



# EUROGI REPORT ON THE MISSION TO ATHEN



March 28-31, 2007 in Cape Sounio near to Athens, Greece

## REPORT ON THE MISSION TO ATHEN

Taking part on the Joint Workshop and Conference of the UN Economic Commission for Europe and the FIG COM3 “Spatial Data Management” between March 28-31, 2007 in Cape Sounio near to Athens, Greece representing EUROGI WAG IA and UN SDI Hungarian Coordination Office/HUNAGI

The travel related costs were shared between HUNAGI (transport) and EUROGI (accommodation).

The two consecutive events were well attended: about 200 participants from 45 countries. The represented countries show high relevance from the EUROGI WAG IA’s target areas point of view.

<p><i>Attendees from the European Neighbour Countries</i></p> <p>Albania Armenia Azerbaijan Belarus Bosnia and Herzegovina Croatia Georgia Kosova Russia Serbia Montenegro Turkey</p>	<p><i>Attendees from other countries of the European Economic Area</i></p> <p>Austria Belgium Denmark Germany Iceland Ireland The Netherlands Norway Sweden Switzerland UK</p>
<p><i>Attendees from Central and Eastern European EU member countries</i></p> <p>Bulgaria Czech Republic Cyprus Hungary Latvia Lithuania Poland Romania Slovak Republic</p>	<p><i>Attendees from another Mediterranean countries:</i></p> <p>Greece Lebanon Israel Italy Spain</p>
<p><i>Attendees from Central Asia:</i></p> <p>Kyrgyz Republic</p>	<p><i>Attendees from Africa:</i></p> <p>Democratic Republic of Congo Nigeria</p>
<p><i>Attendees from other countries:</i></p> <p>Australia Canada New Zealand Pakistan United States</p>	<p><i>International organisations</i></p> <p>UNECE, Geneva The World Bank, Washington DC FIG, Copenhagen EUROGI, Lisbon</p>

Based on the preliminary discussion within WAG IA team and taking into account the guidance of the Secretary General Joao Geirinhas, the primary goal of the mission was to inform the attendees on the Africa-Europe Alignment project initiative and use the opportunity to make awareness raising during the formal and informal events on the activity of EUROGI WAG IA with special emphasis on the possible expansion of the AEI programme towards the European Neighbourhood Countries.

This primary goal seems to be successfully achieved:

1) The EUROGI WAG IA message has been incorporated into the keynote speech entitled *Multi level networking in SDI implementation for supporting land development and real estate markets*.

Co-authors Bruce McCormack and Roger Longhorn were introduced. Cover slide and all consecutive ones hold the logos of EUROGI and the UNSDI Hungarian Coordination Office. The 30 minute presentation gave an overview on the



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concept, approach, participants and objectives of the AESI-Align proposal, emphasizing the anticipated Eastern European link. This project proposal of WG IA was illustrating the *inter-regional networking in SDI*. As *cross border SDI networking* the Tisza Development Program initiated by the HUNAGI member Ihlet Pbc was introduced, the content of which greatly matched the Workshop topic with its planned survey and register of illegal settlements in the Tisza water catchment area belonging to 2 EU25, 1 EU27 and 2 European Neighbour countries. On *national level networking* HUNAGI was introduced, on *regional/European level* EUROGI was presented, while the *global level SDI-related networking* GSDI Association and the United Nations' Spatial Data Infrastructure (UNSDI) initiative were highlighted. As driver in the EU the INSPIRE legislative framework-related roadmap was mentioned. The conclusion bullets were as follow:

- SDI is effective tool to support sustainable development, strengthen economic growth and societal stability
- Core spatial data and related services are directly linked with lands and properties
- NSDI in the ENC's should be developed in line with the INSPIRE
- Cross border SDI developments should be encouraged and supported
- Professional societies (FIG Com3) and interdisciplinary GI associations such as EUROGI and GSDI should gain synergy by collaboration
- NGIAs of ENC's join to EUROGI to harvest the benefits learned on European level and from cross-regional SDI related alignment spirited by the INSPIRE legislative framework [www.eurogi.org](http://www.eurogi.org)
- NGIAs of ENC's join to GSDI to harvest the benefits learned on global level [www.gsdi.org](http://www.gsdi.org)
- Stakeholders in ENC's should form National Coordination Offices in line with the UNSDI Strategy [www.ungiwg.org](http://www.ungiwg.org)

Finally, I made an awareness call of the Workshop on „A Multi-view framework to assess National SDI” will be held in Wageningen between 23-25 May, highlighting the discussed topics including generational, system/program evaluation, performance based management, clearinghouse suitability, cadastral, organisational, SDI-readiness and performance measurement.

