
Special issue: General Assembly 2012

General Assembly 2012 – another successful meeting of the EuroGeographics family



More than 140 delegates from more than 40 countries, Directors General, their advisors, speakers and guests attended the EuroGeographics 2012 General Assembly in Helsinki, hosted by the [National Land Survey Finland](#).

The theme of the General Assembly was: *'Connecting you to the definitive geo-information framework for Europe'*.

We were pleased to welcome representatives of our strategic partners like Open Geospatial Consortium, EuroSDR, European Environment Agency; EULIS, EUROGI, ELRA and guests from Land Registry Great Britain, State Committee on Property Issues and State Committee of Land and Cartography Azerbaijan.

We were proud to welcome high profile speakers as Aho Esko, former Prime Minister of Finland. Executive Vice President Nokia and Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School; Professor Paul Cheung, United Nations Director of Statistics; Gunter Schäfer, Head of Unit E4 in Eurostat, European Commission; Tim Haigh,

European Environment Agency (EEA). At the same time we are pleased about the involvement of more members to speak to their peers and bring attention to their own use cases; so the presentations given by Bence Toronyi, Director General of the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FOMI) in Hungary, Henrik Studsgaard National Survey and Cadastre (KMS) in Denmark, Tomaz Petek, Senior Adviser for International Cooperation at the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and Elita Baklāne-Ansberga, Director General of The State Land Service Latvia were appreciated and scored highly by the audience.

Round Table sessions enabling discussions of our members on common topics were again more and more popular. We were very pleased by the interest and active engagement of our members during this session on Day 1 and Day 2 of the assembly.

Our General Assembly offers the opportunity to all of us to meet friends or make new ones, discuss with peers and with the Head Office Team different topics and issues – for this we had great conditions created by our hosts. Besides of professional hard work and topics we could discover and enjoy the great Finnish cuisine, culture and welcoming approach.

I would like to thank very much the team of Arvo Kokkonen, especially to Heli Ursin for the perfect organization of our General Assembly. And I thank the speakers for their presentations and all attendees for their contributions to business each day and the social activities

In this issue you will find a review of the General assembly with the links to the presentations, minutes and Round Table session summaries. I hope you will enjoy the reading!

Dave Lovell Secretary General and Executive Director

EuroGeographics General Assembly Review:



The theme of this year's General Assembly was 'Connecting you to the definitive geo-information framework for Europe'. The key messages were:

- Implementing the European Location Framework to improve access to Member's national data sources;
- Geo-Information the local to global dimension and
- A stronger association performing an increasingly important role, delivering valuable benefits for members and society

This year's General assembly was the first regular assembly of EuroGeographics AISBL. EuroGeographics President Ingrid Vanden Berghe opened the General

Assembly and welcomed all participants together with Arvo Kokkonen, new Director General of the National Land Survey Finland. The festive event was addressed by the Secretary of State, Risto Artjoki, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, in charge of the national policy for cadastre, geodetic works and national mapping.

Keynote speakers and guests brought their views on the major theme 'Connecting you to the definitive geo-information framework for Europe' from different perspectives and points of view.

Aho Esko, former Prime Minister of Finland. Executive Vice President Nokia explored the role of mobile technologies and global digital resources, for growth, welfare and better social conditions.

He believes that Europe urgently needs a single digital market, under a single market act. His personal view is that governments should pay for basic infrastructure and services and make them free to users, in order to stimulate economic growth. For Europe to be the leaders in the market, governments have to take the risk. He urged people to take this risk together, as collaboration will make us stronger.



'Changes, challenges and celebrations' was the title of the EuroGeographics 2011 Review presented by the President Ingrid Vanden Berghe. She was very pleased to report the vast majority of the operating goals set in the General Assembly 2011 were or would be successfully completed by the end of the year. She highlighted the importance of EuroGeographics' shared role with Eurostat to report to the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) initiative on European geo-information management developments.

She reported that EuroGeographics' proposal to the Commission for funding to implement the first phase of the European Location Framework (E.L.F.) was 'on track' and the agreement with the European Environment Agency (EEA) to support the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Emergency Management Service had been realised and was progressing well.



More details of her report highlighting the main achievements and results of the work of the association since the last General assembly is available on [our web page](#).

