

UN-GGIM

An Overview

Carol Agius

UN-GGIM: Europe Secretariat



UN-GGIM: EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
**GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**



The United Nations steps forward on Global Geospatial Information Management

'There is a significant gap in the management of geospatial information globally'

Paul Cheung, Director, United Nations Statistics Division, Cambridge Conference, June 2011



A global geospatial mandate

At its 47th plenary in July 2011, ECOSOC, recognising the importance of global geospatial information, established the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM); and

- requested the Committee to present to ECOSOC in 2016 a comprehensive review of all aspects of its work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness; and
- encouraged Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies.

Resolution

2011/24

Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

The Economic and Social Council,

1. *Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management³ and the recommendations contained therein;*

2. *Recognizes the need to promote international cooperation in the field of global geospatial information;*

3. *Decides, in this regard, to establish the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, in accordance with the terms of reference contained in the annex to the present resolution, to be established and administered within existing resources and organized accordingly, and requests the Committee to present to the Economic and Social Council in 2016 a comprehensive review of all aspects of its work and operations, in order to allow Member States to assess its effectiveness;*

4. *Encourages Member States to hold regular high-level, multi-stakeholder discussions on global geospatial information, including through the convening of global forums, with a view to promoting a comprehensive dialogue with all relevant actors and bodies;*

5. *Emphasizes the importance of promoting national, regional and global efforts to foster the exchange of knowledge and expertise, to assist developing countries in building and strengthening national capacities in this field.*

*47th plenary meeting
27 July 2011*



UN-GGIM: a global initiative

Formal inter-governmental UN Committee of Experts to:

- Discuss, enhance and coordinate Global Geospatial Information Management activities by **involving Member States** at the highest level. Reports to ECOSOC.
- Make joint decisions and set directions on the use of geospatial information within national and global policy frameworks.
- Work with governments to improve policy, institutional arrangements, and legal frameworks.
- Address global issues and contribute collective knowledge as a community with shared interests and concerns.
- Develop effective strategies to build geospatial capacity in developing countries.



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



UN-GGIM: why a global mechanism?

- Significant gap in the recognition and management of geospatial information globally.
- Lack of a global consultative and decision-making mechanism among Member States in:
 - setting global norms on geospatial information;
 - developing common tools; and
 - bringing geospatial information to bear on global policy issues.
- This gap is increasingly being filled by the private sector, reducing the role and influence of Governments.
- Governments, not the private sector, have the mandate and accountability to maintain and deliver the national geospatial information base and related policy.



UN-GGIM - its role

To make accurate, reliable and authoritative geospatial information readily available to support national, regional and global development



UN-GGIM Committee of Experts

UN-GGIM
Americas

UN-GGIM
Africa



UN-GGIM
Europe

UN-GGIM
Arab States

UN-GGIM
Asia-Pacific



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



UN-GGIM: Europe inaugurated

UN-GGIM: Europe officially
established on the 1st October
2014 in Chisinau Moldova



Stefan Schweinfest
UN Director of Statistics



Walter Radermacher Director General
of Eurostat and Chief Statistician of
the European
Union



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Putting in place the tools to function

UN-GGIM: Europe put in place the tools that will allow it to function as a Regional Entity:

- adopted a statute in the form of *Articles and Rules*
- adopted a work plan for 2014 – 2015
- nominated an Executive Committee, 9 members
- set up a secretariat: The Netherlands, takes responsibility of the Secretariat, the function of which is executed by EuroGeographics through a SLA.



UN-GGIM: EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe

The aim of UN-GGIM: Europe work is to ensure that the **national mapping and cadastral authorities** and **national statistical institutes** in the **European UN Member States**, the **European Institutions** and **associated bodies** work **together** to contribute to the more effective management and availability of **geospatial information in Europe**, and its integration with other information, based on user needs and requirements



Building on what already exists

- It is important to recall that within Europe we already have a body of legislation, well-functioning organisations and a number of ongoing projects and initiatives addressing issues of geo-information management.
- The intention of UN-GGIM: Europe is therefore to:
 - avoid duplication of efforts;
 - improve the joint response to user needs and requirements;
 - encourage geospatial data interoperability, harmonisation and sharing and
 - optimise the overall management of geospatial information in Europe.



