



## GEOSTAT 4 Kick-off Meeting, 11-12 February

### Venue/time:

Statistics Finland, Helsinki. 11-12 February 2020.

### Participants

Rina Tammisto, Antti Santaharju, Essi Kaukonen, Tuuli Pihlajamaa, Outi Ahti-Miettinen, Tapio Kytö, Pasi Piela, Jennika Leino, Nikolaos Roubanis, Marina Backer Skaar, Jerker Moström, Karin Hedeklint, Ingrid Kaminger, Ana M. Santos, Anna Slawinska, Amelia Wardzińska-Sharif, Arnaud Degorre, Marie-Hélène Kerouanton, Igor Kuzma, Vilni Verner Holst Bloch, Marianne Vik Dysterud, Alexander Kowarik, Timo Aarnio, Panu Muhli, Harri Lehtinen

### The purpose of the meeting

The GEOSTAT 4 Kick-off meeting was organised by Statistics Finland. The main goal of the meeting was to start the fourth and last Eurostat's granted GEOSTAT project.

The project consortium consists of members from nine statistical institutes: Finland, Sweden, Austria, Poland, Germany, Slovenia, France, Norway and Portugal. The project has also as subcontractors two mapping authorities; National Land Survey of Finland and Kartverket from Norway. In addition, the MD Mapping from Sweden is a subcontractor and Finnish Health Institute will be a subcontractor to the project. The project's consortium is wider than it has been in earlier GEOSTAT projects.

The meeting was based on workshops on the six content-centered work packages (work packages 1 to 6).

### Day 1

#### **Opening words**

Director Harri Lehtinen (ICT Management Unit, Statistics Finland) welcomed the guests by sharing the new strategy of Statistics Finland. The items Statistics Finland has identified as challenges seems to be general challenges of our time – and well connected to the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework's goal also. Information is needed quickly and also on new topics in a form that serves different target groups. There are demands for more sustainable information ecosystems, interoperability, more collaboration and, active influencing in networks. GEOSTAT 4 project will pursue to foster these targets in statistical geospatial domain in Europe.

#### **GEOSTAT 4**

The project manager Rina Tammisto presented the main goals and outputs of the GEOSTAT 4 project. The main goals and outputs are

- Supplement and develop the GSGF Europe – Enhanced GSGF Europe model
- Link GSGF Europe to the European Statistical System, ESS – A draft for ESS methodological document
- Support implementation of the GSGF Europe – A benchmark analysis, guidance, good practice cases, Proof of Concepts, Business Cases...
- Develop quality assessment measures and proposals to integrate geospatial aspect into ESS Quality Assurance Framework, ESS QAF – propose an enhancement of the ESS QAF, Quality Indicators, Quality Check Lists
- Maintain and enhance the statistical geospatial community in Europe; the EFGS Web and EFGS Conferences – EFGS Web, EFGS Development Plan, EFGS Conferences 2020 and 2021.

As a background for the project was told the history of GEOSTAT projects. The European geospatial statistical community's first joint attempt was about to have a European wide 1 km x 1 km grid map. That map was produced in 2007. GEOSTAT 1 project aim to create European wide harmonised population grid data set. In GEOSTAT 2 a point-based infrastructure was described and the Generic Statistical Business Process Model was tested in geospatial statistical production. The GEOSTAT 3 creates an implementation guidance for the GSGF Europe. The GEOSTAT 4 project is a continuation of previous GEOSTAT projects, GEOSTAT 1, 2 and 3 and all work in the project will be more or less based on the previous projects.

The work in the GEOSTAT 4 project is divided into seven work packages.



The project has several stakeholders. With the most important groups a Letter of Intent has been made. These groups are UNECE, UN Expert Group on Integration of Statistics and Geospatial Information and UN GGIM Europe, Data Integration group. These groups are consultative groups that will comment on the project outputs later. The project has also other important groups and organisations with whom adequate communication must be ensured.

