



Members' Newsletter 09/13 special issue

20th June 2013

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EuroGeographics Extraordinary General Assembly 11th – 12th June 2013 in Leuven – a big success!



One of the paradoxes of physics is, that time spent with friends, in a positive atmosphere runs much faster than usually...It was simply unbelievable, how fast the two days of our Extraordinary General Assembly passed!

It has been an honour and pleasure to meet most of our permanent correspondents – the key contact points in our members' authorities in person after a longer time, or be connected with them via webinar – it was a real EuroGeographics family meeting!



The agenda for two days was split in two parts – informative one and the formal business. **First day**, after our President Ingrid Vanden Berghe opened the Extraordinary General Assembly the Head Office team provided the participants with a review of all our activities, introduced the [role of the permanent correspondent](#); informed members about the benefits of membership, and the Product Managers presented the information about the status of the pan-European products, services and projects. Executive Director Dave Lovell informed



about the [UN-GGIM Europe](#) and presented the [EuroGeographics Strategy](#). Members were actively involved in the next session, discussing in smaller group the goals of the strategy. You will find the outcomes of the Round Table sessions in this newsletter. As refreshment after the loads of information



the participants were invited to take part on a short game which tested the knowledge on geography of Europe. The competitive spirit made the game really exciting! Find below the information about the winners.

The second day started by the report from all our Knowledge

Exchange Networks presented by their chairs and followed by the excellent presentation on the [European Location Framework](#) by Anja Hopfstock from BKG Germany.



Formal Business brought the review of the [2012 Accounts](#) presented by our Treasurer Godfried Barnasconi and accepted by the vast majority of our members. **New members of EuroGeographics:** Executive Director Dave Lovell introduced the [membership applications](#); accepted by vast majority of member's votes our Association grew bigger again; [Her Majesty's Land Registry](#) the [State Committee on Property Issues](#), the [Real Estate Cadastre and Technical Inventory Centre](#) and the [State Land and Cartography Committee](#) from the Republic of Azerbaijan have become new members. In addition, the [National Agency of Public Registry](#), Georgia has upgraded from an associate to full membership. Congratulations and welcome in our community!



The programme continued with briefings on changes to the Articles of Association.

The Extraordinary General Assembly was closed by the Summary and Conclusions presented by our President Ingrid Vanden Berghe.

In this issue we provide you with more detailed information from the Strategy discussions in presentations which are available on our [website](#).

On behalf of the Head Office Team I would like to thank you all very much for coming to Leuven and to join us via webinar, we are looking forward to keep in touch and continue our fruitful cooperation!

We do hope that the information you get during two days spent in Leuven will help you in your responsible work of Permanent correspondents and to inform your General Director for the General Assembly in Warsaw.

Many thanks go to Product and Project managers, KEN chairs and all presenters during our extraordinary General Assembly.

Patricia Sokacova, Membership and Communication Manager



EuroGeographics Strategy Discussion Summary Members were actively involved in a discussion in the form of a Round table session, where all 6 goals of the new EuroGeographics Strategy have been discussed. Please find below the main outcomes from the discussions:

Goal 2.1 Provide the voice of our members

- Much of the discussion concerned EuroGeographics' authority to represent its members; we don't formally represent our members, but we work to protect their interests.
- We may need to explain better the process by which EuroGeographics arrives at a view on the implications of legislation and how members may influence that view through Policy KEN.
- EuroGeographics' activities do not interfere with members' rights to influence Council through their MS representatives.
- We must represent all of our members covering the wider geographic Europe
- basis to provide a forum, where the National Mapping and Cartographic Agencies (NMCAs) and university research groups are presenting and discussing activities covering the development of the basic geodetic networks and the related services.

Goal 2.2 Develop the network of members

- The topics and coverage of the KENs should be tracked to identify any gaps and overlaps between them.
- KENs should be used to satisfy the needs of the EU, and facilitate member organisations to respond to those needs. Otherwise 'we will disappear'.
- How can we attract more countries to participate in the KENs?
- Funds
- webinars
- parallel workshops
- Must ensure information produced by the KENs are addressed to the right person in the member organization. Maybe have a network or directory of the key persons for targeted communications

Goal 2.3 Fundamental changes proposed!

New title of the goal should be: **To further develop the European Location Framework**

To advance the technical and business capabilities of each member and further the development of the European Spatial Data Infrastructure, we will maintain a programme of funded projects.

Changes for the content suggested:

We will:

- Sustain a programme of funded projects
- Support members in further development of NSDIs achieving the data integration of European level
- Through the European Location Framework the project will deliver means for supporting interoperability of members' spatial;
- Raise the importance to EU decision makers for funded projects developing ESDI (E.L.F) in R&D programmes
- Promote the need for further funding of projects which advance our members, and the association's capabilities and initiate appropriate projects when funding is available.

