

UN-GGIM: Europe Future of GRF-Europe



UN-GGIM
EUROPE

UNITED NATIONS
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Markku Poutanen



Subcommittee on Geodesy (SCoG)



The UN Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its seventh session in August 2017 adopted decision 7/103, in which it

- a) endorsed the formal establishment and composition of the **Subcommittee on Geodesy**,
- b) agreed with the proposed terms of reference and transition plan, and
- c) encouraged Regional Committees of UN-GGIM to come forward with nominations, if yet to do so, particularly from developing countries.



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Subcommittee on Geodesy

- The vision for the Subcommittee on Geodesy is to provide an intergovernmental forum, with equitable regional representation, for cooperation and exchange of dialogue on issues relating to the maintenance, sustainability and enhancement of the GGRF
- The Subcommittee will work closely with the Regional UN-GGIM geodesy working groups, the national geodetic agencies and the global geodetic community to continue the implementation of the road map towards the vision and to ensure better utilization of GGRF geospatial datasets nationally, regionally and globally.
- An ongoing role is in the provision of geodetic expertise to the Committee of Experts and the broader intergovernmental community, especially relating to the Sustainable Development Goals, but also to hazards, the environment, peace and security, and economic development.



European participation on the SCoG

- The Sub-committee on Geodesy, SCoG, provides an intergovernmental forum, with equitable regional representation, for cooperation and exchange of dialogue on issues relating to the maintenance, enhancement and use of a Global Geodetic Reference Frame (GGRF).
- Countries representing Europe in SCoG (9): Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Spain, UK



Global Geodetic Reference Frame for Sustainable Development - the European Contribution: “GRF-Europe”

- Position Paper on the UN-GGIM: Europe Working Group: Geodetic Reference Frame (GRF-Europe)
- “*Ad hoc*” team to plan the future development and working plan for GRF Europe; discussion during autumn 2017 after the UN GGIM resolution on SCoG
- Changed situation, tasks of SCoG as well clarified, official representatives of regions in SCoG
- How all these will reflect on GRF-Europe?
- How to utilize the already existing infrastructure in Europe, especially EUREF



UN GA Resolution on GGRF

**UN Member
States**

UN- GGIM

**UN- GGIM:
Europe**

**Sub-committee
on geodesy**

**GRF-
Europe**

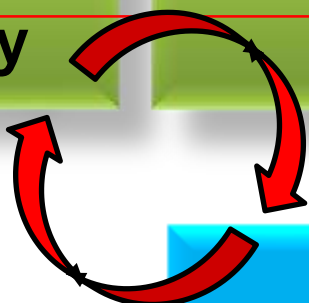
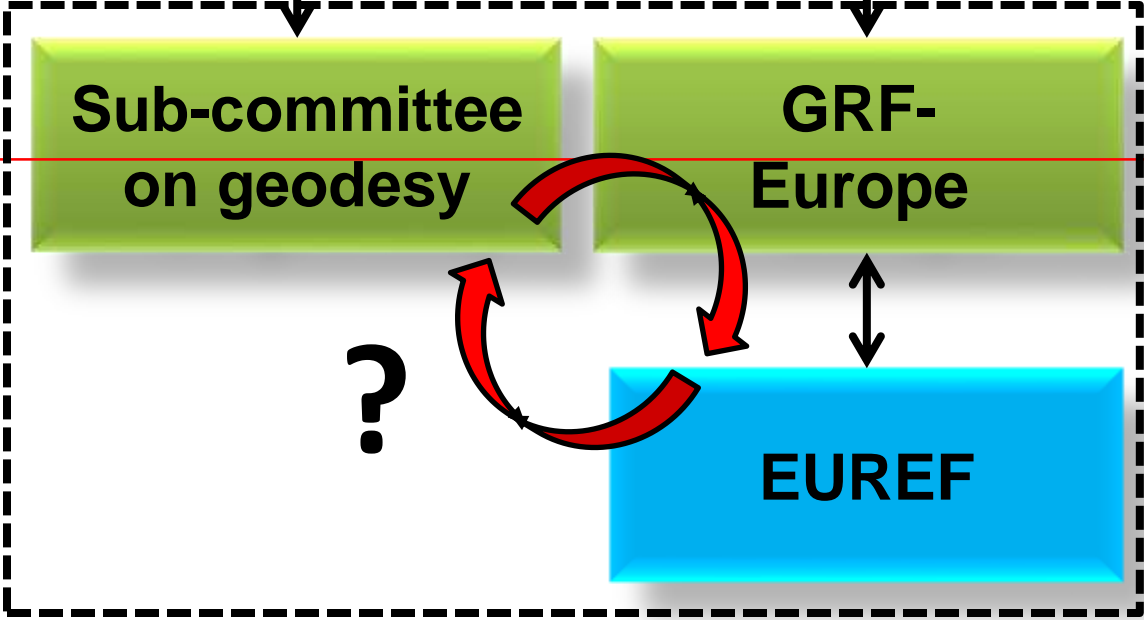
**Other regional
GRF groups**

