

Second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress

Theme: "Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind"

10 - 14 October 2022 // HICC, Hyderabad, India



UN-GGIM: Europe – a renewed strategy to fit a changing landscape



UN-GGIM
EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

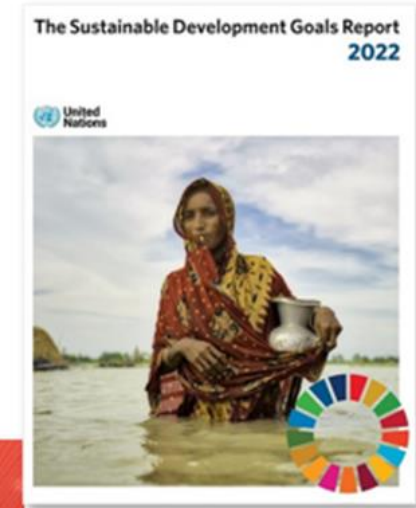
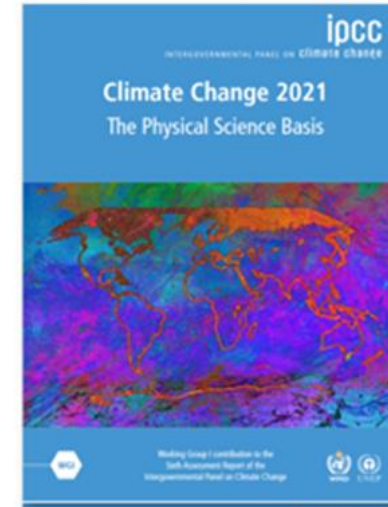
Tomaž PETEK, general manager
Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia
Chair of UN GGIM Europe executive committee





Global Challenges

- Many global challenges amplifying the need for action
- A growing global awareness of the value and importance of having access to trusted location-based data



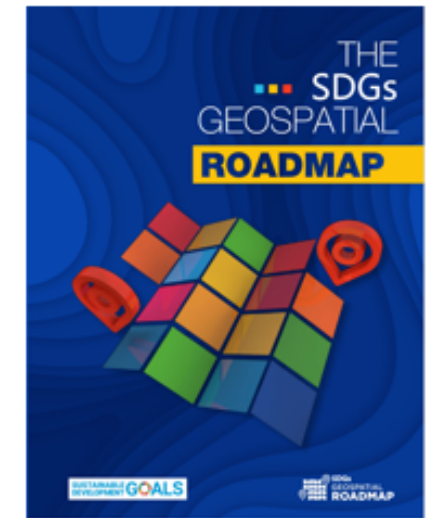
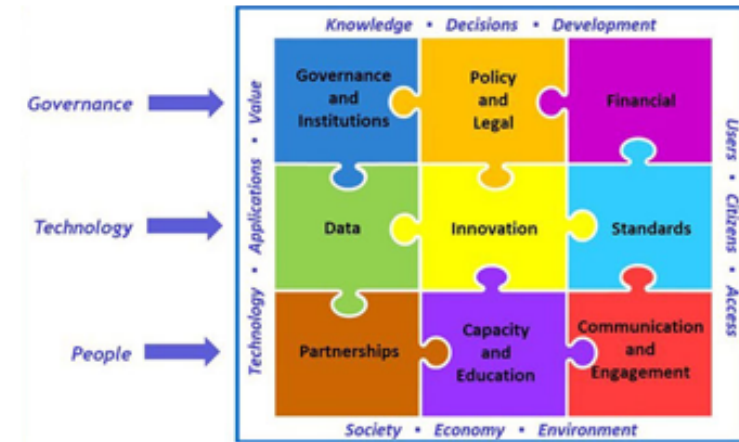
 **DECADE OF >>>> ACTION**





UN-GGIM leads the way:

- UN-GGIM has created frameworks in response to these global challenges
- Their core promote the use of geospatial and statistical data in informing responses to these challenges





Changing landscape in Europe

- Regional context is dynamic, with regulation that supports a society empowered by data
- Emerging policies and legislations that support data provision throughout the region.



