

Content[Greetings from the President](#)[INSPIRE KEN webinar](#)[Emergency Mapping KEN](#)[SDI Days in Croatia](#)[New Director General NLS Finland](#)[Free geographic data in Denmark](#)[Silver Award for Annual Report 2011](#)[Members Information Resources project](#)[Quality KEN Plenary](#)[EuroGeographics and young geographers](#)[Policy Pages from the team](#)**EuroGeographics at a Global level**

The warm summer is turning already into a colourful autumn and, as with nature, we are as well in action moving to another season. The seasons keep changing and we keep moving on, our hearts though are still warm, like the summer, from the many friendly meetings enjoyed during our General Assembly in Helsinki.

Those of you who attended the General Assembly left Finland for sure with the best impressions, and with the memory of the enthusiastic and challenging presentation of Professor Paul Cheung, Director of Statistics Division at United Nations who is leading the [UN-GGIM](#) Initiative. He informed us about the conclusions of The

Second Session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on GGIM in New York this summer. During his [presentation](#), Paul explained the growth of the UN-GGIM since its beginnings in 2009 and the work in mobilizing countries to follow his vision.

Regarding Europe, he expressed his concern that there is no one Directorate General of the European Commission in charge of geo-information and his hope that this will change in the not too distant future. We share his view. Towards the end of his presentation Paul commented on the need for regional coordination and reporting to make UN-GGIM effective. He noted that there is: 'An obvious gap is Europe' and reported that: 'Constructive discussions are on-going with the Commission and EuroGeographics'.

I am pleased to tell you that those discussions continued to make good progress today (03.10.12) in a meeting I had with Eurostat. We discussed in some detail our joint representation and reporting on European geo-information management developments to UN-GGIM. We agreed the date for the first meeting of the UN-GGIM Europe Programme Committee in late November. I will be there representing the many important developments delivered by the National Mapping, Cadastre and Land registry Authorities, you – our members, in Europe. Eurostat will chair this first important 'scene setting' meeting and we will move forward together from there. Vanessa Lawrence will, I am pleased to say, attend representing UN-GGIM.

In this new role for EuroGeographics I believe we see the value of the Association's 'eyes, ears and voice of the European NMCAs' reaching a new and important level. We will keep you informed as we make progress.

I want to take this opportunity to thank members, who kindly responded to the UN-GGIM Questionnaire to survey the current status of mapping and map updating in the world when it was originally sent out by the UN and those who responded when it was sent to missing countries by EGHO.

Though very important UN-GGIM is not the only area in which we are representing our members strongly. My own organisation [NGI Belgium](#) recently hosted a meeting and technical tour for the

GMES Bureau. Our Executive Director, Dave Lovell, attended to provide the European dimension and the meeting was very positive and constructive. We hope this will mark a turning point in the NMCAs relationship with GMES. Our agreement with the EEA for access to member's reference data is important here too as is the newly established Emergency Mapping Knowledge Exchange Network which met for the first time last week



We believe too that we are making good progress in our representation of member's interests in revisions to the directive on the re-use of Public Sector Information. Please read more about it in our Policy Pages.

Ingrid Vanden Berghe, EuroGeographics President

INSPIRE KEN Webinar on cloud architecture was held on 2nd October 2012. During this first session, chaired by Dominique Laurent ([IGN France](#)), chair of the [INSPIRE KEN](#), Cedric Moullet presented the experience of [swisstopo](#), using IaaS (Infrastructure as a Service) cloud model for managing the Federal Spatial Data Infrastructure, since 2009. The webinar gave the opportunity to raise questions about technical choices, size of SDI, organizational aspects, what was well appreciated by the participants.

If you missed the first session, you will have another opportunity to attend the Second session about the cloud architecture, which will be scheduled by end of November to present the Ordnance Survey's experience. We will inform you soon about the details and way of registration for this event.

REMINDER of the next INSPIRE KEN event: **INSPIRE Services workshop** will be held on **25 – 26 October** in IGN France, Paris St Mandé. The objective of this workshop is to help one another to set up INSPIRE services and to monitor their use, by sharing our experiences. Don't miss this great opportunity to learn and discuss, Dominique Laurent and her colleagues have prepared really attracting presentations! More information and registration form is available on our [web site](#).

First Emergency Mapping KEN meeting.

