

GEOSTAT 3 project – Minutes from kick-off meeting

Date: February 15-16, 2017

Venue: Statistics Sweden, Stockholm

Participants

Coordinators

Marie Haldorson, Statistics Sweden
Jerker Moström, Statistics Sweden
Karin Hedeklint, Statistics Sweden

Project team

Ana M Santos, Statistics Portugal
Vilni Verner Holst Bloch, Statistics Norway
Erik Engeli, Statistics Norway
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Ingrid Kaminger, Statistics Austria
Kreet Solnask, Statistics Estonia
Marja Tammilehto-Luode, Statistics Finland
Monika Sekular, Central Statistical Office of Poland
Anna Sławińska, Central Statistical Office of Poland
Pieter Bresters, Statistics Netherlands
Niek van Leeuwen, Statistics Netherlands

Consultants

Marina Backer Skaar, EFGS secretary
Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu, Federal Agency for Cartography and
Geodesy (BKG), Germany

Eurostat

Ekkehard Petri
Gunter Schaefer

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Slides from presentation are annexed to the minutes.

1 Welcome

Marie Haldorson gave an introduction to the meeting and welcomed all participants.

2 Round of presentation

Everyone in the meeting introduced themselves.

3 Aim of the call and expectations from Eurostat

Ekkehard Petri presented the aim of the call, from Eurostat's point of view. He also presented ideas of how to make a plan for the project. The call has specified certain goals and deliveries, but now it is a task for the project to fill this with content and consider all the details. A level of ambition needs to be defined.

All work packages were briefly presented along with issues to consider within each one of them. Some examples of what was discussed:

- The project needs to consider both the national and European level. For example there must be a consistency between national geographies and European ones.
- The role of standards within WP 1 and the importance of involving users in this work.
- The use of indicators as a tool for measuring progress
- The importance of a close communication with other initiatives in WP 1 and 2.
- The project should not focus too much on technical details.
- Involving Census 2021 is most interesting.
- The good job that has been started with the EFGS website should continue and perhaps even improve.

- The use of social media is something for the project to consider.
- The EFGS conferences should increase the policy angle of the presentations.
- The conferences should continue to involve non-NSI's as well as outside EU- participants.
- A session about the SCORUS project is something for the conference planning team to consider.
- As for the communication in the project, Ekkehard think we should try to use a web based tool, instead of the ordinary telephone connection.

Summary

- Flexibility in approach and scope is needed;
- Consolidation of existing initiatives;
- Begin with pulling together existing good practices, avoid designing something that no one else has designed or implemented so far,
- Eurostat is a strong partner.

4 EFGS conference 2017

Dermot Corcoran, Statistics Ireland, joined the meeting on telephone.

The EFGS conference 2017 will be in Dublin, Ireland, November 1-3. Dermot is project leader for the conference. Statistics Ireland and the Irish mapping agency will jointly provide finance for the conference.

Statistics Ireland will now create a conference website. A suggestion will be presented at the GISCO meeting in March. The website should be up and running by May or June, when invitations to the conference are sent out. We might need a plan B for the website, if the final one will not be ready in time.

We discussed how to avoid fake registrations. One way is a two-step confirmation of registrations, i.e. when you have registered you need to confirm that again.

There is work in progress with the conference logo. Dermot will send a suggestion of the logo to Jerker Moström, who will send it on to the EFGS steering committee for approval.

Dermot needs suggestions for a conference motto. Preferably the motto should be reflected by the layout of the logo. Some suggestions for motto were presented on the second day of the meeting. All ideas should be sent to Dermot.

It is a bit difficult to block book hotels, as there are not so many accommodations in Dublin compared to Paris. Dermot will send recommendation of a hotel close to the venue to the GEOSTAT 3 project group.

The GEOSTAT 3 team was invited to suggest themes for the conference. Some ideas of themes and session that we discussed during this meeting:

- Themes that will attract mapping agencies to attend the conference. Dermot will have regular contact with the Irish mapping agency about the content.
- Time for discussing indicators.
- A joint session with the SCORUS project. It could be about the urban agenda and how to use statistics for regional planning.
- Parallel session could facilitate more discussion and interaction among participants.

The project group is encouraged to make suggestions of the conference topics, but it is the EFGS steering committee that will handle the content of the conference. The GEOSTAT 3 project will mainly provide funding, help out with chairing etc.

