

Extraordinary General Assembly 2017
Leuven, Belgium
Tuesday 9 May 2017 to Wednesday 10 May 2017

Record of Proceedings

Tuesday 9 May 2017

12.00 to 12.30

Formal Business of EuroGeographics AISBL

The Extraordinary General Assembly, held in the Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe, began with a welcome from [Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director, EuroGeographics](#) who outlined how Formal Business would work this year. He also emphasised that only EuroGeographics members could attend this session and explained the voting process as required by the Articles of Association.

Mr Cory told members that this was their opportunity to scrutinise the financial accounts before they are registered at the Belgium Court of Commerce as required by EuroGeographics not-for-profit status. He added that voting would also be required for membership applications received from Malta Land Registry and Registers of Scotland.

The members present appointed two independent scrutineers, Ken Noble from Ordnance Survey Ireland and Ettore Poggi from the Italian Military Geographic Institute to oversee the voting process. A simple majority was needed.

A new procedure has been put in place to respond to members wishes that their voting slips are placed into sealed ballot boxes. Only Full Members are permitted to vote but Associate Members can remain as observers.

Each voting member has 3 ballot papers: For the 2016 Financial Accounts, the Membership application by Registers of Scotland and the Membership application by Land Registry Malta.

The results will be announced following the afternoon coffee break.

[Angela Matcov, EuroGeographics Treasurer](#) noted that Europe Day was an appropriate day to be meeting together. She then presented the Association's 2016 Financial Report and Accounts. Members had received detailed information in the papers sent out prior to the meeting. Accounts had been approved by the Management Board and, for the first time, independently audited.

In 2016 costs had been reduced by 5% to €1.6 million. Income, generated by sales, membership subscriptions and the ELF Project grant, was 4.7% more than the original projection at €1.8 million. The surplus for 2016 also exceeded projections and stood at

€169,784. Together with the reserves, this means the Association has €1 million to reinforce its investment capacity for European Location Services.

Mrs Matcov concluded by saying EuroGeographics has healthy accounts, increased reserves and improved financial management. She thanked Mick Cory, Secretary general and Executive Director, and [Igor Caldeira, EuroGeographics Financial Manager and Association Secretary](#) for their professional approach to managing the accounts.

There were no questions from the floor.

[Patricia Sokacova, EuroGeographics Membership and Communications Manager](#) then presented applications for full membership from Malta Land Registry and Registers of Scotland. These had been approved by Management Board which recommended member voted to approve both applications. She concluded by saying how pleased EuroGeographics was by the continuous interest in membership.

12.30 to 13.15

Voting and lunch

13.15 to 13.30

Introduction to the Extraordinary General Assembly – and the 4 pillars of activity, Products, Projects, Representation and Knowledge Exchange

[Ingrid Vanden Berghe, President, EuroGeographics](#) welcomed members to Leuven on behalf of Management Board, noting that today is Europe Day, a day to celebrate unity in Europe – what better date to be meeting here in this historic and beautiful city?

Mrs Vanden Berghe noted that 72 delegates, representing 33 member organisations from 30 countries were attending the event and also welcomed guests from Land Registry Malta, Registers of Scotland and EuroSDR as well as guest speakers Johan van der Schuit, PBL Netherlands, Luc Heymans, Team Leader – IT Project Officer, DG Move, and Nadine Hoube, Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research. They would be presenting on how they use authoritative pan-European geospatial data.

She reminded members that EuroGeographics' Articles of the Association define one General Assembly each year; this meeting is an Extraordinary General Assembly to allow members to sign off the Accounts and to undertake additional important Association business.

The next two days are an opportunity to find out about the activities carried out on members' behalf through the Association's four pillars of activity. She urged delegates to share this information with colleagues when they returned to their organisations.

Mrs Vanden Berghe concluded that the Extraordinary General Assembly is an important opportunity for members to help shape future activities to ensure EuroGeographics can continue to meet their needs, requirements and expectations, and provide value and relevant benefits to all. She emphasised that EuroGeographics was their Association; its activities were for members, but not possible without them!

13.30 – 15.00

Products

[Angela Baker, EuroGeographics Sales, Marketing and Channel Manager](#) chaired the session on products and began by thanking members for providing their data for the Association's pan-European products. She then gave an overview of customers and said that there had been a very positive steering group meeting with Eurostat who were pleased with the coverage work that had been achieved and gave a positive indication about future a contract.

Mrs Baker thanked Croatia and Turkey for their progress in data supply and stressed that EuroGeographics Head Office will continue to focus on supporting members to supply data. It was announced that there had been more than 6,300 unique downloads of EuroGlobalMap open data with more than 2,000 educational users and over 1,000 business users. Downloads showed no signs of slowing down. Priorities for 2017 included increasing coverage and to maintain and build on the customer base.

