



Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

Fourteenth session

August 2024

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Contribution of Europe Regional Committee of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information (UN-GGIM: Europe) to the global geospatial information agenda

Submitted: 15 July 2024
Prepared by: Carol Agius, UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat
Contributions: Jeffrey Verbeurgt, Belgium
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Germany
Steven Bliemer, The Netherlands
Berny Kersten, The Netherlands
Célia Ferreira, Portugal
Francisco Vala, Portugal
Ewa Surma, Poland
James Norris, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

* [E/C.20/2024/1](#)



1. Executive Summary

1. This report provides an overview of 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 intersessional period following the thirteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information in August 2022.
2. It outlines the UN-GGIM: Europe work carried out to implement its strategy and work plan, collaboration activities, the impact of the Regional Committee's work and its future plans. UN-GGIM: Europe is committed to ensuring that its work and actions remain aligned with the broad UN-GGIM programme and that its regional activities remain fit for purpose.

2. Regional Committee annual meetings

3. The annual meetings of the Regional Committee aim to bring together senior executives from national geospatial information and statistical authorities within Member States and international geospatial experts from relevant stakeholders from across the region. Two Regional Committee meetings were held this intersessional period, the tenth plenary meeting held in November 2023 in Brussels Belgium and the eleventh plenary meeting held in June 2024 in Geneva Switzerland.
4. The tenth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe¹, hosted by the European Commission (Eurostat), and was held on the 22 – 23 November 2023 in the Berlaymont Building, Brussels Belgium. The National Geographic Institute of Belgium hosted a dinner to celebrate this anniversary session of UN-GGIM: Europe. Over 60 participants from 23 Member States and 17 international bodies and observer organisations participated in the meeting.
5. The eleventh plenary meeting² was held the 19 – 20 June 2024 at the Palais des Nation in Geneva hosted by UNECE. The annual meeting overlapped with the 72nd Session of the Conference of European Statisticians (CES). This was the third occasion where the annual Regional Committee meeting was held together with the CES, taking the opportunity to organise a Common Day to discuss topics, opportunities and challenges which are common to both communities.

3. Implementing the regional strategy and workplan

6. 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 programme³.

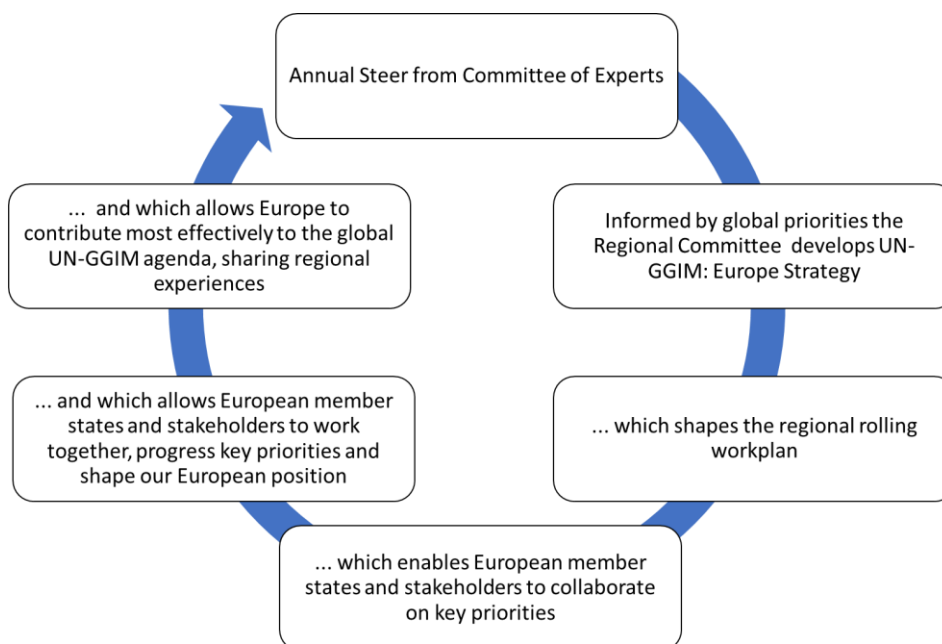
¹ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/plenary-meetings/tenth-plenary-un-ggim-europe-november-2023/>

² <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/plenary-meetings/eleventh-plenary-meeting-un-ggim-europe/>

³ Article 2 - Purpose and Activities of the [Rules and Articles of UN-GGIM: Europe](#)
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7. At its tenth and eleventh plenary meetings the Regional Committee confirmed its support and commitment to implementing the UN-GGIM: Europe Workplan 2022-2025⁴, which is the blueprint to putting into practice the UN-GGIM Europe Strategy adopted at the eighth plenary meeting.
8. This strategy which is structured around the three main strategic pillars of Sharing Knowledge, Raising Awareness and Strategic Leadership 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*. 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 its integration with statistics to inform and drive action*⁵.
9. It is important to note that the steer to the work of UN-GGIM: Europe comes from the global UN-GGIM programme, agreed and adopted annually at the Committee of Experts sessions in August. This ensures the work of the Regional Committee remains aligned with the global agenda while, focusing on the needs and priorities of Europe. The regional experiences from UN-GGIM: Europe are shared with the Committee of Experts closing the loop of a circular process.

Figure 1 – Aligning the regional priorities with the global programme



10. The UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2022 – 2025 focuses on the five key priority areas which had been agreed by the Regional Committee at its eighth plenary session as meeting the strategic needs and requirements of Europe within the global programme of the Committee of Experts: Data Integration; Sustainable Development Goals; Data Strategy and Policy; United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework, and Geodetic Reference Frames.