Dermot needs support and experiences from previous organizers. He will talk to Vincent about e-mail addresses to delegates at the last EFGS conference. Those addresses could also be used for contacts with delegates, regarding preparations for the EFGS website. Dermot will participate in the regular meetings of EFGS steering committee.

Both the project group and the steering committee need to promote the conference in different forums.

On October 31 we will have a project coordination meeting in Dublin. Dermot will arrange a venue for the meeting.

5 Scope of the project and proposed activities

Jerker Moström presented the scope of the project and proposed activities within each work package.

The project has both a European and national perspective. But where to put the main focus is something the project group needs to discuss, as it is not clearly specified in the call. Differences between European countries can strain harmonization on micro data level, but as long as harmonized European output datasets can be produced this may not be a big problem.

This project will have more dialogue with mapping agencies, compared to previous GEOSTAT projects. It also has a broader scope than previous projects. In the project group we have connections to other working groups/forums, whose competence we could use. Those are for example UN GGIM: Europe and EuroGeographics.

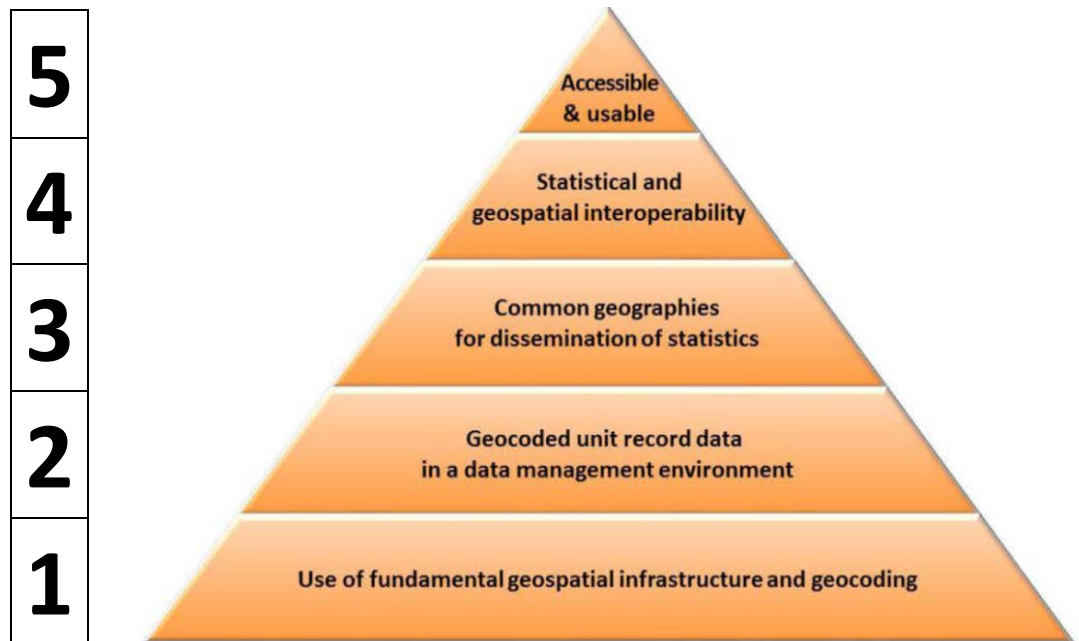
INSPIRE is an important technical infrastructure including standards that we need to include. But this project’s content is wider than INSPIRE, as it includes more attributes. Table joining service is, in that context, interesting for this project.

5.1 WP1: Develop a European Statistical Geospatial Framework (ESS-SGF)

Some general conclusions from the discussion about WP 1:

- Statistics Sweden is WP-leader. But we should work in smaller groups, preferably in two sub groups.
- We must consider the role of our sub-contractors and specify their tasks in the project
- We need to decide on the number of reports and other documentation from this WP.
- We need to set a deadline for finalizing the draft of proposal.

We discussed the different principles in the model.



Principle 1:

- We should use the results from other projects, such as GEOSTAT 2 and UN GGIM: Europe WG A (Core data).

Principle 2:

- The purpose is to use more administrative data for statistical purposes.

- The results should be implemented in the geocoding of Census 2021. Ekkehard will talk to the project manager and ask if the two projects could share ideas and cooperate in some extent. There might also be other interesting Eurostat grant projects that we could benefit from. Specific projects to share ideas with: ESS VIP.ADMIN and UN GGIM: Europe.
- The project should consider the issue of confidentiality.
- The project need to handle the different situations in different European countries. We need to find out if there is a “common core”.

