



VISION

Geographic Information with all its aspects should become a fully integrated component of the European knowledge-based society

MISSION

In order to ensure good governance, economic and social development, environmental protection and sustainability, and informed public participation, the mission is to maximise the availability and effective use of GI throughout Europe

This will require EUROGI to stimulate, encourage and support the development and effective use of GI and relevant technologies, and to act as the voice for the European GI community

MEMBERS OF EUROGI

AESIG, Spain
AFIGEO, France
AGEO, Austria
AM/FM GIS Italia, Italy
CAGI, Czech Republic
CC Belgium, Belgium
CEKTRA, Slovenia
DDGI, Germany
GEOFORUM Denmark, Denmark
GEONOVUM, The Netherlands
HUNAGI, Hungary
IGP, Portugal
IRLOGI, Ireland
LISA, Iceland
SOGI, Switzerland
ULI, Sweden
AUTODESK
ESRI
INTERGRAPH
NAVTEQ
EARSC
GI NORDEN

EUROGI ACTIVE IN GI FOR OVER 17 YEARS

In the early 1990's the European Commission saw the need for the organisations dealing with Geographic Information (GI) to get together under a single umbrella body.

Such a body would enable the GI sector to speak with one voice to the Commission and to have a more meaningful impact generally within Europe.

After an extended period of discussion and analysis, EUROGI was formed as a Foundation under Dutch Law (Stichting) on 20th May 1994. EUROGI is thus very pleased to be in a position this year to celebrate its 17th anniversary.

The Commission funded EUROGI for its first two years, but since that time it has relied on securing its own funding.

Governance

The General Board, which comprises all members is the highest decision-making body and is charged with the management of the Foundation. An Executive Committee of up to 9 members is elected from amongst EUROGI members. The President, who is elected by and chairs the Board is responsible for the governance of EUROGI. A Secretary General has responsibility for the day to day running of EUROGI. A Vice President and Treasurer are elected from members of the Executive Committee.

WHAT IS EUROGI?

EUROGI is an independently funded, not-for-profit NGO operating in Europe, but which also makes contributions in a wider international context. From its earliest days EUROGI members have been National GI Associations (NGIAs) and official national representative organisations.

The NGIAs are the NGOs in each country which draw together organisations (government departments, state agencies, research institutes, private companies etc.) and individuals who have an interest in GI/ Spatial Data Infrastructure matters. Thus although the number of members in EUROGI has always been relatively small, through its NGIA members it has over 6 500 organisations or individuals who are incorporated under the EUROGI umbrella.

In recent years EUROGI has identified a need to expand its membership base and thus in 2009 new statutes came into force which enabled any European GI/SDI organisational stakeholder to become a member through one of three categories of membership, namely *National GI Representatives* (only one from each country), *Corporate Organisations* (private companies), and *Other Organisations and Networks*.

Although this broadening of the membership base has taken place, the National Associations will still provide the core of the organisation.

The EUROGI Vision is that 'GI with all its aspects should become a fully integrated component of the European knowledge-based society'. Its Mission is 'In order to secure good governance, economic and social development, environmental protection and sustainability, and informed public participation, the mission is to maximize the availability and effective use of GI throughout Europe'.

Influencing policy and practice

Over many years EUROGI has contributed to the European GI/SDI policy debate. In the 1990's it championed the need for what is now INSPIRE and more recently it has made representations to the European Union on climate change, funding for the GMES programme and on the structuring of research programmes. It has also provided input into and support for an initiative to get Union approval for a European Location Framework.

WHAT DOES EUROGI DO?

EUROGI membership provides exciting opportunities to:

- participate in EC funded projects;
- contribute towards submissions to the European Commission and Parliament regarding emerging policy and practice issues in the broadly defined GI and SDI fields;
- join a network of organisations interested in GI and SDI matter and in so doing develop personal networks and contacts;
- share experiences and information through the networks;
- contribute at a global level to ongoing developments in the GI and SDI fields.

EUROGI

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CURRENT AND RECENT EUROGI PROJECTS

EUROGI/eSDI-Net



In 2010, EUROGI took over the legacy of the eSDI-Netplus project, a thematic Network cofounded by the European Commission's eContentplus programme. The main public activity of the eSDI-Netplus project was the international conference "European SDI Best Practice Awards 2009. Learning from Best Practices" in Turin, Italy, November 2009, where twelve outstanding sub-national SDIs were awarded.

The Conference was the provisional conclusion of a process that started in 2008 with the identification of promising SDIs in more than 20 European countries and the definition of a methodology to analyse SDIs: more than 200 sub-national or thematic SDIs were evaluated. <http://www.eurogi.org/esdinnetplus>

Two years after the previous Awards ceremony held in 2009 in Turin, EUROGI organises the second sub-national SDIs Best Practices Awards Conference and Ceremony on October 12th 2011 in Brussels.