Goal 2.4 - Facilitate access to members' data and expertise

- NMCAs and EuroGeographics invest a lot of time in pan-European products and services, would like to see more investment in marketing them to a wider audience to meet customer needs as well



as just Eurostat and public administration

- Need to understand what is meant by facilitating access to members expertise – as it is in the title of the goal but not reflected in the activities or success factors
- The role/place of authoritative data and NMCAs in the future was discussed along with the inclusion of volunteer and crowd sourced data
- The E.L.F. will deliver the single interface to European data, however, it's important to look at the time frames so we deliver before other technological advancements overtake the creation of the platform

Goal 2.5. Grow our network of members

Aim to have the whole Europe covered, encourage missing institutions to join us (comment: I needed to explain to the participants, that we have all countries, ut not all topics – e.g. cadastre is missing from France, Malta, Turkey etc.)

- Members should show they are part of EuroGeographics and add the EG logo on their website
 - KENS are very attracting , specifically because of using webinars and other modern tools, so that members can follow them without travelling.
 - More intensive promotion of EuroGeographics events, mainly KEN meetings is recommended; members need to be made aware and asked to promote on their website along with their membership in EuroGeographics
 - Involvement of young generation: swisstopo education, so called 'on-job-education'; games for young people – Switzerland, UK, Belgium; Serbia running monthly lectures for university students at the RGZ from practice- Geodesy, GIS (NSDI) etc
 - Consider the possibility of shared experience: experts exchange, to help with the education of the employees i.e. on-the-job-training for short period/placements. Similarly suggested for students
- Need of funds for this activity; the PolKEN could discuss opportunities for tapping into EU funds for education. E.g. [Bologna Process](#) and plan for both students and employees
- Harmonization of quality in Europe via improved education of staff
- Proposal: Discuss at the General Assembly in Poland – a shared platform to host students; provide on-job training and exchange of employees.

Goal 2.6: Secure our Future

- To secure a firm financial footing we need to look at greater contributions from members and increase our customer base to increase licence income.
- Membership benefits must be clear and the association must remain attractive to current members and attract new members – must monitor and support members needs and respond to them
- We must have long term goals for where we want EuroGeographics to be positioned after 2020, this will help to keep us to focus on the future and moving forward.

Map fragments game served as a good refreshment during the big load of information and strategy discussions and brought a lot of fun to our participants. Even when it were n't easy tasks, the results shown, that by close cooperation our members can achieve great success! Teams were created by different countries what was very helpful by recognizing some parts of our beautiful continent. The winners team came from Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Denmark, Great Britain and France. Sincere congratulations!





PolKEN Policy Pages

If you have any questions on policy pages please email derek.earnshaw@eurogeographics.org

Theme: Digital Agenda for Europe

Task Force Leader: Neil Sutherland

Issue

Proposal for an amended PSI Directive

In December 2011 the Commission proposed a Directive to amend the 2003 Directive on Re-use of Public Sector Information.

Effect

The PSI Directive sets out the conditions under which public sector bodies affected, or expected to be affected, by EU law have to make information available for re-use.

Position

A [compromise text](#) was agreed among the EU institutions in a three-way meeting towards the end of March. This has now been adopted formally by Council and Parliament and will come into force when published in the Official Journal of the EU. Member States then have two years to reflect the requirements of the Directive in their national legal and administrative systems (transposition). We feel that the amended Directive represents a good outcome; it accommodates our members' differing situations at least as well as the current PSI Directive and it sits comfortably with our strategy: *"realizing a public sector information framework that maximises benefits and accommodates all our members contributions"* (EARS).

Action

The main players in the EU institutions have acknowledged EuroGeographics' constructive contribution at key points in the debate. Members will now want to identify who will be leading transposition in their country and make them aware of the NMCA's interest. The Digital Agenda Task Force will endeavour to identify and address common issues as they arise.

Theme: "Copernicus" [GMES]

Task Force Leader: François Chirie

Issue: Proposed Regulation establishing the Copernicus Programme.

The final text is currently being prepared by the European Commission.

Effect

- Copernicus may integrate Members' reference data to derive information services about Environment or Security. However, the risk remains that, instead of integrating Members' reference data, Copernicus duplicates them.
- Copernicus data and information shall be made available on a full, open and free-of-charge basis. This may impact Members' intellectual property.

Position



The European Commission has proposed the first draft of this Regulation on 29th May 2013. On 6th June 2013 EuroGeographics has sent Comments and Recommendations to its members, highlighting a number of concerns particularly the removal of the commitment in Article 5.2 of the current regulation, to make use of member states geospatial reference and other data. EuroGeographics suggested its members to provide this to their national representatives.

Action

The Copernicus Task Force of EuroGeographics will follow up discussions between the Council, the Parliament and the Commission about this Regulation, will analyse whether the new versions take into account the concerns mentioned above, and will inform the members in due time. We recommend Members to keep contact with their respective national representatives in the Copernicus programme and respond to deadlines for comments to the Council working party.

