

EuroGeographics AISBL

Management Board Report to the 2023 General Assembly

Summary of the report

This report presents the main activities of EuroGeographics since the last General Assembly, in May 2022.

The period was marked by:

- ⇒ Reconnection of members face-to-face at the General Assembly in Sarajevo.
- ⇒ A record engagement level from members at all levels in terms of knowledge exchange, with the reintroduction of face-to-face meetings and hybrid events which complement the continuing online webinar programme.
- ⇒ Intensification of representation activities and the first event held in the European Parliament for 5 years.
- ⇒ A letter of collaboration between the United Nations Statistics Division and EuroGeographics to advance knowledge exchange, enabling the sharing of good practice and experiences with other regions beyond Europe.
- ⇒ The successful continuation and completion of the OME project which has enabled a significant number of users to access authoritative, harmonised pan-European open data.
- ⇒ Successful OME2 bid under the Digital Europe funding programme, which not only allows for the continuation of the OME platform, but enables EuroGeographics and its member to prototype the creation of large scale, pan-European, harmonised HVD under an open licence
- ⇒ The delivery of the Eurostat contract and the renegotiation of a new four-year contract for the delivery of EuroBoundaryMap, which includes a programme of Knowledge Exchange activities to support the OME2 aims.
- ⇒ A successful second contract negotiated with eGEOS to increase the access of members' data to the Copernicus services, specifically Land and Security, and to ensure user needs of the EEA are being incorporated into EuroGeographics' data strategy.
- ⇒ Continued work on the long-term financial sustainability of EuroGeographics

Details can be found in this report and also in the 2022 Annual Review and the 2022 Highlights sent out to all members in December 2022. Both are available on the [EuroGeographics website](https://eurogeographics.org/).

Focused on our vision, delivering our strategy

EuroGeographics is an independent, international, not-for-profit organisation that is proud to be the voice of European National Mapping, Cadastral and Land Registry Authorities (NMCAs). Our strategy for the period 2020-2023 was approved at the October 2020 General Assembly.

The 2020-2023 strategy is driven by our vision for **a society empowered by the use of your trusted geospatial information**. There is a focus on facilitating access to your data that will drive our representation activity and be supported by two-way communication through our knowledge exchange and other membership activities.

Our activities are structured to align with the strategic priorities and are supported by transversal activities. They are designed to meet the needs of all our members and to support you in facilitating access to your geospatial information to drive applications that realise economic, social, and environmental benefits, as well as quicker, more efficient, and reliable land registration and administration. The successful delivery of our strategy is dependent upon our financial plans, our communications, and our people.

In 2023, EuroGeographics will continue to deliver its three fundamental pillars of activity: Knowledge Exchange, Representation, and Data Activity, for the benefit of members. We will, however, see a shift in our strategic focus and messaging to further position EuroGeographics as an enabler that allows users and key stakeholder easy access to your data. This is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Association.

OME2, which started in January 2023, is key and underpins not only our data strategy but also our programme of knowledge exchange and representation.

OME2 builds on the success of the Open Maps For Europe Project by developing a production process and prototype for harmonised large-scale, high-value pan-European open datasets. It will therefore meet user expectations and needs aligned with Open Data and Re-use of Public Sector Information Directive, the evolution of the INSPIRE Directive, and the opening of High Value Data.

To achieve its aims, we are merging all three pillars of our activity, with an emphasis on promoting the uses and demonstrating the value of your high value data, while also showcasing your knowledge and expertise in this area.

Investment in OME2, which is co-funded by the European Union, will prove the concept that authoritative large-scale high value data can be combined to make a pan-European harmonised edge-matched datasets using a defined process and specialised tools.

However, once OME2 is completed, we cannot continue to expand its outcomes by bidding for further EU funding, which typically involves applying for new projects every few years. As project grants cover only 50 to 75% of our costs, it is clear we cannot commit to the significant on-going additional investment required from EuroGeographics and its members.

