

Distinguished guests, colleagues and friends; good morning, thank you very much for the opportunity to deliver a liaison report on behalf of EuroGeographics. Mrs Ingrid Vanden Berghe our President had intended to address you personally but owing to a reduction in her working commitments as a result of a serious illness in her family she is unable to do so.

I was however able to meet with her last week and she asked me to express both her disappointment that she is not able to be with you for the second UN-GGIM Asia Pacific meeting and to extend her best wishes to you for a very successful meeting.



I will divide this report into four sections. First I will provide an update on EuroGeographics before going on to report on developments of the European Legislative Context within which at least 28 of our members are required by law to operate. The European Location Framework is an important operational development for which I provide a small insight and I will conclude by reporting on the work, now in the hands of the European UN Member States, on establishing UN-GGIM Europe.



At the annual General Assembly of EuroGeographics held in Poland earlier this month members of the association representing the national authorities responsible for the official geodetic, cadastral, land registry and mapping activities in European countries approved two more applications for membership. I am now pleased to report that we have at least one member authority in every country in Europe; 59 members in 47 countries.

EuroGeographics was established in the year 2000 but has, since 2011 been re-constituted under Belgian law. This was done in order to operate from offices in Brussels which gives us much better access to the European Commission and European Parliament.

Management Board members

Appointed Board Members
 France - Jean-Philippe Grelot
 Germany - Hansjörg Kütterer
 Great Britain - Vanessa Lawrence CB

Elected Board Members
 Ingrid Vanden Bergh: President - Belgium
 Elita Bakliene-Ansberga - Latvia
 Tomaz Petek - Slovenia
 Bengt Kjellson - Sweden
 Gennaro Alfeltra - Italy
 Werner Hoffmann - Austria

Only three to be elected

EuroGeographics has a Board of nine, three are appointed by the members paying the highest fees, and six are elected. At our General Assembly this year members elected three Board members to replace three whose two year term of office had expired.

A New Strategy

EuroGeographics' Strategy 2014 - 2020

Strategic Objectives

- 1) Provide the voice of our members
- 2) Develop the network of members
- 3) Deliver an operational ELF to support realisation of the ESDI
- 4) Facilitate access to members' data and expertise
- 5) Grow our network of members
- 6) Ensure that the association continues to develop its role and has a sustainable future

Our purpose is: 'to further the development of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure through collaboration in the area of geographic information, and the representation of the EuroGeographics' membership and its capabilities.'

Our vision is of a European society which makes decisions informed by our members' accurate, authoritative and quality-assured land and geo-information data, services and expertise.

Our Mission is to maintain a network which helps each member to improve their competencies and role; to facilitate access to our members' data, services and expertise; and to provide a strong voice for our members.

Members also approved a new strategy for the period from 2014 to 2020; the strategy introduces a new vision and spells out a mission to *maintain a network which helps each member to improve their competencies and role; to facilitate access to our members' data, services and expertise; and to provide a strong voice for our members.*

The strategy describes six strategic objectives, to: Provide the voice of our members; Develop the network of members; Deliver an operational European Location Framework to support realisation of the ESDI; Facilitate access to members' data and expertise; Grow our network of members and Ensure that the association continues to develop its role and has a sustainable future.

The members also approved unanimously an operating plan for next year which requires me amongst other things to *'Provide active support to the European UN Member States NMCAs in establishing UN-GGIM Europe.'*

The European Legislative Context

Re-Use of Public Sector Information

Copernicus (and others)

I am sure that many of you will be familiar with the INSPIRE directive establishing an Infrastructure for Spatial Information in the European Community it entered into force on the 15th May 2007. It establishes an infrastructure for spatial information in Europe to support environmental policies, and policies or activities which may have an impact on the environment.

It is important to note that INSPIRE builds on the infrastructures for spatial information established and operated by the Member States of the European Union. We believe this is a fundamental principle which should be respected in all other relevant European laws.

Less well known perhaps is the Digital Agenda for Europe. This is not legislation but a 'flagship programme' of Europe 2020, an initiative to stimulate the European economy it provides the 'umbrella' for legislation. The directive on the Re-use of Public Sector Information is one example.

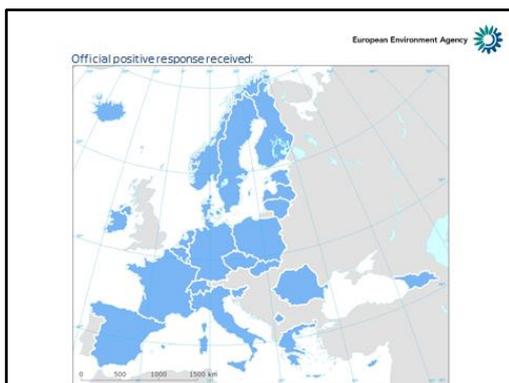
On 12 December 2011 the European Commission published a proposal for a Directive amending the previous 2003 directive on the re-use of public sector information. All 28 EU member states and associated NMCA's are subject to the directive.