Theme: Digital Agenda for Europe

Task Force Leader: Amalia Velasco

Issue: Possible legislative and non-legislative interventions on copyright

Effect

The European Commission is pursuing a two-pronged approach to modernising EU copyright for the digital age. The first and continuing task is to complete a review of copyright legislation with a view to deciding in 2014 whether to table further legislative proposals. The second is an effort to deliver rapid progress in bringing content online in the form of practical industry-led solutions through a 'structured dialogue' known as Licences for Europe.

Position

Outcomes of the deliberations of the four working groups set up under Licences for Europe are being published [online](#). However it is less easy to establish what is happening within the review of the legislative framework.

Action

The combined PolKEN/BIKEN meeting in April received a presentation on what the Commission is doing, and agreed that the Digital Agenda task force should investigate more closely in order to identify impacts on members.

Issue: Proposal for a Regulation on e-Identification and Trust Services

The European Commission has proposed a Regulation aimed at ensuring cross-border legal recognition of electronic identification and other electronic authentication services in Europe. This is one of the actions intended to support the Digital Single Market and will replace the e Signature Directive. The aim is to enable secure and seamless electronic interactions among businesses, citizens and public authorities, thereby increasing the effectiveness of public and private online services, e-business and electronic commerce in the EU.

Effect

The Proposal sets out common rules for trust services and conditions for mutual recognition of electronic identification across borders. EuroGeographics members, as public authorities engaged in aspects of e-government, contributors to cross border activity and stakeholders in the E.L.F., will wish to be aware of the Proposal. The Task Force will consider the implications for our members in respect of cross-border transactions and provide updates as appropriate.

Position: On-going assessment by the Task Force.



Action: Members to be aware, consider the proposal available [here](#).

Issue: Proposal for a Regulation on measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks

The Commission proposes new rules, building on best practice in Member States. It focuses on four main problem areas:

- Ensuring that new or renovated buildings are high-speed-broadband-ready
- Opening access to infrastructure on fair and reasonable terms and conditions, including price, to existing ducts, conduits, manholes, cabinets, poles, masts, antennae installations, towers and other supporting constructions
- Ending insufficient coordination of civil works, by enabling any network operator to negotiate agreements with other infrastructure providers
- Simplifying complex and time-consuming permit granting, especially for masts and antennas, by granting or refusing permits within six months by default and allowing requests to be made through a single point of contact

Effect

Under the Proposal every network operator has the right to offer, and an obligation to meet, all reasonable requests for access to its physical infrastructure in view of deploying elements of high-speed electronic communications networks, whether fixed or wireless. In order to enable access to physical infrastructure, any electronic communications networks provider will have the right to access, via a single information point, a set of minimum information concerning the existing physical infrastructure. These and other provisions could have implications for property rights, and therefore members with responsibility for cadastre and/or land registration may have to take the proposed Regulation into account.

Position

At least one member has been asked to report on the implications for national property rights.

Action

Any member who considers that they may be affected is invited to contact [Derek Earnshaw](#).

Theme: eGovernment Agenda

Issue: Proposal for a Directive on the Accessibility of Public Sector Bodies' Websites

The Commission has proposed a new [Directive](#) to harmonise national approaches to web accessibility, aiming to reduce barriers in the Internal Market. It lays down technical provisions for the accessibility certain types of public sector websites which provide information and services 'that are essential for citizens' participation in economy and society'. The Directive's recitals indicate that the Success Criteria and Requirements for Level AA conformance specified in the version 2.0 of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.0) issued by World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), are expected to be taken into account in the European standards.

Effect

NMCAs web sites are not expected to be covered by this Directive but Member States may decide to extend the list of types of websites, and in any case the aim of harmonisation suggests that any development of public sector web sites should take the proposed standards into account.

Position

The Proposal is in first reading. The main players are DG CNECT, Parliament's Internal Market Committee (IMCO) and the Telecoms Working Party of Council.



Action: For information. The Task Force will monitor any proposed changes to the list of websites

Theme: Integrated Transport

Issue: Agreement on Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T)

The European Parliament, Council and the Commission have reached agreement on proposals to establish a unified multimodal transport network across the 28 EU Member States. The core network, supported by funding from the Connecting Europe Facility, is to be completed by 2030. Investment will focus on filling in cross-border missing links, removing bottlenecks and making the network smarter. The programme provides advance information of where changes to the network are planned.

Effect

As providers of transport route information, whether purely topographical or in the form of topological transport network data, EuroGeographics members will want to understand the nature of the proposed network and perhaps work with neighbouring countries to ensure consistency of representation as the network evolves. EuroGeographics itself will want to consider how the TEN-T development may influence the development of future cross-border products and services.

Position

This agreement, reached in triologue negotiations among the European Parliament, Council and European Commission, must formally be approved by the European Parliament Plenary and Council.

Action

PolKEN will study the agreement with the aim of directing members' attention to the most important aspects.