During the three-year project, we will therefore create a dialogue to reposition EuroGeographics from data producer to data enabler with key stakeholders. Our message will be, that at the end of the OME2 project, we will provide the infrastructure and tools to enable users to access members' high value authoritative data, and create pan-European datasets in the future. Our aim is to handover the outcomes, the process and the tools, to members, partners or key stakeholders who wish to use them to fund and create pan-European, harmonised, edge matched High Value Data in the future.

While we will continue to create small and medium scale pan-European datasets, our role will evolve to a data enabler. Our data activities will continue, but they will be focused on your data, knowledge and providing expertise – the core roles and purpose of a membership association.

This document is the Management Board's report to the General Assembly, as required by the Articles of Association.

1. Transversal operational activities: membership engagement, and communication update on activities since May 2022

A. Membership Engagement

Our membership covers most of geographical Europe and our activities are focussed on delivering benefits for each regardless of the geographical, technical, political, organisational, linguistic, and business parameters in which they work.

Membership of EuroGeographics is open to any national body in geographical Europe responsible for geodetic surveying, topographic mapping, cadastre, and land registration. We currently represent over 90% of the organisations responsible for these activities, which demonstrates the importance members place on being part of the European NMCA community, as well as on investing in opportunities for knowledge exchange and capacity-building. In autumn 2022, the Federal Service for State Registration, Cadastre and Cartography (Rosreestr) withdrew its membership from the association. The Malta Land Registry and Belarus are currently in abeyance, and we hope to welcome them back to full membership in the future.

Whilst we cover most of geographical Europe, we are never complacent about delivering value to our members¹. We are committed to providing new ways of encouraging every member to contribute and cooperate so that they gain maximum benefit from their membership.

Operating through the COVID-19 pandemic opened up new possibilities of engagement through the webinar series. We built on this successful programme in the period since the last General Assembly and that has allowed over 2400 different individuals from our member organisations to attend, communicate and exchange. We foster multi-layered engagement on the following platforms:

- ⇒ Webinars for members that allow for knowledge exchange between colleagues at a technical level.
- ⇒ KEN meetings.
- ⇒ Events that allow for meeting and communication further than the sole NMCA communities.
- ⇒ Meetings of peers using the newly introduced 'Talking Heads' programme.
- ⇒ A series of one-on-one meetings such as the SG&ED's virtual meetings with Heads.
- ⇒ Constant monitoring of information and legislation evolution, with weekly updates.

These different levels of engagement can bear fruit and several invitations to strengthen and deepen the relationship between the member organisations and EuroGeographics were received (e.g., EuroGeographics President was invited to give a presentation at the dual Jubilee celebrations for 95 years of Geodetic Surveying and 75 years of Geodetic Administration in the Republic of Northern Macedonia; the SGED was invited to give a presentation at the Regional conference of Western Balkans in Slovenia and at the Day of Geoinformation organized by swisstopo in Switzerland). EuroGeographics is always open to requests of support from our members and are willing to extend this activity to meet members' needs and requirements.

B. Communication

Our corporate messaging has been refined to reflect the shift in strategic focus from data producer to data enabler. Communications build upon the strong EuroGeographics brand, visible profile and credible reputation.

Activities are an extension of EuroGeographics' core values of collaboration and cooperation across a multi-national network, its member-driven culture of professionalism, and its commitment to operating in an open, transparent and ethical way to maintain a helpful and supportive network for our members.

Our membership communications programme is designed to engage with members to keep them up-to-date with the Association's response to issues impacting their work. We are proud to represent the European NMCA

¹ EuroGeographics is founded on a strong culture of collaboration, cooperation and mutual respect. On 8 March 2022, the Board carefully evaluated the impact that current military operations from Russia in Ukraine are having on the functioning of the association, (statement available [here](#)).

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

community and continue to embrace opportunities to promote its importance through events, social media, and meetings.

