

To all members of EuroGeographics

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Dear

### **Season's Greetings and update from EuroGeographics Management Board**

On behalf of EuroGeographics Management Board, I am writing to send you our best wishes for the festive season and to provide an update on the Association's activities.

Following our meeting at Head Office in Brussels on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November, I am pleased to tell you that the Association's financial position at the end of 2019 is expected to be slightly better than budgeted. This reflects the Head Office team's hard work to address the significant deficit that emerged at the start of 2019 following Eurostat's decision not to renew the Euro Regional Map contract. I am sure you will all join me in thanking them for their on-going commitment to ensuring the sustainability of EuroGeographics so that it continues to deliver benefits for members.

Following extensive discussions, the Board has asked Head Office to continue this work and to produce a full analysis of the costs, income and funding options for making current pan-European data open in a sustainable way. This work is essential to ensure both the long-term sustainability of our Association and the sustainability of our current datasets given the strategy of releasing them as open data which was agreed at the General Assembly. An additional Management Board meeting is planned for February to consider this preliminary work.

During our meeting we also received and reviewed a number of reports on the progress being made to implement EuroGeographics' new mandate:

- Work has begun on the Data Access and Integration Strategy, with a costed project plan prepared and a bid for EU funding submitted.
- Activities in support of the representation strategy have included a range of meetings attended by myself and other Board members, and by the Secretary General and others in the Head Office team, including meetings with Eurostat, attendance at PCC and IMPULS, and the presentations at the Ibero-American PCC and in Brussels.
- We agreed not to expand the scope of the Copernicus KEN, and in the absence of a Chair for this KEN we will have to close this group; We have asked Head Office to

work closely with EuroSDR on the topic of Earth Observation and Imagery. We agreed the recommendation to reform the SBE KEN to an online forum, and affirmed that it was not necessary to have a positioning KEN, but that a workshop on positioning (or any other thematic topic) could be organised by Head Office if it was suggested by a member and they were willing to lead it.

As well as dealing with standing items on finance, risk and progress against key performance measures, the Board reviewed the very positive feedback from our General Assembly in Manchester. Plans for our 2020 General Assemblies were discussed and the need to finalise a location for the 2021 General Assembly noted.

Finally, we agreed the key topics to be addressed by the Board during 2020 and I will write to you again after each meeting.

As we move into 2020, it leaves me to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. The Board and Head Office Team look forward to working with you and on your behalf during 2020 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,



Colin Bray

President  
EuroGeographics AISBL