⁴ [UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2022](#)

⁵ Vision and Mission outlined in the [UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy](#)

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11. The Lines of Work reported on the work and progress in implementing the work plan to the UN-GGIM: Europe Regional Committee at both the tenth and eleventh plenary session. The dashboard below provides a high-level overview of activities and progress for each of the five lines of work as reported in June 2024:



DASHBOARD | IMPLEMENTING THE WORK PLAN

This dashboard presents three sets of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) on the implementation of the five lines of work identified in UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2022. It follows a traffic-light system of evaluation: round green light - KPI has been achieved; triangle yellow light - KPI in progress; round blank circle - activity has not started yet; diamond red light - KPI has not been achieved.

	WG	Col	WG	SWG	Col
	IGIF	GRF	DI	SDG	DS&P
 Kick-off activities	Has a WG/Col Lead been defined?	●	●	●	●
	Have the ToR been drafted?	●	●	●	●
	Has the Concept Note been drafted?	●	●	●	●
	Has a kick-off meeting taken place?	●	●	●	●
	Has a scoping paper been drafted?	●	▲	●	●
	Has a shared workspace space been set up?	●	●	●	●
Additional update					

This dashboard presents three sets of Key Performance Indicators (KPI) on the implementation of the five lines of work identified in UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2022. It follows a traffic-light system of evaluation: round green light - KPI has been achieved; triangle yellow light - KPI in progress; round blank circle - activity has not started yet; diamond red light - KPI has not been achieved.

Community of Interest - IGIF


Implementation of activities

- Initial activities discussed and agreed ●
- Identify sub-group leads for initial activities ●
- Regular meetings with HLG-IGIF Working Group ▲
- Design webinar series ●
- Contribute to HLG-IGIF tasks ▲

The Working Group has made good progress in designing and delivering the webinar series. A key objectives is to support the HLG-IGIF. All three HLG-IGIF groups have active Europe engagement The Working Group is considering how to strengthen and elevate its activities over coming year.

Community of Interest - GRF - Europe


Implementation of activities

- No. of web/physical meetings ▲
- Create contact register ▲
- Prioritization of proposed work packages ▲
- Agreement on 2025 work plan ▲
- Contribute to UN-GGCE ▲
- Engaging with regional stakeholders ▲

Priorities for proposed work packages will be set in June 2024
Work Plan will be finalized in June 2024
Scoping paper will be finalized in August 2024
Implementation of work plan will start in September 2024
Engagement numbers are unclear, will become clear by end of 2024

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Line of Work - Data Integration

Implementation of activities

- No. of web/physical meetings ●
- No. of webinars ●
- No. of webinar summary reports ●
- Has an online dissemination page been set up? ●
- No. of conferences/workshops/seminars ●

All three planned webinars have been conducted
All webinar evaluation reports have been compiled

Line of Work - SDG

Implementation of activities

- No. of web/physical meetings ●
- No. of webinars ●
- No. of webinar summary reports ●
- Has an online dissemination page been set up? ●
- No. of conferences/workshops/seminars ●

All four planned webinars have been conducted
All webinar evaluation reports have been compiled

Line of Work - Data Strategy & Policy

Implementation of activities

- No. of web/physical meetings ●
- Engaging with regional stakeholders ▲
- Has an online dissemination page been set up? ▲

ToRs agreed by the LoW
Participating in the INSPIRE Conference

- As can be seen from the dashboard all the five Lines of Work have progressed significantly in implementing their respective work plans. Some of the tasks outlined in the Work Plan 2022 – 2025 were expected to be developed in a time-frame of 2 – 3 years, some of the Lines of Work have realised the aims and outcomes on schedule.
- Following on the work already conducted by the Working Group Data Integration established in the previous work programme of UN-GGIM: Europe the Lines of Work Data Integration and SDG delivered their outputs outlined in the work plan and are proposing further tasks for the short term.
- The Lines of Work on the UN-IGIF and GRF- Europe were both established to facilitate at the regional level the global programme of specific agenda items of functional groups of the Committee of Experts. Specifically, the High-level Group of the United Nations Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (HLG UN-IGIF) and the Subcommittee on Geodesy. Progress on these working groups, established as Communities of Interest, relies on the advancement of the work being carried out by the global groups. Both these Lines of Work have received a boost of activity in the past months. The progress of the HLG UN-IGIF and the establishment of the UN Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence in Bonn. This impetus has allowed these Lines of Work to both progress and review their tasks in the work plan.



15. The Line of Work Data Strategy and Policy, was established mainly to address and understand the linkages of European data policy with the UN-GGIM agenda and programme of work, such as the UN-IGIF. The progress of this line of work is increasing slowly, activities have mainly focused on informing members of the policy areas at UN-GGIM and European levels.
16. Given that all the lines progressed or even anticipated on the tasks outlined in the Work Plan 2022 – 2025, an update to the work plan covering the same period up to 2025, was proposed and adopted at the eleventh plenary meeting. Details of the updated work plan for each of the five lines of work can be found in Annex 1 of this document. The output of all the lines of work, including webinar recordings, can be found on the UN-GGIM: Europe website⁶.
17. It should be noted that the Work Plan 2022 – 2025 puts into practice the UN-GGIM Europe Strategy which was adopted at the eighth plenary meeting. In the coming months the UN-GGIM Europe Strategy will be reviewed and renewed with the aim of presenting this to the Regional Members at the twelfth session of UN-GGIM: Europe in 2025.