The first meeting organised by the KEN, held on 4-5 October in Brussels, welcomed many members and representatives of the European Environment Agency, the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission, ITHACA, the GMES Initial Operations Emergency Management Service provider and the GMES Bureau. Six members attended in person and another 22 joined in via a 'webinar'. This is a record for web attendance at a KEN meeting and more than justifies our commitment, made during the 2012 GA to invest further in improving the technology and our operating practice to ensure that more members can benefit from web based exchange of knowledge and experience between members.



The meeting was led by the KEN chair Antonio Arozarena. Participants discussed the topics and issues of providing the reference data for the needs of the GMES Emergency Management Service and agreed on the next steps in form of a common action plan. Important progress was made in putting in place a simple interim licensing agreement as discussed and supported by Director Generals of our member organisations during our General Assembly. Look out for a letter arriving soon jointly signed by our President and Jacqueline McGlade, Chief Executive of the EEA.

More information and the presentations will be available soon on the [EmKEN](#) web page.



Two hundred participants from fifteen countries attended the „SDI Days“ 25 - 29 September 2012 in Zagreb, Croatia, organized by the [State Geodetic Administration](#), [Croatian Cartographic Society](#) and EU project [INSPIRATION – SDI in the Western Balkans](#).

The main event of the **SDI Days** has been the Croatian „4th NSDI and INSPIRE day“. Besides of this three more events were held:

- 2nd Regional INSPIRE Training,
- 1st Regional INSPIRE Forum
- 8th Cartography and Geoinformation Conference;

Forty-three presentations were presented during the conference and the participants made use of the opportunity for active discussions and networking. More information about conference can be found on the Croatian [NSDI page](#).

Tomislav Ciceli, Permanent Correspondent



Mr. Arvo Kokkonen, has been appointed as the **new Director General of the National Land Survey of Finland (NLS)**. His new assignment started on 1 September 2012 when the previous Director General Jarmo Ratia retired. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry nominated Arvo, an existing employee of NLS, for the appointment and The Finnish Government appointed him. The Director General is appointed for seven years at a time.

“I think that my appointment shows that the current ways of working and suggestions of future directions for development at the NLS match those at the ministry,” says Arvo.

We wish a lot of success to Arvo and look forward to continue our excellent cooperation with NLS!

News from KMS Denmark – free geographic data in Denmark! Public authorities in Denmark (similarly as in other European countries) register various core information about individuals, businesses, real properties, buildings, addresses, and more. This information, called basic data in Denmark, is re-used throughout the public sector and is an important basis for public authorities to perform their tasks properly and efficiently.

Basic data also has great value for the private sector, partly because businesses use this data in their internal processes and, partly, because the information contained in public-sector data can be exploited for entirely new products and solutions, in particular digital ones.

In short, good basic data is a potential driver for innovation, growth and job creation. As a result the Danish government has launched a basic-data initiative called “[Good basic data for everyone - a driver for growth and efficiency](#)”, coordinated by the Ministry of Finance. [Read more](#) about this interesting solution, which will be of interest to other members, because the basic data will be freely available to the private sector.



We are pleased to announce, that our 2011 Annual Report, jointly prepared by BriscoeFrench and The Escape received the Silver Award for Best External Publication at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations PRide Awards 2012. Rhian French (second from the right), has provided excellent Copywriting skills to support our members and the association’s communications for over 5 years.

Please take a few minutes to read the winning [report](#) which describes very well the contributions our members make to support many facets of society.

Members Information Resources (MIR) This project which members approved deliver of in the 2012 Operating plan commenced in May. The data collection phase, led by Vladimir (Vako) Magnaradze on secondment from the National Agency of Public Registry, Ministry of Justice of Georgia, is now concluded. Following validation of the data we will be sending each member the information collected about them for their verification.

This is an important piece of work which will enable us to better represent our members in our strategic communications with the European Institutions and other bodies such as the World Bank and initiatives such as UN-GGIM.

We thank Vako for his good work and look forward to member's contributions.

Patricia Sokacova, Membership and Communications Manager

Quality KEN Plenary meeting will be held on 28 – 29 November 2012 in Croatia hosted by State Geodetic Administration of Croatia Draft agenda and more information are available [on our website](#). Members of the [Quality KEN](#) are looking forward to meet more colleagues from our members' institutions, don't hesitate and join us!

EuroGeographics and young geographers. Together with the NGI, Belgium, EuroGeographics has been highlighting the importance of spatial data infrastructures (SDIs) and the INSPIRE Directive to the next generation of European geographers.

The visit to NGI Belgium was part of the European Geography Association's 2012 Annual Congress organised by geography students from KU Leuven. It was attended by 185 young geographers studying at 62 universities in 23 countries and speakers included President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy as well as Google Geospatial Technologist, Ed Parsons.



