
European Forum for Geography and Statistics

MINUTES - EFGS/ GFGS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Time:	Thursday Oct 18, 2018 after lunch	
Place:	Helsinki, Marina Conference Palace	
Chairman:	EFGS President Janusz Dygaszewicz	
Participants:	Ana Santos	- Statistics Portugal
	Anna Slawinska	- Statistics Poland
	Arslan Ahmedou	- NSI Bulgaria
	Dermot Corcoran	- Statistics Ireland
	Enrique Ordaz	- Inegi Mexico
	Hugo Poelman	- EC DG REGIO
	Igor Kuzma	- Statistics Slovenia
	Ingrid Kaminger	- Statistics Austria
	Jerker Moström	- Statistics Sweden
	Joshua Commenetz	- US Census Bureau
	Linda Peters	- ESRI, US
	Maria Bueno	- IBGE Brazil
	Marina Backer Skaar	- EFGS Secretary
	Marek Pieniazek	- Statistics Poland
	Mirosław Migacz	- Statistics Poland
	Niek van Leeuwen	- Statistics Netherlands
	Pasi Piela	- Statistics Finland
	Peiter Bresters	- Statistics Netherlands
	Peter Pflaumer	- TU Dortmund
	Pierre Jamagne	- Statistics Belgium
	Rina Tammisito	- Statistics Finland
	Stephan Arnold	- DESTATIS Germany
	Steven Vale	- UNECE
	Tamas Palya	- BFKH FTFF, Hungary
	Tesmi Laakso	- Statistics Finland
	Tuuli Pihlajamaa	- Statistics Finland
	Umit Dost	- NLS Finland
	Vilni Verner Holst Bloch	- Statistics Norway

EFGS chairman Janusz Dygaszewicz welcomed everyone by presenting EFGS achievements during 2018 together with current work program and activities - see attached presentation.

The following was discussed and agreed upon:

- **EFGS Current Work**
 - an important issue is to manage data in space incl geostatistical data. Strong cooperation is needed.
 - under the fully geocoded 2021 Housing census an issue is 'linked data'.
- **EFGS Activities**
 - Statistics Poland will maintain EFGS website between February 2019 - March 2020
 - EFGS will continue to act as a reference group for EUROSTAT another 4 years incl. active contribution within the next GEOSTAT4 project.
 - EFGS is open for collaboration with other organizations e.g. EuroGeographics => EFGS Conference 2019.
 - Steven Vale from UNECE suggested an openness to migrate EFGS to a global forum

- **EFGS Challenges**
 - To find common territory is the statistical challenges for development of harmonized geostatistical reference system based on “the 10 Level Model”
 - As to the upcoming geocoded 2021 population and housing census, full support is needed. Finland is a good example where NSI and NMA fully cooperate. As all country decides for themselves on how to solve the geocoding process, how can the Finish experience with the help of EFGS community be disseminated in Europe?
 - Spatial statistical indicators for sustainable development goals (SDGs) – what indicators needed for decision making? Normally between 7-10 are enough
 - Open Data policy – all data should be open. Therefor a policy concerning localization (?) is needed.
 - Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) on population GRID

- **EFGS Onwards**
 - The presidency of EFGS is up for election by end of March 2019. Anyone interested is kindly asked to step forward. Today’s president Janusz Dygaszewicz showed an interest to continue with the mission to represent EFGS more actively. Main mission is that EFGS exists and is a forum to rely on.
 - Proposals for future roles and thematic sessions for EFGS 2019 was raised – see attached input
 - “Highlighting practical use cases of data integration” =>Hugo Pohlman
 - “Outreach to citizen Science and crowd sourced Data Community” =>Stephan Arnold
 - “Closer collaboration with academia and research” =>ArslanAhmedou

- **EFGS SC**
 - EFGS Steering Committee will continue to be active during 2019. The conference in Manchester will be in focus.

- **GFGS**
 - The chairman of the GFGS Subgroup of the EFGS Vilni Verner Holst Bloch summarized GFGS’ activities - see attached presentation.
 - The group has established a global geoinformation demonstration project called FairHair. It is about geodata based on hexagon grids using the Discrete Global Grid Systems (DGGRID) specification proposed by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC DGGS). For status and plans see attached presentation.
 - Discussion was held around pros & cons for Hexagon vs Square grids. A topic for 2019 is to write a paper around Hexagon vs Square grid.

- **Next GA meeting:** EFGS Conference in Manchester UK Oct 10-11, 2019