### Agreed project practices:

#### A shared working platform

The content of the project is huge. All the WPs are linked to each other. In order to succeed the best possible way, there is a need to share and provide all

information possible to others. Statistics Finland has just start using MS Teams as a shared work platform. The GEOSTAT 4 participants have received an invitation to use the platform. There have occurred some problems. If the problems are not able to resolve the project will use another solution (for instance Confluence).

### **Consortium meetings**

The project consortium will have a monthly Webex meetings. Every member of the GEOSTAT 4 project can participate the project consortium meetings. Eurostat will organize these meetings (at least Q1-2/2020). If the Teams platform works, the consortium meeting can then be organised by Statistics Finland.

On May 26 to 28 2020 a project workshop will be organised in Vienna. The workshop covers the whole project and every project member is invited (note, the project covers only planned travel expenses).

Each work package plans their meetings by themselves and the work package leader will organise these meetings (by using Teams or other solution).

### **Reporting of working days**

The consortium members (the NSI's) will report used working days twice a year. M1-M6 will be reported by August 28<sup>th</sup> 2020. M7-M12 reporting schedule will be announced later.

### **WP-4 Workshop**

Anna Slawinska presented the objectives of the WP4.

The main activity within WP4 will aim at maintaining and improving the EFGS website. Constant update of the EFGS website in terms of content and structure in response to GEOSTAT 4 and EFGS community needs will be done.

The project will regularly inform the EFGS Steering Committee about the content and performance of the website. Major structural changes to be made will need consent from the EFGS steering committee. Together with WP6 a future maintenance of the EFGS website after the GEOSTAT 4 project will be revised. Besides together with other WPs structure for dissemination of materials and results will be defined, especially the creation on the interactive, web based guidance and good practices material on the implementation of the GSGF Europe. Timing of the task will be tightly connected with works and deliverables of other WPs.

Moreover the proposal of private password-protected subpage for Geostat 4 project members on efgs.info was presented as the alternative for MsTeams. The subpage would be only visible for Geostat 4 project members where draft documents could be stored and downloaded by login users.

As the nearest step within WP4 the new subpage for dissemination of Geostat 4 project will be prepared. The EFGS webpage will be used also to create official EFGS 2020 conference webpage.

### **WP-1 Workshop**

Antti Santaharju presented the objectives, outputs, schedules and roles of WP1 and the relationships to other WPs.



The main outputs of the WP1 are Completed GSGF-Europe document (November 2021) and ESS methodological document (2022). WP1 evaluates the contents of the current key documents (Geostat 2 main report, GSGF implementation guide and GSGF document) and identifies which crucial aspects are missing. WP1 defines the model of geospatially enabled reference architecture and compiles it and previously missing content into Completed GSGF Europe document. Participants pointed out that ESSnet Big Data II created the reference architecture for satellite images and it can be used as benchmark source for this architectural work. WP1 reviews the ESS and Modernstat frameworks (GSBPM, CSDA, CSPA, GAMSO, ESS VIP.ADMIN, GSIM, Inspire, OGC) and integrates them into GSGF contents. Participants of the kick off meeting decided that GSBPM, GSIM, CSPA and CSDA are the most relevant of these frameworks.

WP1 starts with the Assessment of the current recommendations and frameworks. Also the architectural work starts in march 2020. Architectural work starts with the definition of actors in the domain of the geospatial statistics. First list of the actors was drafted in the workshop. Group also discussed about the stakeholders of the WP1. In addition to the other WP's, also the UNGGIM SG on data integration methods, UNECE, Geospatial task team and UNECE HLG-MOS Supporting Standards Group (especially GSIM work) are important stakeholders. WP1 should also strive to clarify the work done in Global and European stakeholder groups.

One task of the WP1 is to create a definition of terms as an annex of the GSGF Europe document. EFGS webpage contains a terminology subpage which can be used as a source for this work.

### **WP-2 Workshop**

Jerker Moström and Karin Hedeklint presented the objectives and outputs of WP2 and the relationships to other WPs.