As a result of the active participation of EuroGeographics and our members in the process which creates European law we have been able to ensure that the final wording of the law respects each EU Member states NMCA's operating environment and does not, for example make it illegal to charge for the use of public sector geo-information.

Copernicus is the new name of the European Earth Observation Programme previously named GMES. The current European law governing the initial operating period of Copernicus services contained an Article which provides a good example of the INSPIRE principle which I referred to. It says that:

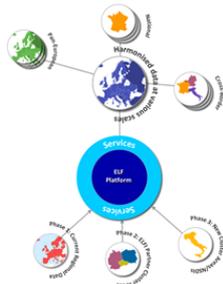
'The provision of GMES services shall be decentralised, where appropriate, to integrate at European level existing space, in-situ and reference data inventories and capacities in Member States, thus avoiding duplication. Procurement of new data that duplicate existing sources shall be avoided unless the use of existing or upgradable data sets is not technically feasible or cost-effective.'

The European Commission's proposal for a new law to replace the existing omits this article and EuroGeographics; with our members is taking action to try to change the wording in order to retain it.



The Copernicus Emergency Management post disaster mapping service requires access to NMCA's reference data and, under an agreement we signed with the European Environmental Agency, we have been working to overcome technical and licensing restrictions. To date I am pleased to say that 27 of our members have agreed to provide access to data without charges for this purpose.

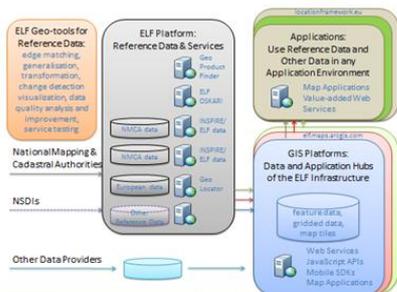
- Started 1st March 2013
- 36 month project
- 18 M US\$
- 30 Partners
- ★ EuroGeographics
- ★ 15 NMCAs
- ★ 3 service integrators
- ★ 6 application developers
- ★ 2 universities
- ★ 3 user community representatives



The European Location Framework project is the first step in creating a sustainable source for reference data from all of the European National Mapping, Cadastre and Land Registry authorities.

The project started on 1st March this year and will last 36 months. The European Commission has agreed to pay a little more than half of the 13 million euro costs of the project. 13 million euro is about 18 million US dollars.

There are 30 partners of which 15 are NMCAs; there are 3 service integrators, 6 application developers, 2 universities and 3 communities.



The project is working on providing a technical infrastructure which will deliver member's national data which has been harmonized to common specifications using geo-tools developed in the project. The aim is for the European Location Framework to become the one preferred source for European reference data.

The project will create the European Location Framework platform using 'Oskari' open source components to connect national data services to deliver European data using geo-tools developed in the project for making national data interoperable.

The European Location Framework platform will host a number of new map services including an international boundaries dataset to be used in edge matching services for all domains of data which are linked to location and licensed to encourage use by everyone. A new European Digital Elevation model is envisaged, a new European base map at 1:50,000 scale and access to cadastral parcels.

The project will combine existing EuroGeographics pan-European datasets and national data to create a new European basemap with several layers of detail to be used as "the" reference viewing map service, enabling others to overlay their thematic information.

Our EuroGeoNames service will be combined with address data to create a search and geo-referencing service (Geolocator). A Geo Product Finder will enable users to find all national and European information, available from the NMCAs and provide information on licenses, availability and quality.

The project will use a third party GIS Cloud Platform (ArcGIS online) and provide a showcase website at www.locationframework.eu and a number of example applications using the European Location Framework platform. One of the applications will address emergency response.

The applications may use either the European Location Framework Oskari Platform or ArcGIS online for connecting to the European Location Framework data services platform.

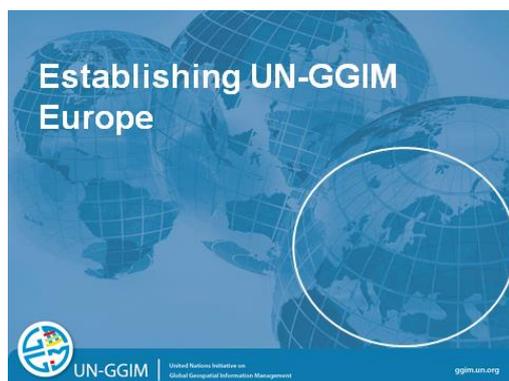


The project is being undertaken in order to deliver part of the purpose of EuroGeographics, stated in the Articles as 'to further the development of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure'. The project helps to implement INSPIRE at the pan-European or cross-border level and we believe it provides a practical contribution to the UN-GGIM objectives, including GM4SD and resources for Copernicus and other European policy programmes.