Outreach: Collaboration with statistical and mapping communities



- Joint UN-GGIM: Europe – ESS Meeting 3rd March 2015 Luxembourg



- Secretariat represented UN-GGIM: Europe at the second meeting of the UN EG-ISGI, May 2015, Lisbon, Portugal



Outreach: Observer organisations

- Encourage a high level of active participation from the wider geospatial community
- Raise interest from observing bodies, relevant professional, research and academic organizations and associations



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Outreach: Active participation

- EuroGeographics: from INSPIRE Directive towards the European Location Framework held in Kiev, Ukraine in March 2015,
- INSPIRING National Spatial Data Infrastructures Development in Eastern Europe held in April 2015, Chisinau, Moldova,
- FIG Working Week in Sofia in May 2015.
- UN-GGIM: Europe Workshop held at the INSPIRE/GWF 2015, May, Lisbon.
- 2015 INTERGEO, Stuttgart in September 2015



Outreach: Publicity and communication

Press releases to the geospatial media publicising regional and global UN-GGIM activities and achievements



UN-GGIM: Europe
@UNGGIMEurope

TWEETS 229 FOLLOWING 139 FOLLOWERS 212



UN-GGIM: EUROPE United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management

ABOUT UN-GGIM: EUROPE

ARTICLES AND RULES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN UN MEMBER STATES

HMGAs AND HSIs IN EUROPEAN UN MEMBER STATES

OBSERVER ORGANISATIONS

WG A Core Data

WG B Data Integration

OUR SOCIAL NETWORKS

Welcome

UN-GGIM: Europe is a regional committee of the United Nations Initiative on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). It was formally established on 1 October 2014 when the European UN Member States assumed full responsibility for its operations and adopted a work plan. An executive committee led by Bengt Kjellson from Sweden oversees its activities and reports regularly to the UN-GGIM global Committee of Experts. Attendance at UN-GGIM: Europe meetings is by invitation only. For more information, please contact [Carol Agius](#) from the Secretariat, EuroGeographics.

A brief introduction to the aims, objectives and workplan of UN-GGIM: Europe can be viewed in this [PDF document](#).

LATEST NEWS:

Geospatial information contributes towards sustainable development

Vanessa Lawrence honoured for her contribution to UN-GGIM

UN-GGIM: Europe actively participates in the Fifth Session of the Committee of Experts

Release of first working group report on priority user needs from Working Group B

Meeting of the Executive Committee of UN-GGIM: Europe held in June 2015

KNOWLEDGE BASE

MEETINGS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



<http://un-ggim-europe.org/>



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Engagement with the UN-GGIM Bureau and Executive

- Expanded UN-GGIM Bureau Meeting held in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China May 2015.
- Informal meetings with co-Chair and UN-GGIM Secretariat, and with president of UN-GGIM Americas in Lisbon in May
- UN-GGIM Executive meeting in New York in August
- UN-GGIM Americas /Santiago Chile September 2015



Coordination with other Regional Committees



- Supported the 2nd meeting of UN-GGIM: Arab States in Algiers June 2015 by coordinating the participation of subject matter experts from Europe
- Coordination with UN-GGIM Secretariat to establish the global needs for global fundamental geospatial data themes



UN-GGIM: EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



UN-GGIM: Europe meetings at UNECE in Geneva

In March a small delegation from UN-GGIM: Europe held meetings with officials at UNECE in Geneva:

- UNECE Chair
- UNECE Executive Secretary
- Statistical Division
- Forests, Land and Housing Division



Side-Event at UN intergovernmental negotiations of SDGs

PERMANENT MISSION OF DENMARK
TO THE UNITED NATIONS



Unleashing the power of 'Where' to make the world a better place: How geographic information contributes to achieving the SDGs

Co-organisers: Permanent Mission of Denmark, UN-GGIM: Europe, UN-GGIM Secretariat,
Group on Earth Observations (GEO)

1:15 – 2:30pm, Wednesday April 22 2015
Conference Room 7, UN Headquarters, New York



Everything that happens
happens somewhere

[VIDEO](#)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mkge03NJhfU>



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



Fifth session of the Committee of Experts

The Committee of Experts held its fifth session from 5 to 7 August 2015 at United Nations Headquarters in New York

