

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Tenth session

New York, 26- 27 August 2020 and 4 September 2020

Item 12 of the agenda

Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data (for discussion and decision)

<i>Statement provided by:</i> EuroGeographics	
<i>Statement:</i>	
<p>a) EuroGeographics takes note of the report of the working group on legal and policy frameworks. As an observer organisation participating in this working group we are content to note the good work and progress being made by the group in addressing the legal and policy issues in geospatial information management. We particularly welcome the proposed focus of the working group on issues concerning authoritative data. The critical importance of trusted geospatial information to support decision-making at all levels and many areas of national and international concern is demonstrated by the current Covid-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, too many parts of the world lack reliable authoritative fundamental geospatial data, and the role of such data is not well understood at a political level. There remains insufficient awareness of the importance of good quality data to addressing global challenges and addressing National and global economic and social goals. A clear policy for geospatial information management, backed up by a robust legislative framework with appropriate resource are significant enablers to effective and efficient geospatial information management, as envisaged as part of the IGIF. A focus by the working group on a better understanding of the definition and importance of authoritative data, best practices examples and encouraging information sharing and knowledge exchange required in order to help the implementation of the IGIF would be a significant contribution to the global geospatial community. EuroGeographics stands ready to assist in this task.</p> <p>b) We take note of the white paper on legal aspects of availability of geospatial information provided as a background document, and commend the work of the group in finalising this paper.</p> <p>c) EuroGeographics is happy to encourage the Committee of experts to endorse a change in the name to the working group on policy and legal frameworks for geospatial information management.</p>	
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