Relevant Context and Activities



European Strategy for data

'society empowered by data', anchoring data as the basis for better decision making

policies and legislations supporting open public sector data, common data spaces, data governance, the ethical use of artificial intelligence

Geospatial Knowledge Infrastructure

How information is collected, managed, stored, used and reused in an efficient, transparent and accessible way are critical issues that need to be addressed strategically in order to maximise the value of geospatial data to produce meaningful and location-based relevant information

Common European Data Space

Large sectoral data spaces



- Industrial platforms for data sharing
- Standards and interoperability (technical, semantic, legal)
- Sectoral data governance
- Cloud storage and processing

High-value data sets from the public sector



e.g. weather, geospatial, statistics

Personal data platforms (PIMS)



Rich pool of data with varying degree of accessibility

Free flow of data across sectors and countries

Full respect of GDPR

Framework for data access and governance





UN-GGIM: Europe responds to these challenges by...

- Identifying that the time is right to refresh the current Regional Strategy and Work Plan. to respond to these changes.
- Translating these global challenges into actions and activities that are relevant for Member States across our region.
- Recognising that it is not just about data, but about how the frameworks make the data applicable to us all.
- Showcasing our successes and aligning regional activities to the global UN-GGIM agenda.





UN-GGIM: Europe

Foreword

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to contribute to the geospatial information in Europe, aligning to the global by the Committee of Experts. The mission of UN-GGIM: Europe is to contribute to the geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic and prepares to climate change and other major challenges that lie ahead under the motto leaving no one behind.

In October 2020, the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee contributions that the Europe Region had made to the changing landscape, the ExCom felt that it was an opportunity to look at the strategy to act as a framework and guide to thereby aligning the strategy period with the wider UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom considers that the three main pillars of Awareness and Strategic Leadership form a helpful strategy and work plan may be informed. It is proposed for five years from 2022.

In seeking endorsement of the strategy, the UN-GGIM: Europe success is dependent on the widest participation from and therefore encourage Member States and observers and together, commit to a sustained programme of work from one another and continue to provide inspiration to the UN-GGIM: Europe ExCom is grateful to those who have adopted the new Strategy and are delighted to present it to the Executive Committee in October 2021.

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Preamble

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management is a formal intergovernmental mechanism to coordinate information management activities by involving Member States in 2010 it has played a leading role in the management of geospatial information in national and regional contexts.

UN-GGIM works with governments to improve geospatial frameworks. It also addresses global issues and works with shared interests and challenges and it develops in both developed and developing countries. UN-GGIM: Europe is among and between Member States and International Organizations.

The Europe Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe) is a formal intergovernmental mechanism to coordinate information management activities by involving Member States that are part of UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) collaboration agreement with UNECE. UN-GGIM: Europe is a professional, research and academic organisation involved in geospatial and statistical information management. UN-GGIM: Europe or through the Geospatial Society of Europe (GSE) Private Sector Networks. The strategic leadership is provided by the Executive Committee.

Background

UN-GGIM: Europe is one of five regional committees established in 2014, during the first plenary meeting held in Geneva. The Executive Committee defines the operational activities and contributes to Member States and observers and to the global UN-GGIM: Europe.

According to the Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe, the geospatial information management and coordination of the discussions in UN-GGIM so that the economic and social benefits are maximized (Article 2 of the Charter).

From its creation the aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to improve the management and availability of geospatial information and to facilitate the collaboration between national mapping agencies and institutes in the European Region, along with the European Committee operates in a mature and complex environment to maximise synergies, avoid duplication of effort, and includes improving the joint response to user needs.

¹ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/UN-GGIM-Europe-Charter-2014.pdf>



interoperability, harmonisation and sharing, and optimising the use of geospatial information in Europe.

UN-GGIM: Europe takes a leading role in showing good practice in geospatial information management, the integration of data sources as well as developing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). In 2020, UN-GGIM: Europe was awarded the category of GEO observer, an important recognition. UN-GGIM: Europe has also taken a leading role in the development of the Themes and a driving force in setting up the global vision of the Integrated Geospatial Information Management Reports, the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), the Global Statistical Geospatial and Framework (GSGF), the Global Geospatial Information Framework (GGIF) and the Global Framework for Effective Land Administration (FLEA). UN-GGIM: Europe has an active role in bringing different domains together.

UN-GGIM has continued to grow and change over the last ten years. The work that has been added to the Programme of Work includes a focus on geospatial data at individual national, regional and global levels. A paradigm shift in the importance of data, the latest edition of the Geospatial Information Framework (GIF) reflects new information requirements and user data needs and the development of communication platforms and tools. Whilst at the same time, data confidentiality, and data ethics are at the top of the agenda. The development of frameworks, standards, and policy developments can be used to protect the value of data.

