

Dear Colleague, Dear Friend, another year draws to a close. Already, unusually early, we have had snow in Brussels! Soon a new year will begin, a new year with no doubt some new challenges, new opportunities and new successes.

As I look back through another busy year for the [Association](#), and my own [organisation](#), I am struck by the very many changes that we have seen at both national and European level. Has there ever been a year when we have had to respond to so much change?

Sixteen of our [member organisations](#) are led now by people who at the start of the year were doing something else. I am sure you join with me in wishing each of them 'good fortune' with their new responsibilities.

We have also seen a 'new player' in the GI community in the form of the [UN-GGIM](#) initiative which can, I believe, have a positive impact for all of our members. I and your Board are committed to ensuring that your association 'EuroGeographics' assists all of its members in effective engagement between you, the geospatial experts of Europe, and this important initiative.

At our very enjoyable and hard-working [General Assembly](#) you gave us a clear message about the importance of the association's representation and lobbying activities and the benefits you gain from our Knowledge Exchange Networks. In response to this we have, in the last three months provided our first workshop on '[Funding Instruments for NMCAs](#)', held the first meeting of the [Emergency Management Knowledge Exchange Network \(KEN\)](#), the [Quality KEN](#) and the [INSPIRE KEN](#) have held a number of meetings, workshops and webinars. On 30th November the chair of the [Cadastre and Land Registry KEN](#), on my behalf signed, an agreement to work more closely with [ELRA](#), [EULIS](#) and the [PCC](#) in representing member's issues and interests

We have also changed, for the better I believe, the way we work with members to maintain, improve and licence our [pan-European products](#) based upon your national data. Thank you for supporting the new Framework Licence Agreement and adopting the new Freemium model and prices for our products. I am very pleased to see the many developments in coverage and improvement in the quality of our products. They are now, without doubt, the best and most authoritative small scale reference data products for Europe.

The many successes that the Association has achieved have, of course, only been possible because of the strong support and help of our still growing membership. Thank you for the important part you have played in it.

In closing this short note let me send 'the compliments of the season' to you and my wishes for a relaxing and enjoyable holiday with family and friends. And my hopes for all of us to have a peaceful and successful New Year in whatever activity we seek it.

Ingrid Vanden Berghe, EuroGeographics President

The 2012 General Assembly agreed that, in addition to the General Assembly held towards the end of the year, we will also hold an annual meeting of members, ideally attended by Permanent Correspondents. At this meeting the Knowledge Exchange Network Chairs, Production and Project Managers will report on their activities. We will ask members to approve the accounts, present applications for membership and provide a briefing on the issues to be presented at the 'Full' General Assembly. The meeting will be hosted by the Association and held in Brussels.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR 2013 DIARY

Annual Meeting of Members: Brussels, 11 - 12 June

General Assembly: Warsaw, 29 Sep – 2 Oct

You will find these and other [meetings announced on our website](#)

Looking ahead to 2013 I am already feeling excited by the prospect of starting the European Location Framework Project (E.L.F.) The E.L.F. is very important; it's not just another project. The E.L.F. is an essential component of EuroGeographics purpose. E.L.F. is fundamental to the purpose of EuroGeographics, the ambition of a European Spatial Data Infrastructure and the relevance of NMCA's outside of their country. I believe that successful delivery of the European Location Framework is fundamental to the continuing relevance of national mapping, cadastre and land registry authorities at a European and International level. Failure to deliver would leave the NMCAs 'on the side lines'. Our intention is that the E.L.F. will deliver the European Spatial data Infrastructure mandated by INSPIRE and be Europe's contribution to the UN's Global Map for Sustainable Development. (GM4SD).

Next year we will further improve the benefits members receive from our Knowledge Exchange Networks (KENS). We will for example change the focus of the Business Interoperability KEN (BiKEN) from helping the Association overhaul its pricing and licensing to focus more of its activities on helping members.

We will also further increase and improve our representation of our member's needs, capabilities, contributions and successes. It's going to be an exciting and rewarding year! I wish you a Happy New Year.

Dave Lovell, EuroGeographics Secretary General and Executive Director.



*Season's greetings
from EuroGeographics President, Executive Director & the Head Office Team.
Thank you for your interest, kind support and active cooperation, we are
looking forward to continue our work with and for you in 2013!*