4. Collaboration and impact

18. Together with the Statistical Division of the UNECE and Eurostat, UN-GGIM: Europe co-organised the ninth joint UN-GGIM: Europe –UNECE – ESS meeting⁷ which was scheduled to coincide with the Joint UNECE, Eurostat, UN-GGIM Europe Workshop on Integration of Geospatial and Statistical Data⁸ organised in Belgrade, Serbia 3 – 5 October 2023. The tenth edition of the joint UN-GGIM: Europe –UNECE – ESS meeting⁹ was hosted by Eurostat at their offices in Luxemburg in March held back-to-back with the annual Working Group on Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information (WGGISCO). All these events served to bring together the statistical and geospatial communities, discussing at technical level the data integration efforts and applications across the region.
19. The overlapping of the eleventh plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe and the 72nd Session of the Conference of European Statisticians offered the opportunity to organise a Common Day focussing on topics of interest to both communities sharing their experiences and lessons learned, particularly regarding emerging technologies like generative AI and interoperability approaches to deliver a unified approach towards data integration.
20. The event highlighted the importance of integrating geospatial and statistical data to enhance national and international development programmes. It emphasized the important opportunity in drafting the post-2030 Development Agenda and strongly

⁶ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/working-groups/>

⁷ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/other-meetings/9th-joint-un-ggim-europe-ess-unece-meeting-on-the-integration-of-statistical-and-geospatial-information/>

⁸ <https://statswiki.unece.org/display/GeoStat/GeoStat+2023+-+Timetable+and+Documents>

⁹ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/past-meetings/other-meetings/10th-joint-un-ggim-europe-ess-unece-meeting-luxembourg-march-2024/>

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encouraged the geospatial and statistical communities to actively contribute to its development to maximise the impact that geospatial and statistical data have in national and global development programmes.

21. The Common Day also provided the opportunity for executives and secretariats of the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee and the CES Bureau to meet and discuss and agree on collaboration and common topics. They also agreed to extend the collaboration agreement between the UNECE CES and UN-GGIM: Europe for a further three years to 2026. The renewed agreement, focuses on capacity development especially in areas of common interest such as data integration, SDGs, Diversity, Equity and Integration (DEI), population censuses and innovative technologies. The next Common Day is expected to be held in June 2026 by once again overlapping the annual sessions of the two bodies.
22. UN-GGIM: Europe agrees that the five Regional Committees of UN-GGIM can benefit by collaborating and sharing knowledge and experiences across the regions. The secretariat of UN-GGIM: Europe worked together with the secretariats of the other regions to share information about each other's events and webinars, as well as working collaboratively under the leadership of UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific in completing the inter-regional report presented to the Committee of Experts at this fourteenth session.
23. In the implementation of the UN-GGIM: Europe work plan 2022 – 2025 the Regional Committee has so far organised nine webinars¹⁰, five in this intersessional period. The virtual events which addressed various topics including the SDGs, data integration and the UN-IGIF, were open to all. While the webinars were conducted to implement the Europe Region work plan, they had a global audience. By extending invitations to all the other UN-GGIM Regional Committees and stakeholders, the webinars were intentionally promoted and well received across all members states: participants from over 75 countries attended the webinars. UN-GGIM: Europe intends to continue this practice with future webinars.
24. UN-GGIM: Europe welcoming the participation from UN-GGIM: Arab States and UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific to the tenth annual European Region event, as well as congratulations from the Regional Committees of Africa and Americas on the anniversary plenary meeting. As part of the eleventh plenary meeting, UN-GGIM: Europe organised a special session dedicated to the inter-regional collaboration with the in-person or virtual collaboration from all the UN-GGIM Regional Committees; this was a first for a UN-GGIM: Europe meeting. Members from the Europe Region Executive Committee participated in the annual meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States in February of this year and are planning to participate in the annual meetings of UN-GGIM: Asia Pacific and UN-GGIM: Americas later this year.
25. Representatives from UN-GGIM: Europe participated and contributed to a number of events and meetings constituting part of the broad UN-GGIM programme. This included, amongst others, the Expert Consultation and Meetings on Enhancing geospatial information management arrangements and accelerating the

¹⁰ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/un-ggim-europe-webinar-series/>

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- implementation of the SDGs held in Aguascalientes, Mexico in January; the Second Meeting of the UN-GGCE International Advisory Committee and the Expert Consultation on Strengthening the Global Geodesy Supply Chain, both held at the UN campus in Bonn Germany in March and April respectively; and the meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre, held in Deqing China in April.
26. The Second expert meeting of the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks on Geospatial Information Management was hosted by the National Geographic Institute of Belgium in partnership with UN-GGIM: Europe and EuroGeographics in Leuven Belgium February. The second expert meeting was held back-to-back with the meeting of the EuroGeographics Policy Knowledge Exchange Network to maximize the participation of and input from Member States, relevant stakeholders, and policymakers.
 27. The recommendations of content for fourteen core data themes proposed by the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group on Core Data¹¹ are being implemented as the bases for the data model and specification for the Open Maps For Europe 2 (OME2) project currently underway. The project, which is coordinated by EuroGeographics and co-funded by the European Union, is developing a new production process and technical specification for free-to-use- high-value data from multiple European countries under a single open licence. The first prototype, which was released in May this year, is aligned to the UN-GGIM: Europe core geospatial data recommendations as well as to key European Union policy objectives and provides large-scale administrative boundary information as well as transport and railway networks, ports and airports¹².
 28. The tenth plenary meeting provided the opportunity to have for the first time all thematic networks presenting to the regional committee. Updates provided by the four thematic networks, Geospatial societies, Academic network, Private sector network and UN Geospatial network provided the basis for discussions on how the networks can contribute to the work of the UN-GGIM.
 29. UN-GGIM: Europe operates in a region where there are many well established stakeholders, and therefore works with many partners and entities to avoid duplication and maximise efforts. The two plenary meetings held in this intersessional period included presentations and input from some of the region's strategic partners including the UNECE Statistics Division, European Commission (Eurostat and the Joint Research Centre) and EuroGeographics. Presentations from the World Health Organisation and the World Meteorological Organisation put into context the value of geospatial information in meeting global challenges.
 30. In November 2023 UN-GGIM: Europe collaborated with the European Environment Agency to organise a workshop: 'UN-GGIM: Europe contributing to European data strategy' during the Green Data For All - INSPIRE Conference 2023 held in Brussels. The session highlighted the overlaps and complementarity between the aims and

¹¹ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/working-groups/working-group-core-data/>

¹² <https://eurogeographics.org/open-maps-for-europe/ome2-progress/>

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work of the EU and UN-GGIM and touched on the lack of ‘policy home’ for geospatial at European and global level.

