

GSDI Report of UN-GGIM Europe Regional Meeting

The following short report of the UN-GGIM:Europe Regional Meeting held in Budapest on 5 October was prepared by Dr Gabor Remetey, Member of the GSDI Association, who represented GSDI at the meeting. Observer status was granted to the GSDI Association at the Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM:Europe.



Established in 2014, the Europe Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management ([UN-GGIM:Europe](#)) held its 3rd Plenary meeting in Budapest, Hungary on 5 October 2016.

The Meeting venue was the Novotel Hotel, hosted by FÖMI (the Institute for Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing) with support of the Ministry of Agriculture and the HM GEOSZ (Geospatial Service of the Home Defense).

Organisational assistance provided by EuroGeographics (a GSDI Member). The event attracted 101 participants from 31 countries.



Bengt Kjellson, Chair of the Executive Committee UN-GGIM: Europe opened the Meeting and announced the GSDI Associations' application for Observer status and gave a short overview of the applicant's major relevance (by vision, purpose, mission, and as provider of SDI-related activities, mentioning some actions). The UK based ConsultingWhere was the other applicant represented by Director Andrew Coote. The Plenary voted without objections for both applicants to receive Observer status and to be allowed to take part in future GGIM:Europe meetings. (Observer status is open to organisations who are not representatives of a European UN Member State). Other Observers present included the EEA, UN Statistical Division, UN Economic Committee for Europe (ECE), EuroSDR and EUROGI (a GSDI Member).



The Plenary Agenda had two presentations from the Hungarian Government, delivered by Katalin Tóth, Deputy State Secretary on International Relations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Hungary, and Gabriella Vukovich, President of the Hungarian Central Statistical Office.



In the session chaired by Dorine Burmanje of Dutch Kadaster (a GSDI Member), Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee UN-GGIM: Europe, Greg Scott of the UN GGIM Secretariat and staff member of the UN Statistical Division gave an overview on the UN-GGIM activities, and ExCom member

Kristian Møller addressed the topic of how the statistical and geospatial communities are working together.



In the session chaired by Antonio Arozarena, Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee UN-GGIM: Europe, Janusz Dygaszewicz emphasized the importance of good cooperation as the basis of geospatial statistics in the case of Poland, while the collaboration in developing a data platform for national geospatial and statistical information in Ireland was presented by Colin Bray, Ireland. Another national case was the subject of the talk of Tomaž Petek, Slovenia, focusing on the merge of statistical and geospatial data.

In the Break-Out sessions, four groups were formed around the four topics of UN GGIM:Europe and GGIM Working Groups:



1. Global Working Group on National Institutional Arrangements lead by Antonio Arozarena, Spain.
2. Core Data (GGIM:Europe Working Group A) lead by François Chirié, France.
3. Data integration (GGIM:Europe Working Group B) lead by Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Germany.
4. Geodetic Reference Framework (GGIM:Europe Working Group GRF) lead by Markku Poutanen, Finland.



In the Formal and Business Session chaired by Bengt Kjellson, the workplan for 2017-2020 was presented by GGIM:Europe ExCom member Prof. Ezio Bussoletti (pictured). Janusz Dygaszewicz of Poland was unanimously elected as a new ExCom member. The approval of Decisions by Members was announced by Carol Agius of the UN-GGIM:Europe Secretariat.

Some Observations and Conclusions



The current work plan focuses on the following objectives supported by working groups as follow:

1. Considering the user needs increasing data interoperability and harmonisation by proposing core geospatial data. The *Working Group A* works on a description and technical specification for core data based on user needs and requirements in

accordance with relevant legislation frameworks such as INSPIRE and harvesting relevant outcomes of other initiatives such as the E.L.F. project. This work is still ongoing.

Reports on (a) an economic model for production and distribution of core data and (b) existing political and financial frameworks which support core data availability, will be completed by end of 2017, while the identification of users and their needs and requirements for core data based on existing surveys and use cases already have been done.

2. Enabling integration of core geospatial data with other data in order to foster further usage (Working Group B). Here new scope for the group is to interact with the newly established Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) [Working Group on Geo-spatial Information](#) at the UN Statistical Division, in order to develop practical examples and suggest links between communities: demographic, statistical, environmental data together with the Geospatial Location – ranging from the conceptual level to specific indicators.
3. New topic areas where work is to be implemented were introduced:
 - Determination of Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes,
 - Global Geodetic Reference Frame (Working Group GRF), and
 - Sustainable Development Goals.

Mandated by the Experts Committee, UN-GGIM:Europe established a Working Group on Global Fundamental Geospatial Data Themes. The ExCom appointed UK as lead for that group. The ToR was drafted by 16 UN Member States and 3 Observer Organisations. The final work will be presented at the forthcoming GGIM 7 Meeting.

In order to achieve the goals of UN GGIM:Europe, the secretariat has an ongoing action to cooperate with the Secretariat of UN GGIM, other Regional Committees and the wider geospatial community, while compiling and maintaining the knowledge base of the European National Mapping and Cadastral Authorities (NMCAs) and National Statistical Institutions (NSIs).

In the discussion, suggestions were made on how to improve the effectiveness of communication and strengthen national promotion by awareness, e.g. communication campaigns which promote how geospatial data provides added value for society. In the statistical and geospatial data context, 'find, share and use' enablement was underlined. The UN GGIM:Europe Secretariat will support the Executive Committee in its relationship with Observer Organisations, serving as liaison between them and assisting in discovering means by which the Observer Organisations can contribute to the work of UN-GGIM:Europe. One of the messages of the Secretariat's tasks was "Unleashing the power of 'Where'... to make the world a better place".



According to Greg Scott of UN Statistical Division, one of the two success factors for GGIM:Europe for the next five years is how effective the achievement of the UN SDGs will be supported, therefore the UN's SDG 2030 Agenda has great importance for UN-GGIM:Europe. The coming GSDI 15 World Conference with the motto "Spatial Enablement in the Smart Homeland" explicitly addresses the SDGs and related global, regional and national initiatives.

Due to its relevance, the GSDI 15 World Conference information material was electronically distributed among the Plenary participants via the UN GGIM:Europe Secretariat.

Budapest, October 10, 2016



Source: This report was compiled based on personal notices and presentations of Ezio Bussoletti and Carol Aigle by Dr Gabor Remetey, representative of the GSDI Association.