All type of stakeholders in charge of sub-national (at any level, regional, local) SDIs, of any size and from any region of Europe, were invited to participate.

SDIs had to meet the following criteria:

- they must have been operating for at least 12 months
- they must be web-based.

The evaluation process of the 46 completed submitted sub-national SDIs took place based on the SDI self-assessment framework (SDI-SAF). The Jury included members with various SDI experiences and backgrounds: two of the members are from SDIs awarded in 2009. The underlying principle is: the SDI community assesses itself.

Seven outstanding SDIs are identified and receive awards. Further information about the EUROGI-eSDI-Net initiative and the awards: <http://eurogi.org/esdinnet/awards/2011>

EURADIN



The EURADIN (*European Address Infrastructure* - ECP-2007-GEO-317002) is a *Best Practice Network* aiming to promote the harmonisation of addresses across Europe.

As a main result, the project delivered a proposal for a European addresses Infrastructure, together with the implementation, testing and validation of a pilot case.

Since the addresses theme is included as a priority for the implementation of INSPIRE (Annex I), the results of EURADIN will be used as a reference for all European Member States to fulfill the requirements of the Directive with respect to this matter.

EUROGI was leading the *Work Package on Networking and Dissemination*, which among other achievements established the *European Addresses Forum* (EAF) as a long term platform for information exchange and for promoting national address related events through its members. The Forum was officially inaugurated in Brussels on June 15, 2010.

<https://www.euradin.eu>

PLAN4ALL



The Plan4all - European Network of Best Practices for Interoperability of Spatial Planning Information - is 80% co-funded by the European Commission in the context of the eContentplus program. Plan4all is a Best Practice Network of local, regional and national public bodies and other stakeholders dealing with planning issues and regional development. <http://www.plan4all.eu>

It aims are to find consensus regarding interoperability and harmonisation of the information related to spatial planning according to the INSPIRE Directive and also to contribute to standardisation of the planning related Spatial Data Themes set out in the INSPIRE Directive Annexes.

In brief, the themes addressed by Plan4all are: Land cover, Land use, Utility and Government services, Production and industrial facilities, Agricultural and aquaculture facilities, Zoning and reporting units, and Natural risk zones.

EUROGI leads the Task for the *Analysis of INSPIRE requirements* and plays a substantial role in holding national events through its members which were aimed at involving relevant planning and other stakeholders.

Ten EUROGI members organized a national Plan4all workshop in reply to the specific call issued by EUROGI on 7th April 2010. The workshops took place between October 2010 and June 2011.

EUROGI has been entrusted to produce a book summarizing the results of the Project, to collect and disseminate the results of PLAN4ALL, directed both to the professionals of the spatial planning and to the ICT experts, aiming to reduce the cultural gap between the two categories. The book 'Plan4all Project. Interoperability for Spatial Planning' is officially presented during the EUROGI/eSDI-Net Conference (12/10/2011) and Plan4all conference in Brussels (13/10/2011).

INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

To date, EUROGI's activities on the international arena have been directed in a number of directions. As a founding member of the Global SDI Association, EUROGI has a long term record of engagement with global GI/SDI matters.

EUROGI has been active in identifying ways in which it could support European development co-operation (aid) efforts, with a particular focus on Africa. This had entailed developing contacts and networks with both organisations in Africa and in the European Commission, preparing funding proposals, participating in relevant conferences and identifying ways of supporting capacity building.

EUROGI has also identified a need to explore ways in which it could possibly be of assistance in supporting GI/SDI development in Central and Eastern Europe and has actively participated in events in that area.

As a result of invitations from the United Nations organisations, EUROGI has made significant inputs into the preparatory work for the Eye on Earth Summit to be held in Abu Dhabi in December 2011 and to the UN's Geoinformation Management initiative.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR EUROGI?

17 years of solid achievements creates a sound platform on which to move forward into the future. However no organisation can be complacent and rest on its laurels.

Broadly some of the main future directions would include expanding and deepening membership and consolidating and building EUROGI's networks, continuing to support INSPIRE implementation, strengthening its relationships with a number of relevant European Commission bodies, playing a strong and cooperative role with other pan-European organisations in the broad GI/SDI field, and expanding its ability to support GI/SDI developments aimed at addressing development issues in an international context.

Over the past 17 years much has been achieved. However EUROGI is very much aware that much more needs to be done to ensure that GI/SDI fulfills the critical role in addressing pressing European and international challenges.

EUROGI is a vigorous and vibrant organisation which we believe will play a significant role in the years ahead.

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