31. UN-GGIM: Europe is committed to the decision from the thirteenth session of UN-GGIM: that inclusivity and diversity should be included across the broad programme of work of the committee. The tenth annual meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe included a session on the strengths and talents of neurodivergent people contributing to the production of geospatial information. The renewed collaboration agreement between UN-GGIM: Europe and UNECE includes a commitment to diversity, equity and inclusivity.
32. UN-GGIM: Europe presented for the consideration of its members Vision Documents on two topic areas: ‘Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging’ and ‘Strengthening collaboration within UNGGIM-Europe between the public and private sector’. Both are being provided in this document in Annex 2 and Annex 3 respectively.
33. The Members of the Regional Committee agreed that the importance of ensuring that DEI efforts continue to be engaged across all the work of the Committee in an overarching manner and not siloed. Also acknowledging and committing to do better in considering the topic of DEI within all aspects of UN-GGIM: Europe, being allies for underrepresented and marginalised communities as well as being a catalyst for our wider geospatial community.
34. UN-GGIM: Europe recognises that the private sector has an important role to play across the geospatial and wider data ecosystems and welcomes the efforts by the Private Sector to advocate for UN-GGIM and its frameworks and principles within the organisations and data communities that they work with acting as a conduit for two-way exchange of information.

5. Administrative arrangements

35. UN-GGIM: Europe is governed by the Articles and Rules which were adopted at the inaugural meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, and subsequently reviewed and amended at the Fourth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe held in June 2017 to include wider the UNECE Member States within UN-GGIM: Europe. The Articles and Rules of procedure are publicly available¹³.
36. UN-GGIM: Europe is coordinated and managed by an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee members are nominated and approved during plenary meetings of UN-GGIM: Europe. At the tenth plenary the members of agreed to adopt a co-chair model leadership model for the UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee starting from that session. The current Committee was approved at the tenth and eleventh Regional Plenary Meeting in November 2023 and June 2024 respectively. The committee is co-chaired by representative from The Netherlands and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Also on the Executive Committee of

¹³ <https://un-ggim-europe.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/UN-GGIM-Europe-Articles-and-Rules-v2-Adopted2014.pdf>

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UN-GGIM: Europe are Members from Belgium, Germany, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia and Sweden.

37. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe is assisted in carrying out its functions by a Secretariat. The Netherlands, represented by Kadaster, takes responsibility for the Secretariat, the function of which is funded and executed by EuroGeographics AISBL, the European association of national mapping, cadastral and land registries, through a service level agreement originally signed in January 2015, and which was extended in December 2022 for a further period of two years.

6. Future plans

38. The Regional Committee is planning to organise, contribute or participate in various events in the coming months. These include:

- Seventh High-level Forum on United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management, 8 - 10 October 2024, México City, México
- European Forum for Geography And Statistics Conference, 10 – 12 December 2024, Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia
- Eleventh Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – UNECE -ESS Meeting, TBC
- Twelfth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, date and venue TBC



Annex 1

Updated UN-GGIM: Europe Work Plan 2024

The updated work plan spans the same period up to 2025 and was adopted at the eleventh plenary in June 2023. Following the eleventh plenary meeting the UN-GGIM Europe Strategy will be reviewed and renewed and presented at the twelfth plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe in 2025.

Details for each of the five lines of work follows.

Data Integration

Background

UN-GGIM: Europe has had a functioning Working Group on Data Integration actively working and producing relevant inputs and [deliverables on data integration](#) since 2024.

The refreshed strategy for UN-GGIM: Europe takes into consideration that Data Integration is a central issue given the current European landscape focus on data strategy. Increasing data interoperability, standardization and quality are key points in this framework of moving towards data driven-innovation and evidence-based decisions and policies.

Many opportunities and challenges remain to be dealt with on this topic in order to increase the scope of data integration, and particularly between geospatial and statistical data: relevant issues include geocoding, common geographies, standards, consistent time-series data, persistent unique identifiers, linking methods and linked data, metadata and data quality, data protection and security and interinstitutional collaboration.

Several initiatives are taking place at European level (like Copernicus and Galileo) and will continue to enhance the contribution of Earth Observation (EO) to Europe's digital and green transitions priority policies.

Within UN-GGIM there are already in place other relevant related data integration activities which include the work being developed by the [Expert Group on the Integration of Statistical and Geospatial Information](#).

Objectives

The Line of Work on Data Integration functions as a Working Group (WG), following the defined Terms of Reference (ToR).

In 2023 the Line of Work Data Integration conducted several webinars to maintain the active contribution on data methods and on showcasing the added value of integrating geospatial data with other data, and further exploring requirements and practices on the use and integration of EO data.

Outputs

The Lines of Work Data Integration and SDGs held a joint physical meeting in Lisbon on 15-16 April 2024 in Lisbon, hosted by Statistics Portugal. The main outcomes of the seven webinars *Europe Regional Committee report to the fourteenth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information*



(data integration and SDGs) were discussed and further tasks for the remaining working phase of this work plan were evaluated.