[Regine Elling, EuroGeographics Production Manager](#), gave an update on the products, beginning with a review of 2016 which saw a new production management team and system, change of regional manager for Group C and a new producer in DG Move and the TEN-T Network. Data producers are now working to the 2017 production plan. Following an overview of EuroRegionalMap and EuroBoundaryMap, she concluded by sharing an outlook for both products which included a response to Eurostat's request for supplying NUTS3 at 1:1 000 000 as open data.

[Johan van der Schuit from PBL, Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency](#) then presented a case study on the use of (geo) data for policy assessments and outlooks. Delegates heard that EuroGeographics data was just one of a wide range of datasets used by PBL but that it was selected as it meets their data requirements, such as regular annual updates, detail/scale fit for purpose, quality, harmonisation, seamlessness and easy access. He finished by saying harmonised (geo) data is essential for pan Europe research to explore alternative futures, adding that open data is growing in importance as data acquisition budgets are under pressure.

[Luc Heymans, Team Leader – IT Project Officer, DG Move AlpES WebGIS](#) then presented on the contribution of harmonised pan-European geoinformation to EU transport policy.

He said that data is the backbone of policy making, helping to make better decisions and improving communications. DG Move uses BoundaryMap (country and NUTS boundaries) and the transport and water networks as well as settlement theme of EuroRegionalMap and gave three examples: Road safety, air transport; and Ten-T. The important benefits from EuroRegional Map are that it is authoritative, with good positional accuracy, geometric quality and coverage, as well as the required transport modes available. He did, however, note that there were missing countries and attributes.

Finally, [Nadine Hoube, Institute for Interdisciplinary Mountain Research](#) spoke on the Role and integration of EuroBoundaryMap LAU 2 units. She said that the data was part of the tools needed to introduce the Ecosystem Services concept through an interactive and user-friendly webGIS.

[Dick Eertink, Kadaster, The Netherlands](#) asked why the Institute was not using EuroGeographics' EuroDEM data?

Ms Hoube said that it was because it already had one and no need for another at the moment.

Patricia Sokacova, EuroGeographics Membership and Communications Manager asked how it was spreading news about its work?

Ms Hoube said it did so through activities such as workshops.

15.00 – 15.30

Coffee break and conference photo

15.30

Results of Vote to approve EuroGeographics AISBL 2016 Financial Report and Accounts

For – 63

Against – 0

Abstained - 0

The EuroGeographics AISBL 2016 Financial Report and Accounts was unanimously approved.

Results of vote to approve application for full membership from Malta Land Registry

For – 63

Against – 0

Abstained - 0

The application for full membership from Malta Land Registry was unanimously approved.

Results of vote to approve application for full membership from Registers of Scotland

For – 63

Against – 0

Abstained - 0

The application for full membership from Registers of Scotland was unanimously approved.

15.35 – 16.00

Projects

Chaired by [Wernher Hoffmann, Chair ELS Programme Board](#), the session on projects focused on European Location Services.

The Head Office European Location Services Transition Team updated members on progress as work focuses on using the technical platform developed by ELF Project to evaluate services meeting the needs of key users. [Helen Kaestner, Transition Programme Manager](#), kicked off the session with an overview of the value proposition and scope of the transition before [Abigail Page, Technical Product Development Manager](#) provided more detail on product development. Finally, [Saulius Urbanas, Service Development Consultant](#) described the data supply process and role of data providers.

The meeting also heard from Management Board Members, [Anne Cathrine Frøstrup](#), [David Henderson](#) and Werner Hoffmann on why EuroGeographics and its members are committed to delivering future European location services. This will build trust in the capabilities and competences of NMCAs by making their data and its benefits more visible. Furthermore if they do not rise to the challenge, then others in the market will. Success will require collaboration, enthusiasm and commitment.

Questions and Answers

[Antonio Arozarena Villar, National Geographic Institute, Spain](#) asked why there was a need for European Location Services when Copernicus existed. He said the European Commission was one of the most important customers and European Location Services must therefore be well defined to meet its needs.

Abigail Page replied that EuroGeographics supplies data to Copernicus on many levels and was having good discussions with the European Environment Agency and CORDA regarding European Location Services. She stressed it would continue to work closely with

both to understand what is needed and how it could support Copernicus, and particularly welcomed input from the new Copernicus KEN.

[Nathalie Delattre, National Geographic Institute, Belgium](#) asked what was expected from data providers to make the transition.

Abigail Page replied that first, would be an external evaluation of services as there is a fantastic wealth of services available through ELF. This would determine what we should focus on, for example coverage for a specific theme, metadata or attribution. Evaluation also enables us to prioritise work.

[Mehman Bayramov, State Committee on Property Issues, Azerbaijan](#) asked whether any of the services took into account land and property and cadastre.

Saulius Urbanas said that several of the services did take it into account or show information from land and property and cadastre. Boundaries of cadastre parcels are available in the download services whilst the cadastral index map was available as view service. Land registration, however was not part of the provisions of the ELF Project or the current development of European Location Services.