Principle 3:

- This principle is more technical.
- In the global outlooks we should use contacts with OGC.
- The European – national perspective is interesting.
- We should consider linked data and facilitate the development of services. The general view of linking data is between statistics to geography, where the output is geographies.
- Some countries are working with linked data as open data, for example Poland¹ and UK.
- This project is an opportunity to view trends with relevance to geocoding. We should consider other projects in this field and what standards there are.

Principle 4:

- This is more of an organizational principle. It is both abstract and practical. We could use some results from the GEOSTAT 2 project, as GSBPM. But there are more standards that we should consider, for example INSPIRE and Table joining services.
- It is important to decide the level of detail in the project.
- Pier-Giorgio will send us a link to an interesting report from UN GGIM: Europe WG B.
- A workshop about these standards will be arranged in Stockholm in November 6-8. The organizer is UNECE. The focus will be to look at statistical and spatial standards and how data should be linked together.
- The cooperation between projects will lead to a mutual use of words and that we have a common understanding of standards. We should have a document that specifies what we mean with certain expressions in this field, as a sort of geospatial dictionary.

¹ Currently CSO is only working on project: *Development of guidelines for publishing statistical data as “linked open data”*.

Principle 5:

- There are a lot of good examples from the EFGS conferences that we could use, for example the presentations about Finland's Oskari platform and Poland's geostatistical portal.
- This principle has been renamed in the global proposal compared to the original framework stemming from Australia. It has two different "tracks" that should be merged together in the final results.

5.2 WP2: Testing the ESS-SGF

This WP has a much more practical approach than WP1. The purpose is to test the ideas from WP1. It is important to decide when to start the testing. We should wait for some results from WP1, but we should not start too late.

Statistics Norway is WP leader.

We discussed the use of indicators in the tests:

- The project should consider the EU list of indicators, as it is different from the global list. Ekkehard will give us a link to the indicators.
- There are many national lists to consider as well.
- It is important to map different indicators together, to make them more comparable.
- We could use the next EFGS conference to discuss the choice of indicators. It will be an opportunity to bring the different communities together.
- Ekkehard could reach out to the European working groups on indicators.
- We should also work together with the UN GGIM: Europe WG B, who has indicators on the agenda.

5.3 WP3: Maintaining the EFGS website

CSO Poland is WP leader.

All members of the project must help out with putting more information and interesting content on the web site. We must be more active in updating the news and the calendar. Perhaps we should also review the current structure of the site and consider if there is anything that could be changed.

One task in this WP is to do a feasibility study about migrating the content of EFGS website to Eurostat's CROS portal. In a report we will present pros and cons with different solutions. One of the pros is that it would guarantee the continuity of the EFGS website, as its maintenance will not be dependent of grant projects. It is also a way to concentrate resources. The cons are for example that the structure of the website will change and the website will lose its independency. The EFGS steering committee must be involved in the study, so that they can propose alternative solutions if necessary.

5.4 WP4: Organization of EFGS conferences

Statistics Finland is WP leader. The project will cooperate with Statistics Ireland concerning the 2017 conference in Dublin. The 2018 conference will be in Finland.

5.5 WP 5: Exploitation, distribution and dissemination

Statistics Austria is WP leader.

Meetings in other forums, conferences

The project needs a communication plan, where we specify which meetings to attend and who in the project group will attend them. It will give us a better insight on our activities and the communication a better structure.

Exchange of documents

We should use a platform for exchange of documents. Out of the two alternatives Basecamp and GISCO wiki we think that the GISCO alternative will suite us best. Ekkehard will help us with a separate page/entrance for this project.

Telephone or web meetings

We should use a web based tool. But we need a tool that doesn't require any local clients. Eurostat is using Adobe Connect, Ekkehard will help us do a test to see if this is a suitable tool.

The project group should meet once a month, using the web tool or telephone. The sub groups should meet more often.

Communication with Eurostat

We should provide Eurostat with a concrete plan and dates for all the deliverables. Every second month we could evaluate each work package and the work that has been going on. Each WP leader could fill in a template/checklist which includes reviewing progress, number of meetings etc. Karin will provide a template.

Eurostat is mostly interested in knowing about delays within the project. They need to know about that well before deadlines. Eurostat also need our view of the project management.

Deliveries of results

We should deliver results continuously, rather than make one comprehensive report, because the timing is important.

We are dependent on deadlines outside of the project.