The Line of Work on Data Integration identified actions/tasks that include:

- An evaluation and assessment report for the UN-GGIM: Europe data integration report series (recommendations, obstacles for implementation, etc.).
- To conduct an assessment report (storyboard) on pragmatic data integration use case example (utilizing a prominent use case example from the global UN-GGIM Task Team on Climate Resilience).
- (If feasible) to carry out a questionnaire/poll on data integration issues in order to understand other domains will be foreseen.

Timetable 2024 to 2025

The work is expected to be developed within the remaining year.

SDG

Sustainable Development Goals

Background

UN-GGIM: Europe has been actively addressing and providing operational and technical guidance for the calculation of specific [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\) indicators](#) since 2017.

It is widely recognised that Sustainable Development will continue to be a high priority on global agendas and, as 2030 approaches, measuring progress towards the SDGs will become increasingly important, with geospatial data playing a critical role to provide context and deliver data to operationalize indicators.

It has been clear that from the onset that the various countries of the world (and of course the different countries of Europe) were at different stages of sustainable development and of their ability to track and implement the indicator framework for the monitoring of the 17 SDGs. The COVID-19 pandemic brought additional challenges, aggravating, and potentially delaying, the progress towards achieving the SDGs.

The contribution of geospatial information to the SDGs has been highlighted by recent developments – the publication of the '[SDGs Geospatial Roadmap](#)', the recently launched 'Data Alliance' and, within the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG Working Group on Geospatial Information ([IAEG SDG WG GI](#)), by its focus on providing guidance to the statistical community (including the SDGs Custodian Agencies) on approaches to the review and validation of data emanating from the use of Earth observations (EO). Other initiatives have been showcasing the added value of EO for SDG, such as the one developed by GEO group (EO4SDG) and within the European programmes, such as the Copernicus, shedding light on the potential of satellite imagery data to address environment related topics.

Objectives

The line of work on SDG functions as a Working Group (WG), following the defined Terms of Reference (ToR).

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The main aim of this line of work is to maintain the active contribution of UN-GGIM: Europe on showcasing the added value of integrating geospatial data with other data to address SDG indicators, by building on the previous deliverables and focus on common problems and technical and methodological solutions. The work also intends to further explore requirements and practices on the use and integration of Earth Observation data, maintaining a close articulation with the IAEG-SDG WG GI.

In 2023, the line of Work SDG has conducted four webinars to maintain the active contribution on showcasing the added value of integrating geospatial data with other data to address SDG indicators

Outputs

At the physical meeting in Lisbon on 15-16 April 2024, the main outcomes of the seven webinars (data integration and SDGs) were discussed and further tasks for the remaining working phase were evaluated.

The Line of Work on SDG identified actions/tasks that include an evaluation and assessment report for the UN-GGIM: Europe data integration report series (recommendations, obstacles for implementation, etc.).

The Line of Work on SDG plans to:

- Revisit the SDG indicators list and to confirm on which indicator methodology and topic (e.g. climate change) to work on.
- (Where relevant) concrete project proposals for grants have been considered as relevant to the work.

Timetable 2024 to 2025

The work is expected to be developed within the remaining year.

UN-IGIF Integrated Geospatial Information Framework - Europe

Background

The UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (UN-IGIF) provides a basis and guides for developing, integrating, strengthening, and maximising geospatial information management and related resources in all countries.

It has quickly become the 'umbrella framework' for UN-GGIM through which many of the existing activities are linked to. It is also an operational framework, and many nations (including several in Europe) are already using the UN-IGIF to develop and strengthen their national capabilities.

The UN-IGIF continues to be reviewed and updated to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose and has the right focus and resourcing to ensure its implementation. This is being led at the global level by the High-level Group on IGIF (HLG-IGIF). This working group has been set-up to support the European members of the HLG-IGIF, to contribute to the global tasks, and to raise the profile and relevance of UN-IGIF to member of the European Region.

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Objectives

- Provide support and input to the European Members of the HLG-IGIF, as and when required.
- Contribute to global tasks of the HLG-IGIF, making sure regional concerns and issues are raised and addressed.
- Understand the issues and obstacles that Regional Members may face when looking to implement IGIF develop regionally focused outputs.

Outputs

The expected outputs include:

- That the HLG-IGIF has a wider pool of experts available to contribute to its work, and that European Members contribute where relevant.
- The avoidance of duplication of effort – making sure that activities at the regional level support the global activities, and the outputs are transferrable in to UN-GGIM: Europe.
- Act as a convening body for UN-GGIM: Europe, hosting knowledge share and development activities such as webinars, workshops, or seminars.
- Providing Regional use cases and examples of Member States developing Country-level Action Plans.

Short- to Medium-term actions

- Define the structure and set up of the Working Group – Delivered
- Initiate discussions with European Members of HLG-IGIF and the HLG-IGIF Work Plan leads to identify areas for engagement – Delivered
- Creation of relevant blogs, webinars and other thought-leadership pieces to continue outreach and engagement activities.
- Working closely with other UN-IGIF Regional Working Groups to maximise impact from activities.
- Considering hosting an in-person workshop as defined by Member States needs.

Timetable 2024 to 2026

The European Working Group continues to refine its activities making sure they remain relevant to the agreed objectives. The Working Group has been reviewing its activities following the successful webinar series, as part of this review there is likely to be more focus on outreach and engagement activities over the next twelve months.

These activities will continue to align with the HLG-IGIF's global working groups.

Data Strategy and Policy

Background

In Europe, the political programmes and the European Green Deal establish a green transformation in the light on the UN SDGs. The [European strategy for data](#) adopted in early 2021 has the ambition of a 'society empowered by data', anchoring data as the basis for better

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decision making. Policies and legislations that support [open public sector data](#), [common data spaces](#), [data governance](#), the ethical use of [artificial intelligence](#), and concepts towards a geospatially enabled 'knowledge infrastructure' have an impact on data integration and its provision throughout the region. While the European Union is a subset of the region covered by UN-GGIM: Europe, its data policies and legislation have a broader regional impact.