As part of their visit, the students also met our President Ingrid Vanden Berghe and had the opportunity to test a new Mapfragments game. The game was developed using fragments of our pan-European product - EuroRegionalMap. The aim of the game was to correctly identify European locations without the aid of their geographical names using only the students' topographical knowledge. The top scoring team achieved an impressive 125 points out of a possible 150.

We hope the event left a lasting impression to inspire on the next generation of geographers.

Many thanks to Ingrid Vanden Berghe, initiator of the game, Anja Hopfstock (BKG Germany), Nathalie Delattre (IGN Belgium) and Patricia Sokacova (EuroGeographics Head Office) for their contributions to the success of the Europe Mapfragments game!

On behalf of organizers Rink W. Kruk, IGN Belgium



Policy Pages from the Team



Please contact Derek Earnshaw for further information

EuroGeographics European Affairs & Representation

European Commission Proposal to amend the PSI Directive

The Proposal to amend the PSI Directive has the potential to affect all our Members therefore it is the Operational Priority in the EuroGeographics EU Affairs & Representation Strategy (EARS) for 2012.

Goal 3 of the EuroGeographics Operating Plan - General Assembly 2011 - includes: **“realizing a sustainable PSI framework that maximises benefits and accommodates all our members contributions”**

The PSI Briefing Paper, drafted by PolKEN Task Force and circulated to Members, addresses four points of particular interest to members:

- The General Principle could have unintended consequences for the sustainable supply of information and its on-going maintenance
- The rules on charging should continue to allow all information holders to continue to make their information available for reuse while managing impact on public finances
- The requirement for data to be provided in machine-readable formats should not inadvertently restrict customer choice
- The proposal for an independent authority should respect Member States’ data policies and national access regimes, and make use of existing resources

The Proposal to amend the Directive is under consideration by the Council and the Parliament. In Council a draft compromise text has been through several iterations, while in Parliament members of the Industry Committee have tabled 128 amendments; **some of which reflect suggestions made by EuroGeographics on behalf of its members.** The Task Force is studying the amendments with a view to expressing support or otherwise prior to the vote in Committee on 5 November. The full Parliament is expected to vote in December, leading perhaps to a first reading agreement with Council early in the New Year.

European Earth monitoring programme (GMES)

European Commission Delegated Regulation on GMES data and information policy

Within the remit of the GIO (GMES Initial Operations) Regulation the Commission continues to develop a delegated act (Delegated Commission Regulation) on [GMES Data and Information Policy](#).

The PolKEN GMES Task Force is tracking and continually evaluating the development of this proposed Delegated Regulation and assessed the August draft sent by the Commission to Member State representatives. This new draft incorporated several important improvements:

- The scope of the Delegated Regulation is now better limited to data collected from GMES dedicated infrastructure and to information coming from operational services established under the GMES programme while the 1st version of the Delegated Regulation appeared to include anything licensed to, or owned by, the Commission.

Attachment of IDP attached to invite (re NMCA data) used by GMES countries to work

explicitly considered as a reason to restrict the GMES open dissemination regime.

- The connection of the GMES dissemination platforms with the services listed in the INSPIRE Directive is now mentioned.

However the PolKEN GMES Task Force commented on some significant issues remaining in the last draft: the protection of IPR attached to inputs used by GMES services does not apply to the rights on databases protected under Directive 1996/9/EC, and only refers to Union law. Moreover, the last draft mentions no coordination with infrastructures under national control nor with providers of data needed for GMES, while we believe this would be necessary.

Members remain encouraged to be aware of the message to all Members sent on 31 August 2012 and to feed their views and expertise into discussions with their Member State representatives and with the Commission in a constructive way forward.

The Commission is now expected either to send a new draft of the Delegated Regulation to Member States representatives, or to submit a final version for adoption to Council and Parliament. We will continue to take action and advise Members as appropriate.

Single Market Act II: twelve priority actions for new growth

In early October the European Commission announced its future plans for the Single Market within the Single Market Act II with twelve priority actions for new growth.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Single Market. The completion of the Single Market is a continuous exercise and is a central element of the European growth agenda to address the current economic crisis. Twelve priority actions are concentrated on four main drivers for growth and jobs:

1. integrated networks;
2. cross border mobility of citizens and businesses;
3. the digital economy;
4. cohesion and consumer benefits.