6 The GEOSTAT 3 project in relation to UN GGIM: Europe and other initiatives

Marie presented this project's connection to Agenda 2030, where Statistics Sweden has a representative in the Inter Agency and Expert Group (Viveka Palm) and in the Working Group on Geospatial Information (Marie). Agenda 2030 will need indicators on global, regional and national level to measure the progress towards the goals. The global indicators are depending on national statistical systems and data. The indicator work on national level is starting up right now and a lot of people at Statistics Sweden are involved in the work. Our responsibility is to find relevant indicators, especially in the environmental themes.

We discussed how to harmonize this with the GEOSTAT 3 WP2. We should have an European focus to start with, as that will keep it more simple. There are so many initiatives like this going on and we can't fit our work to them all. We should work closely with UN GGIM: Europe WG B.

Pier-Giorgio presented UN GGIM: Europe and the deliveries in working Group B. Reports can be downloaded. The working group has a new plan for 2015-2018, with focus on SDG indicators. In order to cooperate with GEOSTAT 3 they will be flexible in which indicators to work with.

7 Communication in the project

Decisions made:

1. We will have monthly meetings, except for holiday season.
 - a. The first meeting will be for two or three hours, as it will include more detailed planning.
 - b. The following tele/web meetings will be for approx. 1 hour each.
2. We will test if we can use the Adobe system for our meetings. Ekkehard will put up a test conference within a few weeks.
3. We will use doodle to set up dates for meetings and plan meetings for the whole year. Karin will send out doodles.
4. We will have two physical meeting per year. Some of us will also meet at the GISCO meetings once a year.
5. We will provide Eurostat with a delivery plan, including deadlines.
6. Minutes from all meetings will be published on the EFGS website.
7. We will test the GISCO wiki for sharing documents. Ekkehard will set up a page for our project.

8 Detailed planning of each work package

8.1 WP 0

Statistics Sweden will set up milestones with deadlines. An Excel sheet with milestones, deliveries and deadlines will be used continuously during the project.




We will use it during the meetings, for following up on progress. Karin will update the sheet with the decisions from this meeting.

8.2 WP 1

Planning of WP 1

WP 1 includes an inventory and detailed description of all the principles and elements of the ESS-SGF. **We decided to work in iterations to provide a first draft of the ESS-SGF, already at the EFGS conference in November 2017.** After conducting tests in WP 2, the model will be revised to take into considerations the lessons learned in the test phase.

Jerked and Marie presented a proposal of workflow for WP 1:

- Interpretation and precision of the SGF principles and map existing work and initiatives (INSPIRE, GEOSTAT, GGIM: Europe)

- "Inventory of possible European and national practice" (Selective, not a full survey like the GEOSTAT 2 survey). Project countries + additional countries.

- Technical frameworks for integration of statistical and geospatial metadata standards. Review independent from principles.

- Draft proposal

After the GISCO meeting in March, Statistics Sweden will start working with WP 1 more intensely. They will make a first attempt to outline more precise interpretations of the SGF principles to share with the rest of the consortium for further development.

Statistics Sweden presented its work on implementing the SGF model internally. This is a good way to get acquainted with the model.

WP 1 is the heaviest WP with participation from all countries, hence the work of WP 1 needs to be conducted in smaller task teams to obtain an efficient work stream.

Technical task team in WP 1

One task team will be responsible for the more technical aspects of the ESS-SGF, focusing on table joining services in relation to SDMX and INSPIRE as well as other matters regarding standards for data integration. The task team will make a review of the technical situation at hand and make recommendations to be used in the draft ESS SGF. The documentation of this technical review can initially be

conducted rather independent from the principles of the SGF. Statistics Netherland will lead the work with support from Finland, Norway and Portugal.

Kartverket in Norway could potentially be a part of this sub-group. Statistics Norway will talk to them about their preferred involvement.

Results from the technical task team need to be available in due time to be incorporated in the draft ESS-SGF to be presented at EFGS conference in November 2017. **Statistics Sweden will set up a more precise dead line.**

“Strategical” task team in WP 1

The “strategical” task team will be responsible to describe the non-technical part of the ESS SGF. Mainly issues regarding institutional arrangements, governance and possible responsibilities between institutions. The strategic task team will be led by Statistics Sweden with participation from Austria, Norway, Estonia and Poland.

BKG will participate as sub-contractor in the task team.