Large volumes of data are produced daily from multiple data sources based on different types of devices and technologies. 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.

Within UN-GGIM there are already in place relevant related activities with this line part and, particularly, the [IGIF strategic pathways](#) on Policy and Legal, Data and Standards, and the Working Group on Policy and Legal Frameworks for Geospatial Information Management.

Objectives

The line of work on Data Strategy and Policy will function as a Community of Interest (CoI), following the defined Terms of Reference (ToR) [to be drafted].

The main aim of this CoI is to contribute to the development of relevant policy and data strategies regarding the management and use of geospatial data to maximise its value in addressing the challenges of a green, sustainable and digital Europe, on the one hand, and to understand the linkages of European policy with the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF).

Outputs

The expected outputs include:

- To coordinate and liaise with agencies and stakeholders to bring the relevant actors together
- To provide expertise and consultation to the activities of UN-GGIM: Europe and to the ExCom
- To establish a forum for exchange of expertise and experiences
- To support and promote capacity building and development initiatives

Short- to Medium-term actions

- Consolidate the scope of the work and the activities to be developed
- Define and set up a wiki working page as a share-point for documentation

Timetable 2022 to 2024

The work is expected to be developed in a time-frame of 2 years.



Background

Geodesy and geodetic networks are vital yet often overlooked components in the collection and management of geospatial information. Despite numerous national and international programmes, there is a need for a regional activity within UN-GGIM: Europe to enhance coordination and support. The establishment of the UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence (UN-GGCE) in Germany provides an opportunity for this Community of Interest (CoI) to support global geodetic efforts and represent European perspectives.

The UN-GGIM Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence, hosted by the Government of Germany, was established in 2023. The Community of Interest on Geodetic Reference Frames: Europe (GRF-Europe) will provide support and activities to the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence. The Community of Interest will act as a distinct forum to bring the perspective of UN-GGIM: Europe members together and contribute to the overarching global discussions and activities.

During 2023 and the beginning of 2024 activities were focused on establishing GRF-Europe and to initiate discussions with relevant stakeholders in the Europe region. The outputs of the discussions will be used to create the work plan in Q2 of 2024.

Objectives

- Provide support and actions that further the aims of the Global Geodetic Centre of Excellence
- Align and support the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy's priorities for the Global Geodetic Reference Frame, and translate them into actions relevant for the member states of UN-GGIM: Europe
- Act as a coordination body liaising with and between established national/regional and international programmes and bringing different geodetic stakeholders together
- Promote the growth and sustainability of the geodesy profession
- Assist European Members States on geodesy-related topics
- Foster decision-making based on geodesy as and when required
- Engage European experts to contribute to UN-GGIM / Sub-Committee on Geodesy / UN-GGCE

Outputs

The activities will link to the GGRF Position Paper and GGCE objectives providing a connection to national experts as and where relevant.

There will be a focus on the 'geodetic profession' looking at sustaining and growing the geodetic profession rather than technical development. This is recognised as a potential gap in existing projects and programmes.

A coordinating role between the technical and the political level is identified as a potential gap in the current European geodetic landscape. The CoI, operating under UN-GGIM: Europe, could provide a forum to bridge this gap and enable a stronger integration of geodetic reference frames into national and regional geospatial policies and infrastructures.

Enhanced collaboration and knowledge sharing among European geodesists.



Short- to Medium-term actions

- Define the structure and set up of a wiki working page (done)
- Maintain and update the wiki working page for coordination and information sharing (continuous task)
- Foster partnerships with technical organisations such as EUREF and EUPOS (done, continuous task since Q2 2024)
- Finalize priorities for proposed work packages (Q2 2024)
- Finalize work plan (Q2 2024)
- Create a comprehensive contact register covering all Member States in the Europe region in support of the work plan that will be developed (start Q3 2024)
- Implement work plan (2nd half 2024 – end 2025)

Timetable 2022 to 2024

The initial work is anticipated to be developed in a time-frame of ~2 years. Note that some of the work packages for the Col are planned to extend beyond 2025.

Putting the lines of work into practice

Governance

It is the task of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe, the UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat, and Regional Committee (through working groups and communities of interest) to implement the work plan.

The overarching role of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe is to provide guidance and oversight in the implementation of the work plan in accordance of the UN-GGIM: Europe Strategy. The lines of work are not siloed, there is significant overlap and interaction between them, it is the task of the Regional Executive Committee to assume an overarching role ensuring synergies and communications, between and across working groups, and other regional forums.

The Regional Secretariat supports the Regional Executive Committee in the exercise of its function and assistance in the overall achievement of activities of UN-GGIM: Europe work plan. While also actively communicating the UN-GGIM: Europe activities and achievements to all relevant stakeholders across multiple channels.

Call to Action

The implementation of the lines of work and the priority areas is through the contribution and active input of the members of UN-GGIM: Europe. Each line of work has a group of interested members and stakeholder who are working together to deliver the work plan.

The Regional Committee promotes and encourages the collaboration between national mapping and cadastral authorities and national statistical institutes in the European Region, along with European Institutions and observer bodies. Members States and observers are therefore invited to express their interest and join the UN-GGIM: Europe activities and in participating in the lines of work.



Annex 2:

UN-GGIM: Europe Vision Document on: Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging

Background

The geospatial industry, like other industries, has recognised that it faces challenges relating to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI). We know that diverse and inclusive work environments contribute to a sense of identity and drive better business outcomes.