To give some direction needed for the priorities in the GEOSTAT4 project, it is planned to organize a survey for the participants before the next GISCO meeting. Moström and Hedeklint presented the plans for the survey for discussion. GEOSTAT4 participants supported the survey and gave some comments. It was suggested that the questions should be carefully specified to avoid any mistakes. For example, what we mean by "National Geospatial Agency" should be specified. It was agreed that we should urge member states to provide joint answers including NSIs and Geospatial Agencies if needed.

Below are listed some other comments of the participants:

- The questions are addressed to the whole organisation
- Add questions about name, organisation, and department of the respondent
- Questions about the GSGF model should be illustrated by the triangle image and the name of each principle written out. Perhaps even interlinks to more information about the model.
- Question: What are your routines for maintaining your geocoded census register? How will the register be updated and further administrated?

- Question: Are you using any quality indicators regarding geodata or the process of working with geodata? Please explain which indicators.

Moström and Hedeklint asked the GEOSTAT4 participants to send all other questions and comments to them as soon as possible. It was agreed that GEOSTAT 4 members should be consulted before the survey is sent to the GISCO community and that SE will send the survey directly to Chris Gale in UK. All other participants will get the survey from Eurostat.

Moström and Hedeklint presented also a plan to organize a Menti exercise During the GISCO meeting. Menti is more of a tool for getting a good discussion during the meeting. The results will be saved and might be used in the rest of the project. Menti questions are addressed only to the persons present in the GISCO meeting.

In the WP2 one goal is to collect good practise examples. It was discussed that it will probably be needed to set up a smaller task force group to be working with the good practise and sorting out what needs to be done. If possible, we should align this work with WP 1 gap-analysis of GSGF-Europe.

It was planned that SE will set up start-meetings for business cases, case studies and proof-of-concept. Some important cases to Eurostat were listed:

- Business registers (confidentiality etc)
- Coordinates for education: Schools etc
- Hospitals and health care: Accessibility important

SE will send out more specific information regarding the actions within WP2 to the group as soon as possible. We will propose allocation of countries and sub-contractors to the different tasks. It is paramount that all participants respond to these proposals so we can have a more clear idea of the resources available.

### **WP-6 Workshop**

Igor Kuzma presented the objectives and planned outputs of the WP6. WP deals also with the future of the EFGS, therefore in the presentation a brief overview of the past/present work programmes and organisation of the EFGS was presented as well. Currently, not all the positions of the EFGS's organisational structure are occupied. There are no clear guidelines on how to accept/replace members of the steering committee. EFGS currently has no widely adopted strategic plan or work programme. In some way the GEOSTAT project objectives act as a work programme. The participants agreed that EFGS should preferably stay an informal organisation and network of geospatial statistics experts. Eurostat expressed its intention to support EFGS activities also in the future.

A subcontractor will be selected to design a visual identity of the GEOSTAT projects that will be suitable for digital and printed materials. If the finances will allow there was a suggestion to create a face-lift of the EFGS logo. This topic was during the discussion broadened to the EFGS website. The participants discussed various options how to modernise the website but eventually it was agreed that the tasks of the WP4 remain as planned. WP4 and WP6 partners may further develop this idea with the Eurostat.

## Day 2

### **Eurostat's opening words**

Nikolaos Roubanis presented Eurostat's expectations for the project. The project's final outputs will support the work of the ESS. Therefore, it is eminently important to communicate with related communities already during the project. Eurostat has an important intermediary role in working between different communities.

### **Introduction to Teams platform**

Jennika Leino gave a short introduction to Microsoft Teams was given. Teams is a one possible teamwork platform that could be utilised in GEOSTAT4 project. In Teams it is possible to store files, manipulate them simultaneously and have conversations. It has just been taken into production in Statistics Finland and all GEOSTAT4 participants have been invited in. Some are already able to access the Teams but some participants have difficulties. It was agreed that after the kick-off StatFI contacts those persons and tries to help them access the Teams. If this can't be arranged, some other option (e.g. Confluence) will be considered.

