

## A EFGS 2012 PRAGUE DECLARATION

### A TASKFORCE FOR THE INTEGRATION OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS

In the meeting of the ESS Committee in February 2012 followed by the DGINS 2012 conference the Directors General of the ESS agreed on a closer cooperation on geostatistics within the ESS. In order to put this closer cooperation into practice we, the European Forum for Geostatistics (EFGS) are convinced that in addition to a common roadmap on where to go and what to achieve, an organisational framework is needed.

The GISCO working group, consisting of the representatives from NSIs is the relevant coordination body within the ESS to work on the topic and take decisions. However the degree of involvement of the members of the GISCO working group in geostatistics varies greatly. We therefore believe that a smaller steering group of advanced countries sharing a common interest and vision should coordinate consensus building and act as a strong partner for Eurostat. The EFGS calls on Eurostat to establish this advisory group in the form of a task force with selected Members from NSIs and involvement of Eurostat/GISCO. The EFGS as a whole and its members working for NSIs are prepared to become involved in this task force and to contribute to its work, either directly as participants or indirectly by providing advice and expertise. The EFGS has already demonstrated its competence in the field and its organisational capacity by playing an important role in the implementation of the successful GEOSTAT 1A project.

### A WORKING PROGRAM FOR THE INTEGRATION OF GEOGRAPHY AND STATISTICS

This task force should draft terms of references for the GISCO working group and its role within the ESS and propose a work program to bring geostatistics into the main stream of the statistical work program of the ESS. In concrete terms the EFGS propose to focus on the 2020 Census project and there ensure the highest degree of georeference along the complete statistical production chain.

The GISCO working group should then discuss the proposal and seek an adoption by the ESSC.

The EFGS also calls on Eurostat to continue its support for the work of the EFGS and in particular support for the efforts of the EFGS in capacity building in the form of conferences and training programs.

The EFGS is asked to:

1. endorse the approach
2. propose members for the task force
3. contribute to the terms of reference for the task force

## THE EFGS MEETING IN PRAGUE, THE 26 OCTOBER 2012