



GEOSTAT 4, Coordination Meeting 1/2, 18 February

Venue/time:

On-line meeting, 18 February 2021, 11-15.20 CET.

Participants

Rina Tammisto, Ana Santos, Anna Sławińska, Arnaud Degorre, Clément Guillo, Francisco Caldeira, Hanna Brenzel, Igor Kuzma, Ingrid Kaminger, Jennika Leino, Jenny Linnerud, Jerker Moström, Jon Folkedal, Jørn Kristian Undelstvedt, Karin Hedeklint, Marianne Vik Dysterud, Marie-Hélène Kerouanton, Marina Backer Skaar, Mervi Haakana, Oliver Mueller, Outi Ahti-Miettinen, Pekka Latvala, Rossano Figueiredo, Simen Somner, Tapio Kytö, Timo Aarnio, Tuuli Pihlajamaa

The purpose of the meeting

The purpose of a coordination meeting is to draw together the project to see where we are now and what we should focus on next. Originally it was planned to arrange the coordination meeting in Helsinki, but it is now divided into two virtual meetings. This is the first meeting. The second meeting is on the 18 March.

Agenda

Scope of the meeting, Rina Tammisto

In this meeting the aim is to start looking through the project deliverables and final outputs and continue this in the next meeting.

In the first theme in this meeting we look a bit in the future of the EFGS by examining the strategy map. What should happen after the project, how to continue the implementation of GSGF Europe? In the strategy map there are described activities for the future that we will go through together.

To finalise this project, an important thing is to keep the deliverables in mind. To whom are we creating them and for what use? We will need to clarify the right level of abstraction or concreteness of the products for different user groups. There are three levels of actors recognised in this project. The national level, European level and Global level, where actors from individual users and local agencies, all the way to international organizations and networks are described. Each user group may have a different angle and needs for the project deliverables and therefore it is worthwhile to design them with the target in mind.

Theme I, EFGS Strategy map, Igor Kuzma

The EFGS Strategy Map is a proposal on future activities (also based on the GEOSTAT project series), organization and modus operandi of the EFGS Community after 2022. The current version of the EFGS Strategy Map was presented to the participants and then discussed separately in groups. Particularly the quality aspect was significantly emphasized in the last version and the groups were asked to comment on these and some other changes.

Fruitful group discussions resulted in relevant comments and suggestions for enhancement of the Strategy Map:

Wording

- Driver 1 description (Driving force for (new and) innovative ideas for the ESS in developing integration of statistics and geospatial information.). Innovative aspect is missing. That EFGS provides innovative solutions supporting other also non-statistical communities in their implementations of innovative methodologies and statistical outputs.
- Driver 2 description is not really describing the driver but more some other element of the Strategy Map. “Need for” or similar could be added to improve the wording.
- Concepts to assess/ monitor the quality of geospatial data and the level of its integration.

New elements/boxes (some elements are linked with overall comments with reference No.)

- The management, usage and content of the EFGS portal/website (new Tool).
- 1Driver 2 to Driver 1 (emphasising the network component): learning from each other, benchmarking, re-use of components to create new products/prototypes – extending the existing boxes or adding new boxes.
- 2Add within strategic map an objective about virtual host (incubator) of small teams dedicated to prototyping new geospatial statistical services.

Overall suggestions, comments (some comments are linked with new elements/boxes with reference No.)

- The quality aspects and connections to the Code of Practice by Eurostat are very important and should perhaps be more high-lighted.
- We see a challenge in implementing the strategy within our NSI's or other organisations. To make it more prioritised and easier to implement nationally, the formal link between EFGS and the national NSI's (or other organisations) are very important.
- The informal meetings and conversations are equally important, to keep the network alive and interesting to its members. Small, frequent and informal meetings, so called "coffee meetings", could be arranged. Perhaps not an action for the strategy map, but for the EFGS organisation.
- Driver 2: The network and relation to other groups is crucial. How do we think about interaction with other groups/communities? The strategy map could describe this.
- Users and stakeholders could be more visible (especially driver 1 or 2)
- Driver 2, expert network, driver 3 expert group: We should aim for a wider group of experts (not just geospatial/statistical experts). Opening up would strengthen the network without losing the soul. What is the hallmark of EFGS (compared to other groups)?

- Driver 1 What we do, Driver 2 Who we are, Driver 3 How we organise? – This was not clear to the group participants at first glance of the Strategy Map. Should we consider how to improve?
- User friendly output, promotion awareness, innovation is key
- Strong support for the drivers! Perspective of drivers is good, innovation and capability are safeguarded.
- EFGS could help glue frameworks together.
- 1Should the EFGS move into operational concerns so as to ensure good implementation of GSGF principles and recommendations?
- 2EFGS is strong at strategic level – it is perhaps weaker at operational level - > do we need additions to support the operational objectives.
- 2EFGS should first remain dedicated to build a strategic view and disseminate this view. Still, a little step towards operational prototyping could help to build a bridge between strategic view at EFGS and concrete implementation at national / European level.
- Operational point of view is a cross-cutting view through all drivers.

These proposals will be considered by WP6 and applied to the Strategy Map and its written side document. The next version will be brought again to the EFGS Steering Committee, GEOSTAT 4 group and members of the GISCO group for discussion. Also, it's agreed to give document to UN GGIM: Europe for comments.

Theme II, User profiles, Jerker Moström

In Theme II, the group exercise was about defining user stories.

A user story is an informal method used in Agile software development to capture a description of a software feature from an end-user perspective, but it can also be used for design of more generic project output.

The group discussions were very innovative and resulted in a quite large number of interesting user stories. There were many commonalities in the user stories between different groups, which is a good sign.

The result of the exercise was saved in a PowerPoint file in Teams.

Some overarching conclusions can be drawn from the exercise:

- A multi-level approach for the final description/documentation/material is very important
- The end-user community is heterogeneous, ranging in staff level from high-middle management to experts and specialists. The end-user community is also heterogeneous in terms of professional roles and expertise, ranging from geospatial experts, statisticians, methodologists, analysts, IT architects, IT developers and more.



- In terms of content, the groups were depicting output ranging from high-level descriptions of frameworks, reference architecture, good practice use cases down to service concepts and actual code
- The need for good “searchability” was explicitly mentioned in many user stories. This needs to be taken into account for the final dissemination.
- The need for maintenance and keeping material up-to-date after the end of the project was also mentioned in several user stories
- There may be users that are not acquainted with our established communities and platforms (EFGS web, Eurostat web etc). Reaching out to other forums is important, but also challenging. GitHub was mentioned as an example. GitHub is close at hand for many developers, and this can be a way in for IT-oriented users outside the community.

New GEOSTAT Visual design, Igor Kuzma

WP6 is in co-operation with a professional designer preparing the graphics designs for visual identity of the GEOSTAT projects. The GEOSTAT is conceptually following the colour scheme of the EFGS visual outlook. The GEOSTAT logo (final), Word and PowerPoint templates were presented.

Conclusions, Rina Tammisto

Coordinator was grateful for the devoted work of the consortium. The method used in the meeting worked: before group discussion started there was a short time for thinking by oneself. As a result of this, plenty of good discussions and fresh suggestions arose.

Results of the meeting are fuel to the next meeting. Its topics are GSGF Europe and the ESS Methodological document, Publishing strategy and topics of the EFGS 2021 Conference.