The session was chaired by FIG COM3 Chair Dr. Chryssy Potsiou, main organiser of the whole event. The full presented version is downloadable at [www.unsdi.hu](http://www.unsdi.hu), from blogspot of March 26 or from the source given in the Appendix.

2) The breaks and the less formal lunch and dinner provided excellent opportunity for face-to-face discussions and exchange of views in the EUROGI WAG IA and Tisza Development Program context including talks with:

Mr. Michael J. Kunz, Associate Economic Affairs Officer UNECE Environment, Housing, Land Management Division  
Ms. Doris Andoni Chairwoman of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management actually Director of Housing Policy Dept of the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Telecom in *Albania*  
US expert Mr. Keefe John resident in *Albania*  
Mr. Sergei Shavrov, Director General National Cadastre Agency, *Belorus*  
Ms. Nadia Jokhadze, Deputy Head of the Office for Research and Technology (responsible for the FP7): *Georgia*  
Mr. David Egiashvili Director, Professional Consulting Group *Georgia*  
Ahadov Divanxan Rashid Deputy Director Institute of Land use planning, *Azerbaijan Republic*  
Mr. Joseph Nassif Lecturer, Digital image processing and GPS, Islamic University, *Lebanon*  
Dr. Khaled Nabbout Project Coordinator *Lebanon order of Surveyor,s TUDresden, Germany*  
Messrs. Csaki Marian Director, National Geodetic Fund and Botond József Rákossy Dept. General Manager, National Agency for Cadastre and Land Registration, *Romania*  
Ass. Prof. Rahmi Nurhan Celik, Vice Dean, Istanbul Technical University, *Turkey*  
Ms. Anna Georgieva, Operations officer of the World Bank in *Bulgaria*  
Mr. Jean-Luc Horisberger GTZ Expert, resident in *Bosnia and Herzegovina*  
Quemajl Kadiri, Head Cadastral Unit, Kosova Cadastral Agency, *UN/Kosova*  
Mr. Bronislovas Mikuta, Head of Int'l Relations, State Enterprise Centre of Registers, *Lithuania*  
Ms. Victoria Stanley, Operations officer for Europe and Central Asia, ECSSD, *The World Bank*  
Dr. Bambi Giampiero University La Sapienza, *Italy*  
Mr. Gerhard Muggenhuber, former Chair of FIG COM3, BEV Int'l Relations, *Austria*  
Ass. Prof. Reinfried Mansberger University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, *Austria*  
Christian Graefen, GTZ, *Germany*  
*Off-line (by follow-on correspondence):* Elena Bejenaru, Director, Housing policy and European Integration, Agency of Construction and Territorial Development, *Moldova*



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They are looking for additional information in EUROGI WAG IA, AESI-Align and/or Tisza DP. Direct assistance was offered some partners. Based my recommendation, Ihlet's Project Manager Mr. Bela Jarolic has invited some of the experts to the Tisza Development Plan Workshop held in the European Parliament in Brussels, scheduled for 23-25 May, 2007.

Donor organisations from France (IGN International), Germany (GTZ), The Netherlands (Duch Kadastre) and Norway (Statens Kartverk) were represented

3) In my capacity as representative of EUROGI and HUNAGI, I had the opportunity to chair the technical/scientific session of FIG COM3 devoted to the applications of novel technologies (including lidar) in the detecting and monitoring informal settlements

4) It is notable that in the gala dinner I was invited to the FIG – UNECE WPLA Director's round table having the opportunity to exchange views with FIG President Prof. Stig Enemark, Executive Director Markku Villikka, Former FIG President Robert W. Foster, Host Chryssy Potsiou, WPLA Chair Peter Creuzer (Head, Agency for Geoinformation, Land Development and Real Estate, Niedersachsen, Germany) and Elena Szolgayová, Director, Housing Policy Dept., Ministry of Construction and Regional Development in Slovak Republic.

5) FIG COM3 has a Working Group devoted to SDI co-chaired by Paul Kelly and Prof. Hartmut Müller from Mainz University. The activities are related to the megacities. A workplan have been formulated by Robin McLaren. My contribution in the brainstorming on the methodology to be applied was well received and Mr. Kelly expressed his pleasure on the established EUROGI/GSDI link to his WG. Hungary (Dr. Szabolcs Mihály and me) will keep close contact with the team. The next COM3WG2 meeting on SDI will be in Valencia in September.