### **WP-3 Workshop**

The objectives and planned outputs of WP3 were presented by Ingrid Kaminger and Alexander Kowarik. These are

- A proposal for methods related to geoinformation, which could be included in the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) of the European Statistical System.
- Enhancing quality reporting by including quality indicators related to geospatial information
- A quality checklist related to geospatial processing as part of the statistical production process

To inform the geospatial part of the consortium of practices of the quality world, some explanations on what the Quality Framework of the ESS (COP and QAF) is was included. The European Code of Practice (CoP) sets the standard for developing, producing and disseminating European statistics and consists of 15+1 Principles including Indicators on three levels (institutional, process and output level). For each of these Indicators, the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) identifies possible activities, methods and tools that can provide guidance and evidence for the implementation of the Code of Practice when developing, producing and disseminating European statistics.

The principles in the Code of Practice were further discussed in small groups to find out whether we see geospatial aspects included or find that the aspect is missing? The main outcome was that the principles in the COP are generally written in a very generic way, such that the geospatial aspects can be seen as included. Yet some principles were identified, which clearly should be enriched in the QAF by additional methods concerning the geospatial aspect.

Additionally, input/ideas from mapping Agencies is needed: what are standard quality aspects in the geo-world, which could be relevant for our work?



### **WP-5 Workshop**

The arrangements of the EFGS2020 conference were presented by Amelia Wardzinska-Sharif. The conference has been set up for 27-29 October, but the date of another important event was raised. It was agreed to try to change the date of the conference, if possible. The conference venue is Gdańsk. The tender documents are already developed and are subject to final corrections and financing assurance from Ministry of Finance is ongoing. Poland is waiting for a document confirming the possibility of financing the conference until obtaining financing under the project.

Close cooperation with previous EFGS conferences organizers is foreseen and already ongoing.

- Mailing list for invitation and participants;
- Core topic should be worked out soon in order to be included in the invitation letter and to enable to create the conference logo;

Official invitation is foreseen during upcoming GISCO meeting (Luxembourg, 26-27 March 2020).

Important dates related to the conferences were discussed and agreed:

- First call of abstracts round 1st of April;
- Draft and final program preparation at the end of May;
- Official invitation sends in the beginning of June;
- Detailed program in the middle of September;
- Conference 27-29th of October;
- Final report before the end of November.

Discussion about the parallel sessions whether to organize them or not was arisen. It was commented that the very short (5 min) presentations like in the last conferences, should be avoided. They are not very convenient for the presenter nor audience. A final decision in this case was not made.

It was agreed that all current issues related to the organization of conferences should and will be discussed in the EFGS steering committee forum. Such are for example, the organization and program committee, motto and logo of the conference and core topics and chair for each.

The 2021 EFGS conference was not discussed in this kick-off meeting due to the absence of the German members.

### **Fast track**

The idea of including a Fast Track in the project was introduced by Essi Kaukonen and after that potential Fast Track candidates were identified and planned in facilitated group work. Fast Track is a quick method of testing ways of working and collaboration between work packages. In a Fast Track, a real/potential use case of the project would be worked on.

The identified Fast Track candidates were:

- Enterprise actors and roles (relating to geospatial issues) would initiate from WP1
- Extending CoP Principle 2; would initiate from WP3
- Geocoded Business Register (with good quality) (2x); would initiate from WP2
- Confidentiality indicators and disclosure methods (relating to geospatial issues) in EFGS would initiate from WP5

The candidates were also voted in the workshop. The final result of this voting was even. The Fast Track candidates initiate from different Work Packages, hence, several of them could be worked parallel during the project. WP7 will work with Fast Tracks further and suggest how to proceed with them.

### Next steps

All WPs will start their work as planned. The WP leaders will invite the WP participants along.

It was discussed should the work of the WP4 be partly redefined because of the possible needs of renewing the EFGS Web site. Eurostat will also find out how it could support this initiative.

The timing of the EFGS 2020 will be rescheduled.

The project will be presented in the upcoming GISCO meeting. Also, a questionnaire and a benchmark workshop will be held.

The situation with the Teams platform will be clarified before next meeting of the project consortium.