- 290 participants
- From 85 Member States and international organisations



New Bureau of the Committee

- At the start of the 5th Session a new Bureau of the Committee was elected
- New Bureau: Timothy Trainor (USA), Rolando Ocampo (Mexico) & Li Pengde (China)
- Vanessa Lawrence, co-Chair for 4 years stepped down



UN-GGIM: Europe at GGIM5

- 24 European UN Member States participated at the session
- UN-GGIM: Europe organised two side meetings:
 - INSPIRE & ELF
 - Fundamental Data
- Regional meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe
- Presented a report on the determination of global fundamental geospatial fundamental themes



2nd Plenary Meeting UN-GGIM: Europe

- 7th October 2015 in Belgrade, Serbia
- 110 delegates from 34 Member States and 9 observer organisations
- Approved the work plan for 2015 - 2018



Proposed Work Plan 2015-2018

The substantial part of the proposed Work Plan for 2015 – 2018 is the continuation of the Plan adopted last year:

Work Group A: Core Data

1. Specifications of core data (*End of 2016*)
2. Economic model for production & distribution of core data (*End 2017*)
3. Existing political & financial frameworks supporting core data availability (*Mid-2018*)

Work Group B: Data Integration

1. Definition of the priority user needs for data combinations (*accomplished*)
2. Recommendation for implementing prioritized combinations of data (*Mid-2016*)
3. Recommendation how to manage side-effects induced by data combinations (*Mid-2016*)

Tasks for the Secretariat

1. Cooperation with UN-GGIM, Regional Committees & geospatial community (*On-going*)
2. Compile and maintain knowledge base of the European NMCA and NSIs (*End 2015*)
3. Compile and maintain knowledge base of the European NMCA and NSIs (*End 2017*)

Plus additional focus on new work areas: *topics and agenda items emerging from GGIM 5*



Items brought before the Committee

1. Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda
2. Global geodetic reference frame
3. Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes
4. Integration of geospatial, statistical and other information
5. Application of geospatial information to land administration & management
6. Trends in national institutional arrangements in geospatial information management
7. Legal and policy frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data
8. Implementation & adoption of standards for the global geospatial information community
9. Development of a statement of shared guiding principles for geospatial information management
10. Coordination of United Nations activities related to geospatial information management
11. Knowledge base for geospatial information management
12. Contribution of regional committees and thematic groups to the global geospatial agenda
13. Programme review of the work of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management during the 2011-2015 period



Work areas of interest to UN-GGIM: Europe

A number of work areas were introduced at the 5th Session, some having a stronger relevance to Europe than others:

- Global geodetic reference frame
- Application of geospatial information to land administration & management
- Activities related to sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda
- Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes



UN Resolution: Global Geodetic Reference Frame

- UN-GGIM endorsed the draft Resolution and requested that the UN-GGIM Secretariat refers the Resolution to ECOSOC for its endorsement and further referral to UN General Assembly.
- GGRF resolution, co-sponsored by 53 Member States, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 26/2/2015



THE EARTH TIDE



THE EARTH ROTATION



PLATE TECTONICS



GLOBAL MASS TRANSPORT

<http://www.unggrf.org/>



UN-GGIM: EUROPE
UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



What next for GGRF?

- Global Geodetic Reference Frame resolution and road map is a critical enabler for Member States to leverage the importance of geodetic data sharing, methods, sustainable funding and infrastructure to support growing societal needs, including those monitoring sustainable development progress
- Next step is the planning and development of the road map, inclusive of the need to address the imbalance in the distribution of geodetic infrastructure globally, in particular between the north and south



Application of geospatial information related to land administration & management

- Geospatial information is an essential base for an effective and efficient land information system to support the administration of land policy frameworks, customary rights, security of tenure, property rights, sustainable development and overall environmental, economic and social well-being
- Need for timely and fit for purpose land administration and management, and supported by capacity development, particularly in developing countries and vulnerable regions
- UN-GGIM High Level Forum to be held in April 2016 in Addis Ababa, Africa, will focus on land administration and management, with particular emphasis on sharing experiences - including benefits and challenges, considering fit for purpose aspects, digital land registers, cadastres, and other land data needs, demonstrating practical examples of land administration success stories