16.30-17.30

Representation

The session on the work of UN-GGIM: Europe was chaired by [Antonio Villar Arozarena, Vice Chair UN-GGIM:Europe](#) and gave an update from the regional working groups. Francois Chirie and Dominique Laurent, IGN France provided an update on the work of regional working group A which focuses on Core Data. This was followed by a progress report on Data Integration from Amalia Velasco Martín-Varés, Spanish Directorate General for Cadastre before the session closed with an overview of GRF- Europe from Markku Poutanen, NLS Finland.

17.30

Close of day one

Wednesday 10 May 2017

08.45 – 09.00

Welcome back and introduction to day two

Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director, EuroGeographics welcomed delegates back for the second day of the agenda. He reminded them that the previous day had focused on users and the use of data, providing valuable feedback to help further develop products and services. Today would focus on the value and benefits of EuroGeographics membership with updates on the activities of the Knowledge Exchange Networks and a preview of the 2017 General Assembly in Vienna, Austria.

09.00 – 09.30

Providing value and relevant benefits to all members

Sallie Payne, Head of Association & Membership Management, EuroGeographics gave an overview of the key outcomes of the recent membership questionnaire. She told the meeting that the responses validate what EuroGeographics is doing and the activities it delivers with and on behalf of its members. It is meeting members' expectations and delivering significant membership benefits, and it has helped us identify the things we can continue to improve on.

09.30 – 10.15

Round Table

Discussions on the outcomes of the membership questionnaire and the priorities to take forward. Members' feedback indicated that they agree with the actions and priorities identified and proposed some interesting additional actions which EuroGeographics will now consider how best to meet.

10.15 to 10.45

Coffee Break

10.45 – 12.00

The Value of Knowledge Exchange Networks: What they have done and their work plans for 2017

Each KEN Chair provided an overview of its activities, its terms of reference and objectives and achievements. This was then followed by a review of its past activities and a look ahead to its future work plans.

Presentations for the session, chaired by Carol Agius, EuroGeographics UN-GGIM: Europe Administrator and KEN Coordinator, were provided by:

Ashley Wright - Business Interoperability KEN (BiKEN)

Daniel Steudler - Cadastre and Land Registry KEN (CLRKEN)

Anders Sandin - Copernicus KEN (CoKEN)

Dominique Laurent - INSPIRE KEN

Dominik Kopczewski – Policy KEN (PoIKEN)

Tamas Palya – Quality KEN (QKEN)

Wernher Hoffmann - State Boundaries for Europe KEN (SBE)

Delegates also heard from [André Streilein, EuroSDR, Vice-President Research](#) who spoke on its joint work with EuroGeographics for effective knowledge exchange.

12.00 – 12.30

Key outcomes of the KEN review

Carol Agius, EuroGeographics UN-GGIM: Europe Administrator and KEN Coordinator then presented on the recent review to assess and identify what is currently working, what needs to be improved, where the gaps are and if new approaches to collaboration should be introduced. Results show that the KENs are seen as a priority activity for EuroGeographics. The review confirmed and strengthened the view that members do indeed find them very valuable and are an essential membership benefit. By taking action and striving to improve the KENs EuroGeographics will ensure their relevance and value for members now and in the future.

12.30 – 12.50

Look ahead to 2017 General Assembly

Mick Cory, Secretary General & Executive Director, EuroGeographics spoke of the challenges facing members and pledged EuroGeographics support through knowledge exchange and continued collaboration to help respond to the impact of blockchain, Brexit, INSPIRE and the global SDGs. He urged delegates to remember that everyone wants to change the world, but no one thinks to change themselves!

He concluded with a look ahead to the 2017 General Assembly which will be hosted by the Federal Office of Metrology and Surveying, Austria.

12.50 – 13.00

Summary and Conclusions

Ingrid Vanden Berghe, President, EuroGeographics closed the Extraordinary General Assembly. She hoped members found the sessions useful, enjoyable and above all inspiring and welcomed Land Registry Malta and Registers of Scotland to the EuroGeographics' family.

She added that the public geodata should be available like water flowing from your tap. Customers want to access it easily, and want to be assured this data is there when they want it, at the quality they are expecting, and at a reasonable cost, without having to worry how it got there, who produced it and how this was done. Users value your authoritative, quality & updated geospatial information but there is more to do. Members must continue to listen to customers to help better meet their needs and demands.

Johan van der Schuit from PBL Netherlands said that there is always a need for more harmonised, seamless data. Commitment to delivering future European location services is therefore vital, and, if NMCA's do not seize the initiative to do this, others in the market

certainly will. This is their chance to consolidate trust and confidence in their activities by demonstrating their very real benefits to society. Members' contributions to UNGGIM, particularly through UN-GGIM: Europe were impressive with work on global issues and concerns, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Mrs Vanden Berghe concluded that EuroGeographics wants to continue to provide value and relevant benefits to all its members in geographical Europe and, on behalf of Management Board, thanked delegates once again for joining the meeting.