

From ideation to implementation:
Some tools and guidance to support the integration of geospatial and statistical information

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Over recent years, Europe has made great progress to drive the adoption of the Global Statistical Geospatial Framework (GSGF) and its adaptation to the European context, with strong examples of best practice being implemented by many of the region's national statistical and geospatial organisations. While there is a growing awareness of the benefits of integrating geospatial and statistical data, disparities still remain in the level of adoption of the GSGF across different national contexts and more must be done to embed data integration activities within business-as-usual practices in a comparable and consistent fashion across the region. As the EU-funded INGEST Project has revealed, these disparities reflect a range of multi-dimensional issues and obstacles still to be overcome which derive from the wide variance in national governance frameworks, laws and policies; the ability to access sustainable financial resources; differing levels of cooperation with other national and international bodies; adherence to common standards; the ability, skill and capacity to drive change; and effectively communicate the benefits of data integration to acquire buy-in from decision-makers and the wider user community. While there is no one-size-fits-all strategy that will comprehensively overcome these issues, there are some practical steps which can be undertaken to move from ideation to implementation. This presentation will share some tools and guidance which have been developed by UNECE and the INGEST Task Force on Standards Issues which align with the GSGF's four key elements and aim to support the application of the framework and its guiding principles.