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

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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: EUROPE | UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
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
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 realisation of geospatial information in Europe, aligning to the global UN-GGIM goals and objectives, as defined by the Committee of Experts. The mission of UN-GGIM in Informatics for Europe for a safer and more sustainable world emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic and preparedness to adapt to climate change and other major challenges that will be under the motto leaving no one behind.

In October 2020, the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee in its contributions to the Europe Region had made to the changing landscape, the EC stressed that it was not a looking strategy to act as a framework and guide a thereby aligning the strategy period with the wider UN-GGIM: Europe EC considered that the three main Awareness and Strategic Leadership form a helpful strategy and work plan may be proposed. It is projected five years from 2022.

In seeking endorsement of the strategic, the UN-GGIM success is dependent on the widest participation from all European Members and observers and together, credit to a sustained programme of work from one another and continue to provide inspiration.

The UN-GGIM: Europe EC is grateful to those who provided assistance and we are delighted to present to the EC adoption in October 2021.

Preamble

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Interoperability, harmonisation and sharing, and optimizing information in Europe in 2010 has played a leading role in the management of geospatial information in national UN-GGIM works with governments to improve frameworks. It also addresses global issues including the sharing of interests and challenges and it develops in both developed and developing countries.

The Regional Executive Committee of the United Nations Information Management (UN-GGIM: Europe) is a Member States and part of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) collaboration agreement with UN/CEOS, UN-GGIM, professional, research and academic organization involved in geospatial and statistical information. UN/CEOS Europe or through the Geospatial Social Good Private Sector Networks. The strategic to Executive Committee.

Background

UN-GGIM: Europe is one of five regional recognitions in 2014, during the first plenary meeting held by the Executive Committee. A multi-year EC defining the operational activities and contribute to Members States and observers in Group which are aligned to the global UN-GGIM: Europe.

According to the Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe, the geospatial information management and regional of the discussions in UN-GGIM: Europe to the recent geospatial information are maximized Article 3. From its creation the aim of UN-GGIM: Europe is to contribute to the realisation of geospatial information in Europe. Interoperability, harmonisation and sharing, and optimizing information in Europe.

UN-GGIM: Europe, takes a leading role in showing good practice, reference data, the integration of data sources as well as develop the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2020, UN-GGIM: Europe has also taken a leading role in the Themes and a driving force in setting up the Global Visible Earth Information Management Framework, the Integrated Geospatial Global Statistical Geospatial and Framework (ISG), the Global and Global Framework for Effective Land Administration (FLA) active role in bringing different domains together.

UN-GGIM has continued to grow and change over the last ten years of work that have been added to the Programme of Work as which focuses on geospatial data at individual national, regional, paradigm shift in the importance of data, the latest edition of new information requirements and user data needs and communication platforms and tools. Whils at the same time, confidentiality, and data ethics are at the top of the age frameworks, standards, and interoperability, developments can be used and protect the value of data.

Now, more than ever, there is global awareness of the importance of data to face the social, economic and environmental impacts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015, and more recently the COVID-19 pandemic. These have shown how data authorization allocation of data and information to be accessed. COVID-19 epidemiology and has also demonstrated the importance of data and information in a continent of the crisis. The EU's vision for people and businesses based on a human-centred and sustainable agenda and the programme Green Deal establish a green Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, the European Commission has proposed Regulation on European data governance, the by data, exchanging data as the basis for better decision making.

UN-GGIM: Europe must continue to develop a full programme, with its initiatives like Copernicus and Galileo, and ESF Observation to ensure Europe's digital and green transitions that support open public sector data, common data spaces, artificial intelligence, and concepts towards a geospatial world. Impact data integration and its provision throughout the subset of the region covered by UN-GGIM: Europe, its data and regional impact. At a national and regional level developments.
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.*
Annual Steer from Committee of Experts

... and which allows Europe to contribute most effectively to the global UN-GGIM agenda, sharing regional experiences

Informed by global priorities the Regional Committee develops UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy

... which shapes the regional rolling workplan

... which enables European member states and stakeholders to collaborate on key priorities

... and which allows European member states and stakeholders to work together, progress key priorities and shape our European position

UN-GGIM: EUROPE | UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
The Strategy is supported by three pillars

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<tr>
<th>Pillar</th>
<th>Sharing knowledge</th>
<th>Raising awareness</th>
<th>Strategic leadership</th>
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<td>Determining relevant partnerships and initiative to leverage the work</td>
<td>Setting out the core areas of work focus</td>
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The Strategic Pillars

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

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<td>GOALS</td>
<td>Create and deliver a Work Plan that links global objectives to individual Member States priorities</td>
<td>Encourage geospatial data harmonization and quality – official and authoritative geospatial data is key</td>
<td>Support the development of UN-GGIM at all levels</td>
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<td>Consolidate the role of geospatial data in addressing SDG indicators</td>
<td>Actively contribute to the work and promote IGIF as an evaluation system and support Member States to implement the IGIF</td>
<td>Promote the value of geospatial data and its integration with statistical data</td>
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<td>Support the provision of geospatial pan-European datasets and derived products as a relevant input for the geospatial and statistical data integration</td>
<td>Promote engagement with relevant partners and stakeholders to ensure greater participation and bridge internal regional gaps</td>
<td>Leverage the value of geospatial data to support better decision-making processes to address critical socio-economic and environmental issues</td>
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<td>Promote relevant frameworks and standards as tools for Member States</td>
<td>Proactively display its work through initiatives and events on specific subjects showcasing the value of geospatial data</td>
<td>Support capacity building and development in geospatial data and promote cooperation between Member States</td>
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<td>Leverage the use of geospatial information and improving its national implementation</td>
<td>Bring other data communities in terms of application and data combination and work on data interoperability</td>
<td>Create an environment that develops initiatives to promote a clear governance of geospatial data in Europe</td>
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<td>Take advantage of EO to broaden the scope of thematic production</td>
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<td>Provide guidance to officially establish the cooperation between geospatial and statistical organisations in Member States</td>
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**TRANSLATED INTO UN-GGIM: EUROPE WORK PLAN**
The Strategy is delivered through a Work Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Integrated Geospatial Information Framework</th>
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<td>- Activity lead – United Kingdom. ExCom lead – Sweden</td>
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<th>Global Geodetic Reference Frames</th>
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<td>- Activity lead – to be confirmed. ExCom lead – Germany</td>
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<th>Data Strategy and Policy</th>
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<td>- Activity lead – Poland. ExCom lead – Slovenia</td>
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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 programme.

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 maximize the use of geospatial information in Europe for a safer and more sustainable world. This 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 to integrate with statistics to inform and drive action.

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, focuses 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

Establishing the main lines of work

The 2021 work plan, also approved by the Regional Committee at its eighth plenary session, identified 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
- Geospatial Reference Frames
- Data Integration
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Data Strategy and Policy

The national 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 Team 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 prescribe and prescribe how the work should be carried out or identify the deliverables for each line of work. The intention was for Members 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 33 Member States were received, 33 responses from National Mapping and Cartographic Authorities, 21 from National Statistical Organisations, one joint response from both the national organisations and three responses from national entities other than geospatial or statistical. The remaining eight responses were from observer organisations that included academia, regional organisations, the private sector and the European Commission.

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 areas 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 82% respondents considering the line of work relevant to very relevant, was Geospatial 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 Geospatial Reference Frame.

Figure 2 – Relevance of the lines of work

Work Plan – 2022

Ninth Plenary UN-GGIM Europe, – 20 – 21 June 2022

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Thank you!

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