During the Thirteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in 2023 a side event was held on the topic of 'Inclusion and Diversity in geospatial information management'. This led to a [decision](#) by the Committee to *integrate the subjects of gender equality, inclusion and diversity into the Committee's agenda items, and encouraged its functional groups and thematic networks to integrate this topic in their work plans.*

UN-GGIM: Europe has been working towards integrating DEI into its work plan and to take a diverse and inclusive approach to its activities. The Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe is committed to finding solutions to these challenges, and is requesting that the Plenary discusses and considers the topic of DEI and identifies practical ways forward for our geospatial community.

Opportunity space

We recognise that many Member States and organisations are already looking at ways to address DEI challenges. We encourage those organisations to share their approaches so that we can learn from one another.

We also recognise that DEI isn't just related to people. For example, biases can occur in data collection processes, there can be ethical considerations related to data collection, and machine learning algorithms can perpetuate societal biases.

We hope that this discussion may lead to a set of guiding principles that our UN-GGIM: Europe community can adopt and follow.

We encourage all parts of our UN-GGIM: Europe community to consider how to integrate DEI into their work plans. We should challenge biases and promote fairness, act as allies for underrepresented and marginalized communities so that together we can create positive change and contribute to a more equitable world.

Environment Social and Governance (ESG) and DEI

On November 28, 2022, the Council of the European Union adopted the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), requiring companies to provide detailed sustainability reports. Organisations are required to report in phases what their contribution is within the themes of Environment, Social and Governance (ESG).

Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) are crucial factors for organisations to consider in decision-making. In recent years, attention to ESG themes has increased with many organisations, especially in the business community, adopting sustainable practices to positively impact the environment, society and governance. Important elements which are also expected from stakeholders. ESG is an extension of the principles of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), which focuses more explicitly on the chains

in which people participate (the interconnectedness of people, organisations and their impact). Although reporting is currently not an obligation, it is a transformative incentive for an inclusive approach. At a later moment this applies also to the Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), a European Union directive aiming at enhancing the protection of the environment and human rights both within the EU and beyond.

It sets obligations for companies to address actual and potential adverse impacts on human rights and the environment, including those related to their own operations, their subsidiaries, and – vitally – their suppliers.

Also a relation with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can be made. The SDGs are common, universal goals for member states of the United Nations to move the world towards a fairer, more prosperous and peaceful society in 2030. They balance the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development.

UN-GGIM: Europe: Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Belonging

In this context UN-GGIM: Europe has committed to fostering an inclusive and balanced geospatial society since 2023. The objective is to cover all activities of UN-GGIM: Europe by taken into account the relevance of a diverse and inclusive approach. Furthermore, equity and the need to contribute to a safe place where everyone feels appreciated (the sense of belonging) is part of the new workplan.

Diversity, encompasses a range of human differences, including but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class, physical ability, neuro disabilities, religious or ethical value systems, national origin, and political views.

Equality is somewhat less one-sided than diversity or inclusion. You have equality (equal rights and opportunities) and **equity** (equal treatment). Equality does not mean equal treatment. For instance, while men and women are legally equal, equity addresses ongoing disparities like the gender pay gap.

Inclusion is involvement and empowerment, where the inherent worth and dignity of all people are recognised. An inclusive organization promotes and sustains a sense of belonging; it values and practices respect for the talents, beliefs, backgrounds, and ways of living of its employees. Diversity in the workplace is about the mix of different people in an organization, while inclusion is about whether or not people feel at home, feel heard and have a safe space to express themselves in an authentic way.

Belonging is the feeling of security, sense of acceptance, inclusion and one's own identity and recognition. To give people a sense of belonging, the environment must be designed to be a diverse and inclusive place.

UN-GGIM: Europe is by its Executive Committee committed to bring in its existing structure a gender, age and cultural balance. It raises awareness by promoting, also in the international context, realization of balanced working and expert groups. It is open for bringing together different minds, talents and roles, from every origin, background, age and situation.

By bringing some structure, a set of principles, provide a basis from which diversity, equity, and inclusion can be shaped. These principles are the basis for building a related strategy and plan of action.



Principles

1. Bias

Bias in the workplace is holding opinions, beliefs, or attributes about an individual or group of people based on certain characteristics, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or age, that impact how you think about or perceive them.

Bias can be unconscious or conscious. Unconscious bias involves stereotypes and assumptions that individuals form outside their (conscious) awareness, such as favouring men for leadership positions despite equal qualifications of women in the candidate pool.

Bias in the workplace is not limited to people themselves, but also makes its way into the data we use. Data can also harbour prejudice and algorithms can, both knowingly and unknowingly, favour certain outcomes. The result of this will spill over into our decision making, weakening both the quality and effectiveness of new policies where certain groups will not be taken into consideration.

Conscious bias refers to intentional prejudices held toward individuals or groups that affect judgement and decisions. Bias touches every area of work, from the language used in job descriptions to compensation and who is hired. And as all employees hold some form of bias, this is all the more reason to make combatting bias an integral principle of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI) efforts.

If allowed to go unchecked, bias can lead to unfair treatment, favourability, and discrimination. This impacts relevant decision-making, including hiring, career progression and development, and budget allocation. The result is an organisation that is underrepresented and marginalized.

2. Transparency

Workplace transparency involves being open and candid, such as sharing salary ranges and company goals, fostering trust and empowering employees.

Transparency also needs to be applied when choosing and using data. Our choice in data sources determines the outcome of our work. By being open concerning the data we use, we can identify weaknesses and make sure all relevant parties are involved.

Transparency impacts DEI by creating a culture of trust and openness while empowering employees with relevant information to help them stay informed about the organisation and careers. Without transparency, a culture of mistrust and miscommunication can occur, which impacts employee performance, morale, and productivity.