Professor Paul Cheung, United Nations Director of Statistics, gave the key note speech on [The United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management](#) (UN-GGIM) Initiative and encouraged all National Mapping, Cadastre & Land Registry Authorities to take

concrete steps to implement the idea of the UN-GGIM Initiative. He presented the view that EuroGeographics as the voice of the European NMCAs is the best partner in this. Paul Cheung's presentation was followed by presentations on UN-GGIM in Europe and the role of Eurostat in geo-information by Gunter Schäfer, Head of Unit ESTAT E4, and future trends in geospatial information management: the five to ten year vision was given by Vanessa Lawrence CB, Director General Ordnance Survey, EuroGeographics Management Board Member, Co-Chair of UN-GGIM Committee of Experts.

Our members are actively involved in the **Emergency Mapping for the GMES [Emergency Management Services](#)**. Tim Haigh from the European Environment Agency provided them with a clear picture of the importance of using NMCA data in Emergency Mapping.

The [Geodetic](#), [Cadastral](#) and [Mapping](#) perspective of the European Location Framework was presented by Hansjorg Kutterer – General Director of BKG Germany and Management Board member, Lidija Krstevska, Advisor and Management Board member, FYROM and Pascal Berteaud. General Director of IGN France.

Market Metrics In September last year EuroGeographics appointed ConsultingWhere to conduct an in-depth market study into the pan-European geospatial information market. The report was approved by Management Board in April and has been made available to members. Andy Coote Director of ConsultingWhere presented the [results of the market study](#) reflecting on what EuroGeographics and its members can learn from the outcomes.

Peter ter Haar, Director of Products Ordnance Survey, explained how EuroGeographics Management Board is [responding to the findings of the market study](#). The market study provided valuable input to the re-pricing work. Management Board approved the new pricing model at their meeting in July.

Peer to peer presentations One of the most appreciated contributions based on your feedback was the session, where our members presented their use cases, views, issues and challenges to their colleagues. This year we could listen to [Bence Toronyi](#), Director General of the Institute of Geodesy, Cartography and Remote Sensing (FOMI) in Hungary, [Henrik Studsgaard](#) National Survey and Cadastre (KMS) in Denmark, [Tomaz Petek](#), Senior Adviser for International Cooperation at the Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia and [Elita Baklāne-Ansberga](#), Director General of The State Land Service Latvia.



Based on the very positive feedback we will invite more members to come with their presentations during the next General Assemblies.

Round Table discussions: Based on the very positive feedback and comments after the 2011 General Assembly EuroGeographics Head Office Team together with EuroGeographics President and Vice President, product and project managers, the chairs of the Knowledge Exchange



Networks and invited Permanent Correspondents prepared the EuroGeographics Experience in two sessions, split in two days, each with four topics, so that members had more time to get familiar with them and have enough space for discussion. The interest to get more information and discuss the crucial topics was obvious and we were pleased that this part of the General assembly turns stepwise to a big Knowledge Exchange Network of all Directors General! The outcomes from the Round table sessions are summarised in a separate document which is available on [our website](#).

The formal Business. Dave Lovell, EuroGeographics Secretary General and Executive Director presented the Financial report to the 2012 General Assembly and outlined the 2013 Operating Plan, Accounts, Budget and Subscriptions were also agreed for the coming year. Changes to the General Assembly were approved.

The interest to become a member of our association is still continuing, we are receiving applications from regional bodies as well. During the year EuroGeographics will look for a solution, how to include them in our community and activities. This year the application of Istituto Geografico Militare Italiano to become a Full member was approved.

New Management Board members. Due to the articles of our association 3 new members of the Management Board and the President have been elected. The following candidates were voted onto Management Board:

Ingrid Vanden Berghe



National Geographic Institute Belgium, who was as well re-elected as our President for the next two years

Elita Baklāne-Ansberga



State Land Service Latvia;

Tomaz Petek



Surveying and Mapping Authority of the Republic of Slovenia

Congratulations to our new Management Board members and to our re-elected President, we wish all of them a lot of success in their responsible work and are looking forward to cooperate closely!

Looking forward to 2013. At the end of the Formal business Mr. Kazimierz Bujakowski, Head of the Office of Geodesy and Cartography in Poland invited all EuroGeographics members to the next General Assembly, which will be held 29 September – 2 October in Warsaw, Poland.

The General assembly minutes, presentations, summary of the Round Table discussions are available on [EuroGeographics website](#) in the Members only section. After logging in you can access them.

Closing words: What to say just before closing another chapter of our Association? Very many thanks dear hosts and organizers for the great time we could spend in your beautiful country, thanks for the great atmosphere and perfect arrangements for the whole event, amazing social programme and all your care. We left Helsinki with the best impressions.

Patricia Sokacova, Membership Management and Communications