Now, more than ever, there is global awareness of the importance of geospatial information available to face the social, economic and environmental challenges of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the importance of authoritative location-based data and information to be accessible and interconnected in a context of crisis. The EU's vision for the future of geospatial information for people and businesses based on a human-centred and sustainable approach and the European Green Deal establish a green approach to Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the European Commission's proposed Regulation on European data governance, has been a key driver, anchoring data as the basis for better decision making. The European Programme, with its initiatives like Copernicus and Galileo, will continue to support Earth Observation to Europe's digital and green transitions and to support open public sector data, common data spaces, artificial intelligence, and concepts towards a geospatially enabled Europe. The impact on data integration and its provision throughout the region is significant. A subset of the region covered by UN-GGIM: Europe, its data and information management regional impact. At a national and regional level developments

² https://earthobservations.org/geo_blog_obs.php?id=472



Vision & Mission Statement

Building on the overarching vision of UN-GGIM of positioning geospatial information to effectively address global challenges, UN-GGIM: Europe's mission is to:

Maximise the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world.

Through identifying opportunities, understanding and solving geospatial information challenges in the Europe Region. By collaborating with partners to enhance the integration with statistics to inform and support decision making.

The Strategic Pillars

Three main strategic pillars support UN-GGIM: Europe mission and vision over the next five years.

	Sharing Knowledge	Raising Awareness
AIM	Providing the tools for society	Bringing everything and everyone together
FOCUS	Prioritising contributions and informing the work plan to take action	Determining relevant partners and initiatives to leverage work
GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and deliver a Work Plan that links global objectives to individual Member States priorities Consolidate the role of geospatial data in addressing SDG indicators Support the provision of geospatial pan-European datasets and derived products as a relevant input for the geospatial and statistical data integration Promote relevant frameworks and standards as tools for Member States Leverage the use of geospatial information and improving its national implementation Take advantage of EO to broaden the scope of thematic production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage geospatial data harmonisation and quality – official and authoritative geospatial data is key Actively contribute to the work plan to promote IGIF as an evaluation system to support Member States to implement IGIF Promote engagement with relevant partners and stakeholders to encourage greater participation and bridge regional gaps Proactively display its work through initiatives and events on specific showcasing the value of geospatial information Bring other data communities into the application and data combination work on data interoperability

TRANSLATED INTO UN-GGIM: EUROPE



The three pillars in more detail

The strategic pillars provide a framework for strategic action and are translated into UN-GGIM: Europe work plan. The scope of action of each strategic pillar is not self-contained, but rather interdependent from one another, with linkages and interconnected actions supporting and contributing to the effective implementation of each strategic pillar. The strategic pillars hold a complementary nature and their combined actions drive the success of UN-GGIM: Europe and the results and outputs of the work plan should provide tangible outcomes to assess the strategic achievements.

Sharing Knowledge

This Pillar is focused on delivering activities that are relevant for European Members and looks to provide the tools for society to identify and realise the benefits of using geospatial information integrated with statistical information.

This Pillar establishes the key areas of action and investment by UN-GGIM: Europe. It informs the main activities to be delivered by the Working Groups and is supported by an objective work plan with tangible results and outcomes.

In the context of this strategic Pillar, work should be carried out in order to:

- Promote relevant policies and frameworks as tools for Member States including the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework, the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and initiatives such as the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence.
- Consolidate the role of geospatial information in achieving international agreements such as the Agenda 2030 and for Sustainable Development and continuing to identify methodologies and use of geospatial information for the SDG indicators.
- Support the provision of geospatial pan-European datasets and derived products as a relevant input for the geospatial and statistical data integration.
- Leverage the use of geospatial information and improving its national implementation.
- Take advantage of Earth observation to broaden the scope of thematic production.