While the detail is yet to be evaluated it is expected the ubiquitous nature of geo-information can make a contribution particularly to the digital economy in which public sector information is an important component of the digital single market. Within the digital economy some observers would like to have seen a review of the EU copyright rules which are seen by some as a barrier to single market completion.

The Commission is expected to put forward all key legislative proposals of the Single Market Act II by spring 2013 and the non-legislative ones by end 2013. The European Parliament and Council will be called upon to adopt legislative proposals as a matter of priority by spring 2014.

The Policy Knowledge Exchange network (PolKEN)

PolKEN met in Brussels - with simultaneous Webinar - on the afternoon of 2 October and the morning of 3 October. With its outcome based format the first part of PolKEN was given over to Task Force Reports from the respective Task Force Leaders:

- [Amalia Velasco](#) (Spanish Directorate General for Cadastre): eAgenda Task Force, including eGovernment, eSignatures & cross-border services, data protection.
- [François Chirie](#) (IGN France): GMES Task Force, including GMES data policy draft Delegated Act.
- [Neil Sutherland](#) (Ordnance Survey GB): Digital Agenda (DAE) Task Force, in particular, PSI Directive.

round table of participant Member's points of interest.

The following morning moved on to new initiatives, in particular new horizons within our proposed strategic communications programme. The session had two presentations and round table discussions:

- Gerda Schennach (BEV Austria): This was the lead presentation on identifying EU interest in geo-information across various DGs of the Commission
- Derek Earnshaw (EuroGeographics Head Office): Introducing the new Strategic Communications programme.

Presentations will be available very soon on the EuroGeographics Web site.

Sustaining appropriate programmes through funding

Funding workshop

On 24 September all Members were invited to a Funding Workshop to take place at our office in Brussels on the afternoon of 7 November and morning of 8 November. As with most of our events Members will also be able to participate through an on-line Webinar. The workshop aims to explore European and wider funding possibilities for Members through presentations, sharing experiences and highlighting success stories. We are currently contacting speakers and developing the Agenda therefore early input and contributions from Members is most welcome.

For registration and more information please go to:

<http://www.eurogeographics.org/event/workshop-exploring-funding-instruments-nmcas>

Towards a new programme of Strategic Communications

Anticipating our public affairs arena with enhanced Strategic Communications

During the summer we finalized an internal working document: "*Building supportive networks, general promotion of reputation & the role of strategic communications within EARS*". This working document set out why we should move to an enhanced role for Strategic Communications within our European Affairs & Representation Strategy (EARS).

EARS anticipates and reflects the Priority Issues for the prevailing situation, most recently relating to legislation on Public Sector Information and GMES along with building a case for a European Location Strategy (ELS). The prevalence of draft legislation required an operational focus on public affairs along with ongoing strategic communications around the ELS work.

There is now a fair expectation, based upon EU work programmes and other information that the GMES and PSI legislative procedures will draw to a close by spring 2013. In any event we see a medium term with reduced legislative activity. This ties in with our developing strategy and allows Representation resources to continue to be aligned to strategic goals and operational objectives.

Our Representation strategic goals are currently expected to cover two themes:

- Political ownership of geo-information in the EU institutions
- A credible case for a European Location Strategy

The E.L.F project

As part of the anticipation of our arena, strategic communications within EARS will be aligned to, and in some cases will be a functional part of, the E.L.F project.

Strategic Communications

The term "Strategic Communications" covers our general promotion of reputation, building supportive networks and visibility to help secure our Purpose. It is perhaps seen by some as broader than public relations (PR) and is a current term and activity used within Brussels. Along with public affairs and business strategy communications is an integral part of our

Representation activity. An enhanced programme of Strategic Communications will sit comfortably within EARS.

In alignment with EARS principles the programme of Strategic Communications will be target based, outcome focused and measured. EARS itself was externally validated, with what is probably the leading NGO policy office in Brussels. Since then EARS has been maintained, measured and developed in accordance with our operating arena. As part of our current exercise into enhanced strategic communications we have continued external discussions and validation to ensure we have the best information for the future situation.

General Assembly roundtables and PolKEN

During the General Assembly we held several roundtable sessions which provided an opportunity for dialogue with Members on our Representation strategy including an enhanced role for strategic communications. This dialogue greatly helped us to understand Members expectations and also for Members to seek clarification of our plans. We collected much valuable and significant information which is now being integrated into our plans. Following feedback at General Assembly the October PolKEN meeting devoted an extended session to strategic communications and what we need to do to meet this year's strategic priorities as set out in the EuroGeographics Operating Plan 2013. These plans will be progressed by Management Board in December.