Our external communications' aims are twofold: supporting our members by distributing their messages through our networks and supporting our representation, knowledge exchange, and data activities by highlighting the importance of geospatial data. Communication is a tool for the members' expertise to be acknowledged and their voices heard.

Open Maps for Europe	The Open Maps for Europe project is incorporated into our communications in a way that is consistent with our corporate branding and keeps our messaging clear and unambiguous. We use #OpenMapsForEurope which complements our corporate #MapsForEurope. The Open Maps for Europe section of our website was updated to reflect the project progress.
OME2	A communications strategy and plan was delivered for the OME2 project to ensure consistency with our corporate messaging. We will continue to use the established #OpenMapsForEurope.
Website Management	<p>The Head Office team regularly updates the website with news, events, and exclusive content for members, such as the archive of material from the members' webinars. We continue to take every opportunity to promote the exclusive members-only content which is a key benefit of membership.</p> <p>The management and updates of the website have increasingly been brought in house in order to build internal capacity and to reduce costs.</p> <p>We have updated and modernised the homepage to create more impact. The look and feel continues to complement our corporate visual language with updates to the typography and the addition of further colours to the corporate palette. The work took place within the existing maintenance contract.</p>
Members' Newsletter	The members' newsletter is published every two weeks and focuses on the activities of the network.
External Newsletter	<p>Three editions of the Messenger Newsletter, which primarily targets external stakeholders, were issued.</p> <p>We continue to receive new subscribers as a result of its ongoing promotion.</p>
Events	<p>We participated in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNGGIM12 9th Plenary of UN-GGIM: Europe UN World Geospatial Information Congress 2022 Permanent Committee on Cadastre in the European Union Conferences (PCC) organised by Cadastre and Land Registry (CLR KEN) Knowledge Exchange Network together with the French and Czech PCC Presidencies. Iberian Conference on Spatial Data Infrastructures (JIIDE) EuroCarto 2022 14th Regional Conference on Cadastre and SDI BeGeo Jubilee conference of Agency for Real Estate Cadastre (AREC), North Macedonia. Cambridge Conference Geospatial World Forum 2022

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

	FIG Congress 2022
Annual Review	The Annual Review provides a high-level overview of activities and showcases our members' contributions to national and international initiatives to demonstrate the value of their data and services. The 2022 Annual Review will be published online to coincide with the 2023 GA. It includes case studies from 29 members and incorporates our Highlights document published at the end of 2022.
Media Communications	<p>We continue to increase the number of press releases issued, taking care to ensure that we add meaningful and valuable contributions to current debates. Coverage was received on a wide range of topics, including responses to policy proposals and announcements, the new MOU with UN-GGIM, and partnership with the EEA.</p> <p>Press releases were also issued for the 'Open Maps for Europe' project, including the announcement of the release of the open cadastral map prototype and data updates.</p> <p>All are available on the website and members are encouraged to share these news releases with their own national contacts.</p>
Social Media	<p>To support our increased social media activity, we have recruited a Public Relations Assistant (Internship) who has planned and implemented a number of campaigns, including the #WhereInEurope quiz, which uses data from Open Maps For Europe. We have also launched an Instagram account.</p> <p>We continue to increase our following on social media, which is an important channel that enables direct engagement with stakeholders., and we continue to create imagery to increase the visual impact of our messaging.</p> <p>Members case studies are promoted using #MoreThanMaps.</p> <p>For the 'Open Maps for Europe' project, we use #OpenMapsForEurope which provides continuity for our well-established corporate hashtag - #MapsForEurope and acts as an elevator pitch leading to more in-depth conversations.</p> <p>We count a number of official followers on social media from the European Commission, United Nations, private companies, regional organisations, and individuals from the geospatial, software development and European policy sectors.</p>

2. Strategic Priority: Representation - update on activities since May 2022

EuroGeographics represents members' interests internationally in Europe and globally to ensure that your roles, capabilities and concerns are understood.