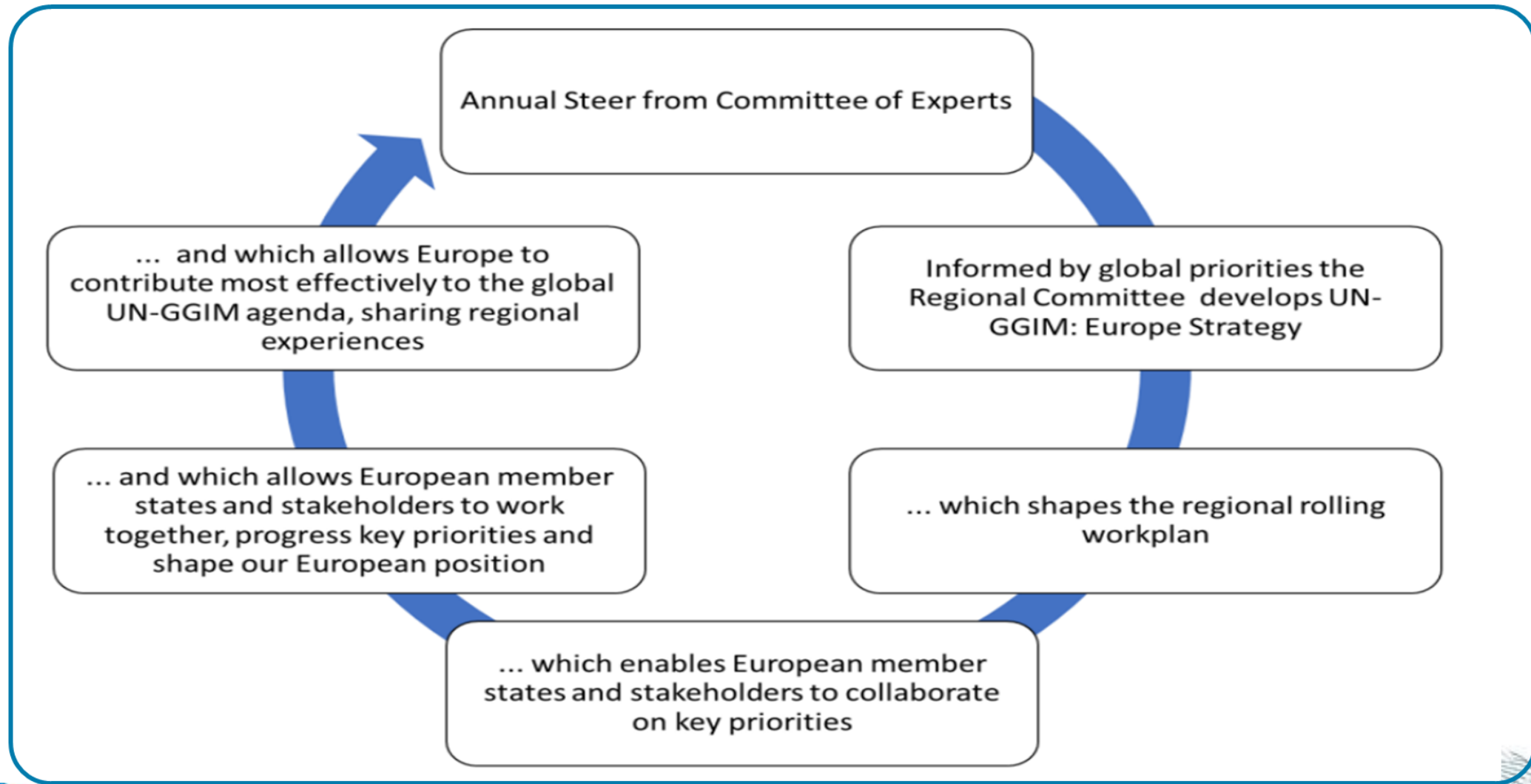
Vision & Mission Statement

Building on the overarching vision of UN-GGIM of *positioning geospatial information to effectively address global challenges*, UN-GGIM: Europe mission is:

Maximise the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world.

Through identifying opportunities, understanding and solving common challenges across the Europe Region. By collaborating with partners to enhance the use of geospatial data and its integration with statistics to inform and drive action.







