



## Virtual Meeting of the Expanded Bureau of UN-GGIM

Thursday, 11 March 2021

### Report from the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe

This short report outlines the key initiatives and actions taken by the Regional Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe since the Tenth Session of the Committee of Experts in August 2020.

#### Regional Events

- The Seventh Joint Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe, European Statistical System and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe will be again be held as a virtual event. This annual meeting which brings together European statistical and geospatial experts is held immediately following the Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information organised by Eurostat. The meeting will be held on the 24 March.
- Last year's regional annual session had to be organised as a virtual event because of the COVID-19 restrictions. In the hope that circumstances might allow for physical meetings to be organised in the second half of 2021, the Eight Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe has been shifted to later in the year from June to October. The tentative plan is to hold the meeting as a physical event in Brussels on the 13-14 October 2021, pandemic situation permitting. Otherwise, the meeting will be organised as a virtual event.

#### Collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE

- The collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE concluded at the end of 2020, collaboration has been successful, producing tangible results. The focus of the collaboration agreement is capacity development, areas of collaboration include data integration, earth observations for sustainable development and European Statistical Systems post 2024. In December the collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE was renewed for a further two years until the end of 2022.

#### Regional efforts

- UN-GGIM: Europe received a 2020 GEO SDG Award for the Sectoral category, GEO Participating Organization in November 2021 as part of the Earth Observations for Sustainable Development Goals (EO4SDG) Initiative. The GEO Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Awards recognize the productivity, ingenuity, proficiency, novelty, and exemplary communications of results and experiences in the use of Earth observations to support sustainable development, as indicated by progress toward an SDG Target and/or



progress toward, and reporting on, a SDG Indicator. The award was in recognition of the efforts of the Regional Working Group on Data Integration to analyse the contribution of geospatial data and its integration with statistical data to calculate SDG indicators 11.3.1 (land use efficiency), 15.1.1 (forest area), and 15.3.1 (land degradation).

### **Integrated Geospatial Information Framework**

- UN-GGIM: Europe nominated four members to represent the region at the High-Level Group of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG-IGIF). The nominations were: Germany, Federal Agency of Cartography and Geodesy (BKG), Netherlands, The Netherlands' Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster), Sweden, Lantmäteriet, and United Kingdom, Geospatial Commission. This selection was made following an open call by the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat to all European Member States inviting all those interested in participating in this high-level group to submit their proposed nominations UN-GGIM: Europe.

### **Regional resources**

- The Netherlands is responsible for the Secretariat to UN-GGIM: Europe, EuroGeographics the international not-for-profit organisation representing Europe's National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registration Authorities funds and provides the secretariat service by agreement with them. In December the Netherlands renewed the SLA with EuroGeographics to continue providing the UN-GGIM: Europe secretariat for the next two years until the end of 2022.