographics, facilitated the presentation and consultative opportunity of the initial draft of an 'Integrated Geospatial Framework' by the World Bank to European Member States. This was part of a wider work shop organised in May 2018.

2.2. Regional Activities

8. The [UN-GGIM: Europe held its Fifth Plenary Meeting](#) on the 6 - 7 June 2018 in Brussels. The event brought together senior executives and experts from the national geospatial information and statistical authorities of 24 Member States, and 12 international and observer organisations. At the meeting a new Chair and new member to the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe were nominated and approved. The Work Plan for UN-GGIM: Europe for 2018 - 2021 was approved by the Regional Committee.

The wider UNECE Member States were invited to participate in the meeting.

9. Recognising the mutual benefits of working together UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE have drafted a [proposal for greater collaboration](#). Agreed and drafted by both parties, this was well received by the Executive Committee of UNECE at their Ninety-fifth meeting in Geneva in December 2017. In particular, benefits are expected in terms of improving outreach and raising awareness of the respective work programmes, as well as strengthening capacity building activities and learning from each other.
10. UN-GGIM: Europe has three regional working groups, each with a specific focus.
 - i. [Working Group on Core Data](#) is focusing on increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data which meets essential user needs.
 - ii. [Working Group Data Integration](#) works to ensure that the regional entity focuses on how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in Europe. The working group was also set up with the intention that it will interact with the IAEG-SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information.
 - iii. [Working Group on Geodetic Reference Frame - Europe](#) has a close connection to the various geodesy - related organisations in Europe, and actively contributes to the work of the global GGRF Working Group, which was elevated to a permanent Sub-Committee on Geodesy (SCoG) by the Committee of Experts at its meeting in August 2017.
11. A more detailed update on the work, progress and outcomes from the three European Working Groups is available in the full regional report provided as a background document.
12. UN-GGIM: Europe helped organise and/or actively participated in a number of regional activities in the twelve month intersessional period. These include:

INSPIRE Conference	September 2017, Strasbourg/Kehl
European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference	November 2017, Dublin
Joint workshop with UNECE Workshop on Integrating Geospatial and Statistical Standards	November 2017, Stockholm
Fourth Joint UN-GGIM: Europe-ESS - UNECE Meeting	Luxembourg, April 2018
Participation of UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom in the UNECE High-level Seminar on Strategic Partnerships in Official Statistics	Geneva, April 2018

3. Priority Issues and Challenges

13. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe consider that some of the priority issues for the coming period include:
 - iv. The Sustainable Development Goals

- v. Improved collaboration between the statistical and geospatial communities
- vi. Capacity Development
- vii. The continuation of the work on Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes
- viii. The Integrated Global Geospatial Framework

4. Future Plans and Activities

14. The Regional Committee will continue with the work and delivery of the working groups as outlined in the Work Plan 2018 - 2021 which was approved by the Regional Committee at its Fifth Plenary meeting in June 2018.
15. UN-GGIM: Europe is planning to organise/actively participate in the following future events in the next twelve months:
 - i. European Forum for Geography and Statistics Conference, October 2018, Helsinki, Finland
 - ii. First United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress, November, Deqing, China
 - iii. Fifth Joint UN-GGIM: Europe-ESS-UNECE Meeting, Spring 2019, Luxembourg
 - iv. Sixth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, June 2019, Brussels, Belgium
 - v. UN-GGIM - UNECE Joint Workshop on Data Integration, 2019, date and venue to be confirmed