The Strategy is supported by three pillars

Pillar	Sharing knowledge	Raising awareness	Strategic leadership
Aim	Providing the tools for society	Bringing everything and everyone together	Providing strategic alignment, and showcasing the added value
Focus	Prioritising contributions and informing the work plan to take action	Determining relevant partnerships and initiative to leverage the work	Setting out the core areas of work focus

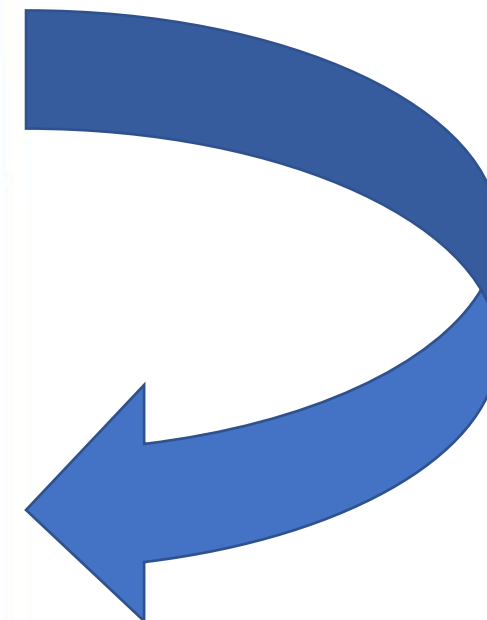




The Strategic Pillars

Three main strategic pillars support UN-GGIM: Europe mission and shape its strategy for the next five years.

	Sharing Knowledge	Raising Awareness	Strategic Leadership
AIM	<i>Providing the tools for society</i>	<i>Bringing everything and everyone together</i>	<i>Providing strategic alignment, and showcasing the added value</i>
FOCUS	<i>Prioritising contributions and informing the work plan to take action</i>	<i>Determining relevant partnerships and initiatives to leverage the work</i>	<i>Setting out the core areas of work focus</i>
GOALS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create and deliver a Work Plan that links global objectives to individual Member States priorities Consolidate the role of geospatial data in addressing SDG indicators Support the provision of geospatial pan-European datasets and derived products as a relevant input for the geospatial and statistical data integration Promote relevant frameworks and standards as tools for Member States Leverage the use of geospatial information and improving its national implementation Take advantage of EO to broaden the scope of thematic production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage geospatial data harmonization and quality – official and authoritative geospatial data is key Actively contribute to the work and promote IGIF as an evaluation system and support Member States to implement the IGIF Promote engagement with relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure greater participation and bridge internal regional gaps Proactively display its work through initiatives and events on specific subjects showcasing the value of geospatial data Bring other data communities in terms of application and data combination and work on data interoperability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of UN-GGIM at all levels Promote the value of geospatial data and its integration with statistical data Leverage the value of geospatial data to support better decision-making processes to address critical socio-economic and environmental issues Support capacity building and development in geospatial data and promote cooperation between Member States Create an environment that develops initiatives to promote a clear governance of geospatial data in Europe Provide guidance to officially establish the cooperation between geospatial and statistical organisations in Member States



TRANSLATED INTO UN-GGIM: EUROPE WORK PLAN





The Strategy is delivered through a Work Plan

Integrated Geospatial Information Framework

- Activity lead – United Kingdom. ExCom lead – Sweden

Global Geodetic Reference Frames

- Activity lead – to be confirmed. ExCom lead – Germany

Data Integration

- Activity Lead – Germany. ExCom lead – Germany

Sustainable Development Goals

- Activity lead – Portugal. ExCom lead – Portugal

Data Strategy and Policy

- Activity lead – Poland. ExCom lead – Slovenia

The five 'Lines of Work' reflect priorities for the Regional Committee over the coming few years, and align with the objectives of UN-GGIM.

"Data Integration and "Sustainable Development Goals" have been carried over from the previous Work Plan. The others are new activities.



UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2022

Introduction

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to contribute to the more effective management and availability of geospatial information in Europe and ensuring that the work of the Regional Committee is aligned to the global UN-GGIM programme¹.

At its eighth plenary meeting in October 2021 the Regional Committee approved and adopted a renewed strategy of UN-GGIM: Europe. The renewed strategy outlines the mission of UN-GGIM: Europe, which is to *maximise the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world*. Which will be achieved through *identifying opportunities, understanding and solving common challenges across the Europe Region. By collaborating with partners to enhance the use of geospatial data and its integration with statistics to inform and drive action*².

This renewed and adopted strategy is structured around three main strategic pillars: Sharing Knowledge, Raising Awareness and Strategic Leadership. The aims and goals of UN-GGIM: Europe are laid out and put into practice through a rolling work plan that is approved by the Regional Committee at the annual plenary meeting.