?

EUREF

**Other European
georeferencing
organisations**

Policy making level
Expert level



EUREF

Reference Frame Sub Commission 1.3a for Europe of the International Association of Geodesy (IAG)

- The **IAG Sub-commission EUREF** is composed of representatives from **European IAG member countries**; annual symposium (plenary) and the Governing Board (GB)
- Links to about **130 European organizations**, agencies, universities from more than 35 countries – related to georeferencing, positioning, and navigation
- The **GB** is composed of members elected by the plenary, members in charge of special tasks and ex-officio members. Governance of EUREF activities and policy.
- Provides all of its products and services on the “best effort” basis and **free of charge** to the public



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EUREF as a regional entity

- Europe is more developed in terms of geodetic infrastructures and geodetic Core Sites than other parts of the world
- IAG Subcommittee EUREF is responsible for geodetic reference frames in Europe, running the permanent GNSS network which is the basis of European reference frame and link to the global frame
- EUREF has a liaison to many European or global organizations;
 - Partners: EUPOS, Eurogeographics, EUMETNET, CEGRN
 - Collaborations: IAG Services and working groups, ICG, FIG (Com.5), Wegener, ...
- National Mapping and Cadastre Authorities of 35 European Countries are participants in the Plenary of EUREF and 130 organizations in Europe are participating in the work of EUREF



SCoG and EUREF

- New role and action plans of SCoG
- Regional representation in SCoG exists with its new structure
- One of the very challenging tasks of the UNGGIM SCoG in developing the future work plan is to come up with a governance structure where Members States will be solicited for more actions, investments, commitments, and secure funding for geodesy.
- EUREF as a subcommission of IAG is already a part of this development, has expertise and access to key infrastructure, and experience to supervise the reference frames in Europe as well connections on the global level
- European NMAs are participating EUREF as a core part of it
- Many EUREF key persons are already involved with SCoG



Some summarising aspects

- EUREF role is mostly technical and scientific in nature.
- The role of a GRF Europe would also be technical in nature and would not have any influence on decision for investments, etc.
- The Subcommittee on Geodesy will come up with an implementation plan, including a governance mechanism;
- The Member States (including Europe) will be solicited for actions and investment in the **Global** geodetic infrastructure
- The SCoG will liaise with other international organisations that have an interest in the GGRF, including:
 - The Global Geodetic Observing System (GGOS), and the IAG services (IERS, IGS, ILRS, IVS, IDS, etc.) and associated entities (e.g. BIPM).
 - The Office for Outer Space Affairs as the executive secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG).



Discussion topics

- What will be the actual role and tasks for GRF-Europe in this new situation?
- Any space / tasks for it? Or motivation?
- EUREF is a unique organization in the world within regional geodetic entities, functioning already more than 25 years, doing the tasks regional UN GGIM expert groups on geodesy at the other parts of the world are expected to do
- Is it possible to define that EUREF represents the UN GGIM regional reference frame entity in Europe?
- If yes, what will be benefits, challenges, implications within UN GGIM: Europe and EUREF?
- If not, how to avoid duplication, who will do the job if not same people than within EUREF; how to contribute SCoG on expert-level issues; benefits?