In the general discussion of the UNECE WPLA discussion on the Informal settlements: real estate market needs related to good land administration & planning, I emphasized the necessity of the transparency by visualisation and access to information, whereas spatial data infrastructure and services on local and national level are enabling tools.

Illegal developments and settlements are caused dominantly by urbanisation, migration, post-conflict and disasters situations. The global, regional and local perspectives of illegal settlements were summarized by Doris Andoni. Legalising is the golden rule? There is a difference between illegal developments (e.g. Norway along the fjords, Greece in the coastal zones) and illegal settlements (e.g. South Africa, Israel), which needs different measures and tools. Temporal dimension is also crucial added Helge Onsrud from Norway.

The housing and land management is surely one of the major application where SDI plays important role in the policy planning, implementation and control having direct impact on economy, social life and environment. A link between UNECE and UNECA in this field facilitated by EUROGI and FIG could bring synergy and acceleration. Even the actions to be done related to the illegal settlements are common problems in Africa, Middle East and Eastern Europe, but even Norway is affected.

The original African/Europe focus of the AESI-Align should be extended with the view to incorporate Eastern Europe as beneficiary target area for the experience outreach. Such a possible expansion was received with interest by many of my talk partners.

Acknowledgements are given for the helpful assistance and contributions to:

EUROGI Joao Geirinhas and Prof. Mauro Salvemini, GSDI Jarmo Ratia and Prof. Harlan Onsrud

UN SDI Jelle U. Hielkema, DG JRC Alessandro Annoni, FÖMI Szabolcs Mihály, IHLET PBC Béla Jarolic, Ádám Podolcsák and Vivien Gyuris as well as DLAG/MoARD Gábor Horváth and Sándor Tóth

Gabor Remetey-Fülöpp  
Director, EUROGI WAG IA  
Secretary General, HUNAGI

Final  
April 22, 2007



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### Appendix

EUROGI-UN SDI HUCO keynote presentation on "Multi-level Networking in SDI implementation" at the Opening session is downloadable (2.1 MB) here:

<http://www.fomi.hu/hunagi/pdf/2004/RemeteyFIGfinal.pdf>

Further information on the FIG Com 3 activities:

FIG COMM 3 Workshop agenda:

<http://www.fomi.hu/hunagi/pdf/2004/FIGC3.doc>

FIG COMM 3 WorkPlan:

<http://www.fomi.hu/hunagi/pdf/2004/FIGC3wp.doc>

The FIG Hong Kong event details:

<http://www.fomi.hu/hunagi/pdf/2004/HK1.doc>

The FIG Commission 3 chaired by Dr. Chryssy Poutsiou has a Working Group devoted to Spatial Data Infrastructure. The WG held an formal meeting, whereas Working Plan has been been discussed. The Hungarian participant of the workshop accepted the invitation to take part in the activities lead by Paul Kelly from Australia and Professor of the Mainz University Dr. Hartmut Müller. Dr Szabolcs Mihaly was also invited to the actions. The topic Spatial Information toward Managing Mega Cities drafted.

**FIG COM3 Workplan for 2007-2010 - accepted by the last FIG Congress held in Munich 8-13 October 2007 – explicitly contains the co-operation with the European Umbrella Organisation for Geographic Information (EUROGI), GSDI Association and UN FAO.**

Photographic coverages on the event and people:

<http://www.fomi.hu/hunagi/pdf/2004/photos/persons/FIGWPLAp/index.html>

Forthcoming WPLA events:

23-24 May, 2007 Land Consolidation, Munich

26-28 September, 2007 Registering the World, Dublin [www.prai.ie](http://www.prai.ie)

addressing the fundamental change in the business: WPLA, EULIS, ELRA. Linked Conferences as satellite events: Australasia Conference and Canadian Registrars' Conference

Forthcoming FIG events

FIG Working Week Hong Kong May 12-17 2007

FIG COM3 Workshop SI in Environmental Management of Mega Cities .Valencia January 2008

FIG Regional Conference, Coastal Zones Management Costa Rica, 12-15 November 2007

FIG Working Week Stockholm May 2008, whereas COM3 will contribute a 2-day seminar on "Improving slums"

COM3 Workshop tbd.

FIG Working Week Israel 2009

FIG Congress Australia 2010

Details: [www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net) homepage

FIG COM3 Programme booklet  
HUCO presentation

Cover slide of the EUROGI-UNSDI