The figure below [Figure 1] illustrates the circular process that ensures that the work of UN-GGIM: Europe remains aligned with the global programme of the Committee of Experts, focusses on the needs and priorities of our region, and ultimately contributes back to the global UN-GGIM agenda by allowing Europe to share its regional experiences.

Figure 1 – Aligning the regional priorities with the global programme



¹ Article 2 - Purpose and Activities of the Rules and Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe
² Vision and Mission outlined in the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy

Establishing the main lines of work

The 2021 work plan, also approved by the Regional Committee at its eighth plenary session, identified five key priority areas that meet the strategic alignment of the needs and requirements of Europe within the global programme of the Committee of Experts:

- Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
- Geodetic Reference Frames
- Data Integration
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Data Strategy and Policy

The rationale and aims supporting the proposed activities were outlined in this work plan and these five key priority areas were translated into the main lines of work that the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe planned to focus on for the next three to five years starting from 2022.

The inter-plenary interval between the eighth and ninth plenary was a period of transition. While the regional working groups delivered the final outputs from the rolling work plan which was agreed and approved at the seventh regional plenary meeting in 2020, the Executive Committee and a dedicated Strategy Project Team³ started setting and implementing the 2021 work plan.

The 2021 work plan provided the rationale for identifying the priority areas together with a high-level outline of the lines of work that the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe aimed to focus on. The Executive Committee did not wish to prepare and prescribe how the work should be carried out or identify the deliverables for each line of work. The intention was for Member States and observers to express their interest in participating in the various lines of work outlined below and to collaborate together to deliver on these key regional priorities.

Following the agreement and adoption of the 2021 work plan in October 2021, the Project Team designed a questionnaire to communicate and to engage the participation in the work plan. The primary aim of the survey, which was circulated at the end of January 2022, was to gauge the relevance of the lines of work with the members of UN-GGIM: Europe and to identify the Member States and observers interested in taking part in implementing these. The questionnaire asked members to state their level of engagement for each of the lines of work, the options being to lead, participate or to stay informed.

In total 66 responses from 37⁴ Member States were received, 33 responses from National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities, 21 from National Statistical Organisations, one joint response from both the national organisations and three responses from national entities other

³ The Strategy Project Team was led by Portugal, United Kingdom and the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat with additional input from Belgium, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden.

⁴ Albania, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Belarus, Republic of Serbia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom

than geospatial or statistical. The remaining eight responses were from observer organisations that included academia, regional organisations, the private sector and the European Commission⁵.

What was encouraging about the questionnaire results is that responses were received from both the statistical and geospatial communities, and that 38% of the responses were from Member States or organisations that had not previously been involved in the work of UN-GGIM: Europe.

The survey asked members how relevant they considered each line of work for the continuation of the activities of the work plan of UN-GGIM: Europe [Figure 2]. The priority area that generated most interest to members is Data Integration with 87% respondents indicating that this line of work is relevant to very relevant. The least, though still with a high majority of 65% respondents considering the line of work relevant to very relevant, was Geodetic Reference Frame. An understandable response taking into consideration that this topic is of lower interest to the statistical community than to the geospatial community. These results demonstrate that the members responded positively to all the identified lines of work, and indicate that the work plan is suited for steering the activities for the priority topics in Europe. The lines of work are listed in descending order to their relevance to the members, as indicated by average value: Data Integration, Sustainable Development Goals, Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, Data Strategy and Policy and Geodetic Reference Frame.

Figure 2 – Relevance of the lines of work

	1 - not at all relevant	2	3	4	5	6 - very relevant	Average
Data Integration	0.0	0.0	6.6	6.6	45.9	41.0	5.21
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	0.0	3.4	5.1	23.7	30.5	47.3	4.93
Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)	1.6	4.9	6.6	13.1	36.1	37.7	4.90
Data Strategy and Policy	1.7	0.0	10.2	15.3	45.8	27.1	4.85
Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF)	1.8	7.0	8.8	17.5	38.8	28.1	4.65

Source: UN-GGIM: Europe Questionnaire to Regional Members on Implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe work plan.

Following this analysis of the survey results the Strategic Project Team proposed a plan of action to the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe in order to launch the first phase of implementing the work plan.

⁵ Academia (Vienna University of Technology, Politecnico Di Milano and Karabük University - Turkey), regional organisations (EuroGeographics and EuroSDR), the private sector (ESRI and ConsultingWhere) and the European Commission (Eurostat).



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Thank you!

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or contact secretariat to find out more



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