Table Joing Services

Niek van Leeuwen and Pieter Bresters presented the concept of Table Joining Services to link statistical data and map services. It is a method useful for INSPIRE statistical data, where the statistical data is missing georeferences in data specification. Statistics Netherland have been testing this and would like to explore this further within the GEOSTAT 3 project as a mean to achieve a better integration of geography and statistics.

We agreed that the concept looks promising and that more testing should be conducted as part of the project (WP 2). The tests could include use of grid data and preferably encompass data from several countries. Before conducting further testing, the pros and cons of the concept should be thoroughly described by the technical task team in WP 1 along with alternative approaches and recommendations.

Discrete Global Grid System

Vilni presented Discrete Global Grid System, that is currently under consideration by OGC (Open Geospatial Consortium). It is a system for standardizing grids. Vilni told us that OGC is open for a teleconference with us about this.

The European Joint Research Center (JRC) has developed a global population grid. This is also on the agenda for UN:GGIM. This is on the global agenda, but we are not sure if this project should participate there or how other projects in this field are cooperating.

We decided that if GEOSTAT 3 gets the opportunity to interact with OGC, then we should take it. A selection of project members should then participate in the tele meeting and report back to the project. Then we can decide if this is interesting for the project. It is a good idea to coordinate these projects, so we don't work in parallel.

Vilni will put up a doodle about the meeting. Ekkehard, Marie and Vilni are interested in participating.

8.3 WP 2

Planning of WP 2

Statistics Norway is WP leader and they will specify a plan for the work within WP 2. This includes a plan for milestones, deliveries and deadlines. The excel sheet for project planning should be used.

The role of the subcontractors must be defined.

The main part of WP 2 will start next year, when we have the results from WP 1. But the part where we decide what indicators to use, could start right away.

There is a technical task force working in parallel. They are testing Table joining services. This has to be considered.

Choice of indicators

The project must define if we should concentrate on indicators where we have good data or if we should also include the more uncertain ones, where we know there is a lack of information.

The purpose is to provide good indicators to all countries in Europe, that is possible to regularly produce and update. They must be relevant in an European context, include the integration of statistics and geography and preferably include the relationship of urban and rural areas. The aspect of accessibility is included in some indicators, these are natural candidates to look into.

8.4 WP 3

WP3, Maintenance of EFGS website

CSO Poland will continue to be the focal point for maintaining the EFGS website. In order to get regular updates of the news and the calendar, everyone in the project group and others active in the EFGS network are encouraged to provide input to Monika and Anna. But reminders are good, so Monika and Anna will contact us as well.

All the content from the Paris conference website have been migrated to the EFGS website.

We discussed how we could develop the social media connections. Monika and Anna will follow EFGS on Facebook and publish articles on the EFGS website after authors' acceptance.

Monika and Anna will prepare a new web page for GEOSTAT 3. Karin will send information about the project, including documents from the kick-off meeting.

Karin will also send material about GEOSTAT 2, that need to be published. It must all be ready before the GISCO meeting in March.

Dermot will provide a short text about this year's conference.

CSO will participate regularly in the EFGS steering committee meeting to brief about the progress of the EFGS web.

WP 3: CROS portal

Ekkehard will ask for a test space on the CROS portal, where we can do tests before our evaluation. There are both technical and administrative aspects that need to be considered. The EFGS steering committee must be involved in the decisions.

One solution is that the EFGS website is hosted and paid for by a statistical bureau. Then it will not be dependent on Eurostat grants. It wasn't discussed which bureau that would be.

The report should put up a variety of criteria and specify if the alternatives meet the criteria or not.

CSO will be in charge of the study, with support from the rest of the project group. The first task will be to propose a list of criteria on which the feasibility of migrating the website should be benchmarked.

The deadline for the report will be at the time for the EFGS conference 2017. Then the report will be discussed at an EFGS steering committee meeting. We need a final decision about the CROS portal before the end of 2017.

8.5 WP 4

The 2018 EFGS conference will be in Finland, Helsinki. Exact date and venue haven't been decided yet. It is important that the calendar on the EFGS web site is

updated, when the dates for the conference are decided. It will probably be a date before November 2018.

In the planning of this year's conference, Dermot should participate in our GEOSTAT 3 tele meetings. We have a list of practical matters that is updated after each conference. It will be updated by Vincent and sent to Dermot.

We discussed how to make others than NSI's to come to the conference. Pier-Giorgio will talk to colleagues in his networks about this, to get ideas on how the program could be more interesting for other communities as well.