It turns the prototype work done by our members in the ESDIN project into operational services; it is a step forward from data provision to service provision and will help to secure the NMCA's position as the reference data providers at European and Global level;

An important consideration, addressed in the project but not in INSPIRE is to meet user demands on quality, consistency, up-to-datedness and price - to build authoritativeness;

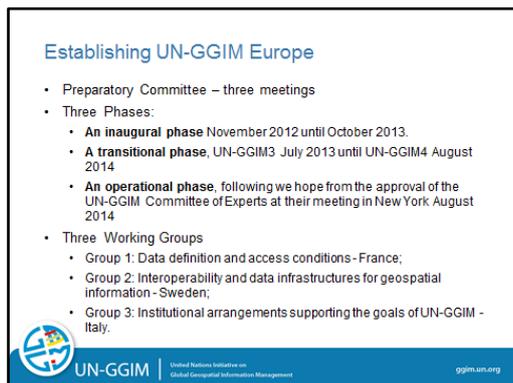
Whilst the European Location Framework project will be a major input towards better management of NSDIs in Europe, it is recognized that this project alone will not be able to provide the needed legislative framework nor the political backing for sustainable funding however the European Union Location Framework project led by the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission is progressing this, we are working closely with them to create a European Location Strategy 'owned' by the European Commission.



Finally I want to inform you about the steps being taken to establish UN-GGIM Europe.

As you know UN-GGIM is developing a regional structure, Asia Pacific is the first region to do so, and we congratulate you for that fact. In Europe, a region that has no history of a UN regional cartographic conference, EuroGeographics having effectively performed a very similar role, a Preparatory Committee was established a little under a year ago. This has been co-chaired by the

Director General of Eurostat, part of the European Commission' and the Co-chair of the UN Committee of Experts on GGIM, Vanessa Lawrence CB.



This Preparatory Committee has met three times and has discussed governance and other issues related to establishing the Europe Regional Committee of UN-GGIM. They have established a three phase programme comprising:

1. **An inaugural phase** of meetings spanning from November 2012 until October 2013.
2. **A transitional phase**, partly overlapping with the inaugural phase, running from the Third UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meeting in July this year until the Fourth UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meeting on 4-6 August 2014 and
3. **An operational phase**, following we hope from the approval of the arrangements for the UN-GGIM Europe Committee by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts at their meeting in New York next August.

The Preparatory Committee initiated a review of the UN-GGIM Inventory of Issues to establish 'Focus Points' which have a specific European relevance. It is to our advantage that many of these are already being addressed by legislation such as INSPIRE, projects such as the European Location Framework and programmes such as Copernicus.

Based on the clustering of the Focus Points the committee decided to establish 3 working groups to take forward the topics in each cluster.

At a side meeting for European Countries held on 25 July, during the 3rd UN-GGIM Committee of Experts meeting, the Preparatory Committee discussed their work with the European NMCAs who were attending.

At this meeting leadership of the three working groups was agreed as follows:

France: Group 1, dealing with Data definition and access conditions;

Sweden: Group 2, dealing with Interoperability and data infrastructures for geospatial information; and

Italy: Group 3, dealing with Institutional arrangements supporting the goals of UN-GGIM.

On 2 October in Warsaw, immediately following the EuroGeographics General Assembly, the 'Kick-Off' meeting of the three working groups took place.

The main focus of the Preparatory Committee during the initial phase has been to identify priority areas of work which the European UN Member States should address during the establishment process of a regional committee for Europe. This has been achieved with the proposal of the three working groups and the assignment of the essential task of developing governance for UN-GGIM Europe to working group 3.

The Preparatory Committee has paid great attention to establishing a process which avoids duplication of work and secures the active involvement of the European UN Member States. By establishing the three working groups the Preparatory Committee, has achieved its main goal. It is

now proposed that the Committee members and the three chairs of the working groups will work together to provide a coordination and a project management role to ensure the three working groups deliver their results in time for UN-GGIM4 next year. UN-GGIM Secretariat will advise on compliance with UN protocols.



And that brings me to the end of my report. I am sorry I am not with you to answer any questions you may have, I am however happy to do so by email if the secretariat sends them to me.

In closing I want to thank you for listening, I want to thank the UN-GGIM Asia Pacific region for their advice and encouragement during meetings particularly at the Doha Forum, at the 3rd UN-GGIM Committee of Experts and elsewhere.

And I want to finish with the words I nearly always use at the end of my presentations:

EuroGeographics is working with members and working with others Because together we are stronger and smarter, more efficient and more effective. Together we can make the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management Initiative a force for improving geo-information and through that improve our role in successful disaster response and our support for sustainable development, poverty reduction any many other issues which challenge society now and will do in the future. Thank you.