3. Accountability

Accountability in the workplace relates to taking responsibility for your actions and understanding that your actions are answerable. Accountability also means accepting the consequences—whether positive or negative.

By following accountability as a guiding principle for DEI, organisations show their commitment to creating a culture where employees are held responsible for their actions which help creates an environment that drives meaningful change.

4. Empathy

Empathy in the workplace means understanding and relating to others' experiences and emotions, fostering compassionate and unbiased interactions. Furthermore, empathy also means respecting and



taking into account the views and beliefs of communities outside those represented in the decision-making process. An example of this can be found in the beliefs of indigenous communities regarding land rights and use.

5. Accessibility

Accessibility in the workplace refers to creating an environment that prioritizes equal opportunities and inclusivity for all employees, including those with disabilities, neurodivergent people, and other needs. Accessibility involves removing barriers and providing accommodations to ensure individuals can fully participate in work-related activities, programs, and facilities. This is not limited to physical impediments, but also related to barriers to use certain data sources and the skills to process them. In removing these barriers, we can empower all employees to be part of the participatory decision-making processes and provide new insights. Without this kind of accessibility, information and decision-making is limited to a limited number of people and parties, which is not desirable from a DEI perspective.

6. Intersectionality

Intersectionality is the recognition and examination of the interconnected nature of different social identities, such as race, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, and other dimensions of diversity. It acknowledges that individuals possess multiple identities that can intersect and influence their experiences of privilege or oppression (acknowledging the complex and unique challenges faced by individuals).

Intersectionality recognises that individuals have multiple dimensions of identity that interact and intersect. It goes beyond viewing diversity as a singular characteristic and acknowledges the complexity of human experiences. By considering how different identities intersect, organisations gain a more comprehensive understanding of diversity and the unique challenges faced by individuals with intersecting identities.

Areas for consideration during Eleventh Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe

UN-GGIM: Europe is committed to these principles and supports a hands-on approach when talking about and implementing DEI in all its activities. Alignment with relevant national frameworks and European policies (such as the ESG and CSRD directives) is encouraged.

This paper requests that European Member States considers how the topic of DEI could be taken forward by UN-GGIM: Europe and encourages the Executive Committee to continue to work on this topic outside of Plenary meetings.

In order to structure the conversation three areas of consideration can be identified:

- How could the Working Groups and Thematic networks consider the different aspects of DEI in their working methods and work programme.
- What DEI initiatives are currently in place within Member States, how can we learn from one another.
- How can UN-GGIM: Europe demonstrate leadership in DEI conversations and how can we use our convening power to widen the discussion as far as possible



Annex 3

UN-GGIM: Europe Vision Document on: Strengthening collaboration within UNGGIM-Europe between the public and private sector

This short paper has been drafted to support discussion on strengthening collaboration between the public and private sector within UN-GGIM. By discussing this topic during the UN-GGIM: Europe Eleventh Plenary, we can identify how the private sector, member states and the public sector work together within the geospatial community to increase our impact.

Background

The private sector, represented by the Private Sector Network (PSN) within UN-GGIM attended the Tenth UN-GGIM: Europe Plenary meeting in 2023 and provided an update on their activities.

The PSN facilitates direct connections and communication between the private sector and Member States. Its purpose is to collaborate on global geospatial initiatives, bring people together, share innovations, learn from each other and encourage collaboration to maximize positive impact on the societies we live in. The PSN also aims to develop and enhance the uptake and use of geospatial information, enabling countries to enhance their capabilities and capacity in geospatial information technologies and services.

It is an active network which includes around 180 member organisations – including 15 from Europe – representing diverse company sizes, offerings and global distribution. The PSN is perceived as being an important part of our European geospatial community.

The PSN believes that there is a need for increased active collaboration between the private sector and UN-GGIM: Europe. During the Tenth Plenary meeting the PSN suggested that more could be done by the PSN to support UN-GGIM: Europe's activities.

Strengthen collaboration

To deliver on the promise of increased collaboration, it is key that different roles within our geospatial community are identified, so all parties can focus on delivering the best results for the communities we serve. For example, the public sector plays an important role in providing the infrastructure needed for all parties to work together. Member States give direction to the global UNGGIM strategy Whereas the private sector can bring in different experiences and expertise on innovation, the implementation of standards and scaling to complement the public sectors approaches. Within the private sector as a whole, the PSN holds an important position in bringing forward the added value of the private sector forward within the UN-GGIM network.

Several market research and consultancy organisations have suggested that the European geospatial market is expected to grow significantly in the next five years. Much of this growth will be driven by digital transformation, demand for Location-based services, emerging technologies and changes to policies and regulations. The Private Sector has a key role to play in this growing market. UN-GGIM is focusing on ensuring that frameworks, infrastructure, norms and policies that it has agreed upon and developed over the last 10 years, such as the Global Fundamental Data Themes, the UN-IGIF and work



around trust and ethics, are adopted, used and promoted by the Private Sector to support the Member States. This can facilitate and support growth at all levels.

Areas for consideration during Eleventh Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe

This short paper request European Member States to consider how the Private Sector, represented through the Private Sector Network, can strengthen the vision and objectives of UN-GGIM: Europe. In order to structure a conversation, three areas of consideration can be identified:

- In what capacity can the PSN contribute to UN-GGIM: Europe's goals and activities?
- What areas should UN-GGIM: Europe guide the PSN to focus on?
- How can the Private Sector champion and amplify the role of UN-GGIM and its frameworks into the wider geospatial / data communities?

UN-GGIM: PSN is currently also conducting global consultations with relevant public, private, and academic stakeholders in order to understand how the geospatial private sector can better support the implementation of the UN-IGIF in their unique contexts and countries.

The results of this consultation will be presented at the Fourteenth Session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in August 2024.