UN-GGIM: Europe

- Why UN-GGIM: Europe?

- Timeline of events (activities to date and future activities)

- UN-GGIM: Europe – a three stage development

- Outcomes of UN-GGIM3 Side Meeting

- Work to date

  – Focus Points

  – Overview of the three Clusters of work

- UN-GGIM: Arab States

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Why UN-GGIM: Europe

The context for Europe

• The 2nd High Level Forum in Doha noted the importance being placed on the quality of outputs of the Regional Committees.

• In Europe, unlike other Regions, there is no UN Cartographic Conference that acts as an umbrella for the NMCA's.

• There is strong collaboration between European Member States through the European Union and European organisations like EuroGeographics

• The UN-GGIM Inventory of Issues document highlights several Issues which are already being addressed at National and European level.

• A Focus Points document has been created to identify and report on the synergies between the EU Actions and the UN-GGIM Inventory of Issues.

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UN-GGIM: Europe

The formation of UN-GGIM: Europe Regional Committee has been divided into a three stage process:

1. An inaugural phase (Preparatory Committee) consisting of four meetings spanning from November 2012 until November 2013;

2. A transitional phase, partly overlapping the inaugural phase, and spanning from the Third UN-GGIM Committee of Experts until the Fourth UN-GGIM Committee of Experts. The main goal of this phase is to ensure a smooth functioning of UN-GGIM: Europe from the moment it is formally established;

3. An operational phase following the official establishment of UN-GGIM: Europe Regional Committee after the Fourth UN-GGIM Committee of Experts. In the operational phase, Member States assume full executive powers of UN-GGIM: Europe, in line with its terms of reference and UN remit.

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Activity to date:

- Three informal preparatory meetings have taken place over the last 12 months.
    - The Preparatory Committee has been formed by Eurostat, the Co-Chair of UN-GGIM, EuroGeographics (representing Member States NMCA's), European Commission, European Environment Agency and Statistik Austria (representing the European Statistical System).

- A report presented to the UN-GGIM3 plenary on the activities of the Preparatory Committee

- A side event of European Member State representatives at UN-GGIM3

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Future activity:

• Presentation to Member States on the UN-GGIM: Europe initiative in a meeting back-to-back with the EuroGeographics General Assembly on 2 October 2013

• Preparatory work being done through three working groups

• A formal proposal to the Fourth Session of UN-GGIM on the establishment of UN-GGIM: Europe

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UN-GGIM: Europe - Side meeting at GGIM3

Side meeting held on 25th July 2013

- 43 Participants from 21 Member States and European bodies

- Three working groups identified to work on clusters of work – Working Groups will be established during September 2013

- Working Groups will commence work following EuroGeographics General Assembly in early October 2013

- Mid-term progress reviews held in January 2014

- UN-GGIM: Europe reports to UN-GGIM Committee of Experts in August 2014

Focus Points for UN-GGIM: Europe

- Focus Points build upon the Inventory of Issues identified by the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts (New York 2012)

- Concentrates on key European actions which are likely to produce results in the short/mid term
    - INSPIRE
    - Establishment of a European Union Location Framework (EULF)
    - European Location Framework (E.L.F.)
    - Copernicus
    - ESS action on Merging Statistics and Geospatial Information

- All provide a genuine European angle on global challenges and enables UN-GGIM: Europe to bring a European perspective to UN-GGIM

- Focus Points led to the identification of the three Clusters of work

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Working Group on Cluster 1

Working Group led by France

Data definition and access conditions
Scope: Definition of geospatial information in the UN-GGIM sense, focus on data, quality criteria and use conditions.

Focus Points covered:

- 6) Harmonised licensing conditions of authoritative geospatial data sets;

- 8) Analyse the respective roles of National Mapping Authorities, pan-European associations and EU institutions with respect to the definition of harmonised pan-European data sets;

- 9) Identification of a basic collection of authoritative reference GIS datasets;

- 10) Common framework for Points of Interest (POI) complementing reference datasets;

- 11) Definition of quality criteria for authoritative reference data sets;

- 13) Agreements on implementation of open core global reference datasets free at point of use;

    - Consider roles and requirements of information complementing the terrestrial environment and maximise synergies between ground/marine and space based information.

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Working Group on Cluster 2

Working Group led by Sweden

Interoperability and data infrastructures for geospatial information
Scope: Design of an interoperability framework for sharing geospatial information in Europe

Focus Points covered:

- 2) Provide an overview of National Location strategies and overall data policy frameworks adopted or under development in European countries and at EU level;

- 3) Integrate the statistical component into the geospatial framework;

- 4) Provide materials and examples of legal and technical institutional arrangements;

- 5) Impact analysis of the implementation of INSPIRE;

- 13) Agreements on the implementation of open core global reference datasets free at point of use;

- 17) Protocols and policies for exchange of geospatial and statistical data;

  - 20) Integrate the European Statistical System in the vision for a coordinated geospatial information management at the European level.

Working Group on Cluster 3

Working Group led by Italy

Institutional arrangements supporting the goals of UN-GGIM
Scope: Best practices in terms of organisations, co-operations, policy support, supporting the creation of a European location strategy for UN-GGIM.

Focus Points covered:

- 2) Provide an overview of National Location strategies and overall data policy frameworks adopted or under development in European countries and at the EU level;

- 4) Provide material and examples of legal and technical institutional arrangements;

- 18) Institutional arrangements for the work of UN-GGIM Europe;

- 19) Propose measures to streamline roles and responsibilities at European, National and local level, to increase efficiency and minimise duplications of effort;

- 20) Integrate the European Statistical System in the vision for a coordinated geospatial information management at the European level.

UN-GGIM: ESCWA

Update on progress

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UN-GGIM: ESCWA
– a parallel regional GGIM Initiative

- ESCWA Regional meeting held on 7 February 2013 in Doha as a side meeting to Second High Level Forum.

- Attended by senior representatives from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

- Facilitated by Japan, Republic of Korea, and United Kingdom.

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UN-GGIM: ESCWA - Country Reports

Recurring themes emerged from country reports:

• The lack of coordination on GI within government;

• Standardisation and integration;

• The need for common standards and specifications across government;

• The lack of coordination between different stakeholders, not just government;

• Trends for the future.

All of which need to be encompassed in the formation of a UN-GGIM Regional Committee for the ESCWA region.

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Regional cooperation on GGIM in ESCWA Region

- Key Issues highlighted during the meeting included:
  - Getting Governments to understand the importance of Geospatial Information
  - Getting other countries involved
  - Using the same coordinate system
  - Capacity building – ensuring well trained people are able to provide support at the national level
  - Understanding the different challenges between countries
  - Have to get organised and establish the Regional Committee

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ESCWA Region - Meeting Summary

- There is a strong will to establish a UN-GGIM Regional Committee in the Arab States;

- Through UN-GGIM: Arab States, the region will build a better understanding of GI issues faced;

- Once the Regional Committee is established Work Programmes will be identified.

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Outcome of UN-GGIM3

"Recognised the High Level Forum in Doha and the meeting by Arab States that agreed to create a regional mechanism for coordinating in geospatial information management, commended its action towards the establishment under the auspices of ESCWA, and invited the group to report back to the Committee at its next session."

Report of the third session of the Committee of Experts in Global Geospatial Information Management E/C.20/2013/17 Paragraph 3/114(e)

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