Sustainable data for sustainable development

In July 2015 the final Millennium Development Goals Report was published and it highlighted that as part of the monitoring of the MDGs that data are an indispensable element of the development agenda. It stated:

- Despite improvement, critical data for development policymaking are still lacking.
- Real-time data are needed to deliver better decisions faster.
- Geospatial data can support monitoring in many aspects of development, from health care to natural resource management.
- New technology is changing the way data are collected and disseminated.
- Global standards and an integrated statistics system are key elements for effective monitoring.
- Data should be open, easily accessible and effective for decision-making.



http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20%28July%201%29.pdf



‘Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’

- The “five Ps” — *people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership* — capture the broad scope of the agenda.
- The **17 goals** and **169 targets** aim at tackling key systemic barriers to sustainable development such as inequality, unsustainable consumption and production patterns, inadequate infrastructure and lack of decent jobs.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>



Sustainable development through geospatial information

Geospatial information is mentioned three times in this document:

- Goal 17 aims to strengthen implementation and revitalizing global partnership for sustainable development. And target 17.18 includes the following: by 2020 to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, **geographic location** and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- In follow up and review of the sustainable development goals, paragraph 76 includes a statement on: the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including **earth observation and geo-spatial information**, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress.

The inclusion of geospatial information in the declaration text provides a unique opportunity for the geospatial community: to raise the visibility and awareness of the importance of geospatial information as an enabler of sustainable development to their national governments.



Determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes

- The lack of consistent up-to-date base mapping (fundamental geographic datasets) such as *geodetic control, elevation, drainage, transport, land cover, geographic names, land tenure, etc.* –across some regions of the globe remains a challenge
- There is therefore an urgent need for a set of global fundamental geospatial data themes that can be harmonised in order to be able to measure, monitor and manage sustainable development in a consistent way over time and for evidence-based decision and policy making
- Member States and the international community to work jointly towards the formulation of a minimum set of fundamental data themes



New Work Areas

Global Geodetic Reference Frame

- develop and communicate regional best practice and initiatives and work with the global working Group on GGFR to delivering a road map and leveraging the importance of geodetic data at the European Level



Sustainable Development Goals

- focus on the how geospatial data can enhance sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda in Europe



New Work Areas

Land Administration and Management

- contribute at the global level by sharing practical regional examples of land administration good practice



Determination of Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes

- UN-GGIM: Europe given a mandate by the Committee of Experts to lead a global work in collaboration with other Regional Committees, Member States and observers to develop an agreed minimum set of global fundamental geospatial data themes



Looking ahead

The Executive Committee has been given the mandate to decide how to coordinate the regional work on these topic areas:

- integrating the work with existing working groups
- through the initiation of new regional working groups if this is deemed appropriate

The Executive Committee has been given the responsibility to coordinate the work on the determination of global fundamental geospatial data themes



EcoSoc Review of GGIM

- The work of the Committee of Experts on GGIM 2011-2015 period will be up for review before UN Economic and Social Council in 2016
- The review will be in April 2016, with reports finalised and submitted to EcoSoc in January 2016
- Draft report is being prepared by Secretariat, for global consultation and then entrusted to the extended Bureau, including the Chairs of the five regional committees



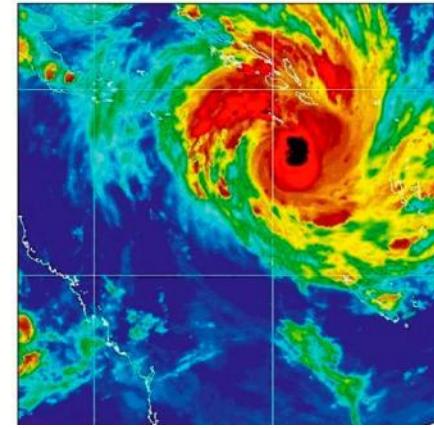
Message to EcoSoc from UN-GGIM

Two key messages will be brought before EcoSoc:

- *Committee of Experts has operated effectively and in line with the mandate given by the Council over the past five years, producing tangible outputs*
- *the Committee is well placed to continue its further contribution to the work of the United Nations, especially in the context of the implementation of the sustainable development agenda and disaster risk reduction*



Unleashing the power of 'Where'



... to make the world a better place.



UN-GGIM: EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