If we have information earlier about the content of the conference we could more easily attract new participants. But that is difficult when the program is so user driven. Decisions about the conference program more concerns the steering committee than this project.

The members of this project should help out with promoting the conference.

8.6 WP 5

We need a list with events and who will be participating. We will update it together, during our monthly meetings.

Sweden will do a general presentation about GEOSTAT 3 at the next GISCO meeting. Contact Jerker if you would like to participate in the presentation. Next year more WP leaders should join.

We need invitations to present at some of the interesting events/working groups, for example at the UN GGIM: Europe Plenary in June.

We should provide a general presentation of the project, that all of us can use. Then we will have a general introduction and the same message will be given to all.

We will not produce any printed materials.

We discussed the use of social media, like twitter. But we concluded that it needs more maintenance than we can manage. We should rather put our resources on the website.

We should be better at using national forums, where we can explain what we are doing and get input. We should make references to the GEOSTAT 2 project report in different forums.

9 Summing up

We ended the meeting with summing up what general strategies we had decided on. We concluded that there are still work to be done with the detail planning within each WP. But that will be done by each WP leader, and presented at our next meeting

10 List of actions

Summary of actions, from the previous text.

WP	Activity	Performer
WP 0	Arrange a separate page/entrance for this project, at the GISCO wiki	Ekkehard
WP 0	Arrange for testing of the Adobe tool for web based meetings	Ekkehard
WP 0	Provide a template for reviewing progress within each WP	Karin
WP 0	Send out doodles for meetings	Karin
WP 0	Send delivery plan to Eurostat	Karin
WP 0	Publish minutes from meetings	Karin and Monika/Anna
WP 0	Update Excel sheet with decisions from this meeting. Send to project group	Karin
WP 0	Update Excel sheet with WP planning	WP leaders
WP 1	Provide a first draft of the ESS-SGF, already at the EFGS conference in November 2017.	Statistics Sweden, all
WP 1	Statistics Netherland will lead a technical task team, with participation from Finland, Norway and Portugal.	Statistics Netherland
WP 1	Statistics Sweden will set up a precise dead line for the delivery of the technical task team in WP 1.	Statistics Sweden
WP 1	Statistics Sweden will lead a strategic task team, with participation from Austria, Norway, Estonia and Poland.	Statistics Sweden
WP 1	Put up doodle for meeting with OGS. Ekkehard, Marie and Vilni will participate	Vilni
WP 1	Send link to report from UNGGIM Europe WG B,	Pier-Giorgio

	about statistical and geospatial interoperability	
WP 2	Specify a plan for the work within WP 2	Statistics Norway
WP 2	Contact Eurostat WG on SDG indicators	Ekkehard
WP 3	Send information for calendar and news to Monika and Anna	All
WP 3	Propose a list of criteria on which the feasibility of migrating the website should be benchmarked	Monika/Anna
WP 3	Follow EFGS on Facebook and publish articles on the EFGS website after authors' acceptance.	Monika/Anna
WP 3	Put up new web site for GEOSTAT 3	Monika/Anna
WP 3	Send information about GEOSTAT 3, to be put on web site	Karin
WP 3	Publish information about GEOSTAT 2 on website	Monika/Anna
WP 3	Send information about GEOSTAT 2, to be put on web site	Karin
WP 3	Publish information about GEOSTAT 3 on website	Monika/Anna
WP 3	Arrange test space on CROS portal	Ekkehard
WP 3	Responsible for study about CROS portal	Monika/Anna
WP 3	Draft criteria to measure feasibility of the CROS portal to host EFGS web	Monika/Anna
WP 4	Conference 2017: Send suggestion of logo to EFGS steering committee, via Jerker	Dermot
WP 4	Conference 2017: Send suggestions of motto to Dermot	All
WP 4	Conference 2017: Send recommendation of hotel in Dublin, to project group	Dermot
WP 4	Conference 2017: Provide short text about conference, to be put on EFGS web site	Dermot
WP 4/0	Conference 2017: Arrange venue for project meeting in Dublin, October 31 2017	Dermot
WP 5	Start list with events and who is participating at them	Ingrid and Karin
WP 5	Provide general presentation about project, that can be used at different events	Jerker
WP 5	Propose other Eurostat projects to cooperate with	Ekkehard

THE GEOSTAT 3 PROJECT

Document
Minutes from meeting
Date
March 8, 2017

Side
17(17)

Notes by Karin Hedeklint

Name of project
GEOSTAT 3