A. Europe

The European Union is a significant influencer and stakeholder whose policies affect all our members' interests, even when their country is not an EU member. Active monitoring and representation of European Policies continued throughout last year to ensure our members were aware of, followed and influenced significant policy developments where they affected their interests. These included:

- ⇒ Tracking, evaluating, and reporting to our members on wide breadth of policy developments.
- ⇒ In-depth evaluation of Commission's releases founded on the European Strategy for data aiming to create a single market for data, such as the Data Governance Act, the Digital Service Act, Digital Markets Act, and Data Act proposal.

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

- ⇒ Submitted EuroGeographics' feedback on the Commission proposal on the Implementing Regulation on High-value Datasets (HVD). We underlined that the full implementation could be achieved only as a joint vision and action of policymakers, data holders (NMCAs), and data users.
- ⇒ Submitted EuroGeographics' opinion on the Commission proposal for the revision of the existing Regulation on European statistics, highlighting that geospatial data is a key factor/component in the statistics framework and should be further mentioned in the Regulation.
- ⇒ Held a dedicated webinar with DG CNNECT on HVD Regulation during the consultation period. This was a good example of a coordinated approach between Commission and NMCAs. Many of our suggestions were followed up and now when we have the final text published in the Official Journal (OJ) we may say that is much more flexible and in favour of NMCAs.
- ⇒ Towards the revision of the INSPIRE Directive, we are actively involved in the preparation phase and closely engaging with DG ENV.
- ⇒ Towards understanding data spaces – following the recent inauguration of Data Spaces Support Centre, actions towards close monitoring of this development in full force,

After a long time, a physical Policy Knowledge exchange (PoKEN) meeting took place in our Brussels office. It was a comprehensive overview and discussion on the existing policies and their impact to NMCAs, followed with selection of the priority topics to be moved on in 2023, such as EU Interoperability Act and mobility package.

European Representation activities were divided into two main parts: Creating new contacts and strengthening current relationships. Exchanges were made with stakeholders from several EU bodies: DG CLIMA, DG ECHO, CoR, DG RTD, JRC, DIGIT, DG MOVE, Frontex, CINEA, HaDEA, EUESPA, EEA, the European Parliament (MEPs and assistants), and National Representations to the EU (Council of the EU). Some of them were engaged in EuroGeographics' actions such as the event organised at the European Parliament or webinars (artificial intelligence workshop, members' webinar series) and/or one on one meetings. This process is to be continued and new opportunities are to be created to enhance EuroGeographics' position as a trustworthy and well-respected partner in the European environment.

The European Parliament event was co-organised by EuroGeographics (Head Office Team) and hosted at the by Cristian Busoi, MEP and chairman of ITRE Committee of the European Parliament. It commenced with a networking opportunity for EuroGeographics' members and stakeholders from European institutions. The main part of the event was a vivid debate that demonstrated the contribution of our members to the implementation of EU policies and actions: From the implementation of the Green Deal and disaster management challenges to fighting COVID-19 pandemics and straightening the intelligent transportation systems. At the same time, it highlighted the great success of Open Maps for Europe and how authoritative geolocation information underpins a data-driven society.

B. Global

EuroGeographics is an engaged observer on the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts, both globally and regionally, and is also a permanent observer on the UN-GGIM - Europe Executive Committee. Five UN-GGIM: Europe Executive Committee meetings were held during this reporting period; most of these were held virtually. The Association hosted the in-person Executive Committee meeting at the EGHO in December.

EuroGeographics also participated in the Twelfth Session of the Committee of Experts, organised at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in August. The Association made interventions on a number of agenda items that are of interest to EuroGeographics and its members, including strengthening global geospatial information management arrangements, contribution of thematic networks to the global geospatial information agenda, geospatial information for sustainable development, application of geospatial information related to land administration and management and policy and legal frameworks, including issues related to authoritative data.

Excitingly, the Association has signed a letter of collaboration with the United Nations Statistics Division to advance knowledge exchange. This will provide a platform to expand our successful knowledge exchange and capacity development, enabling us to share our members good practice and experiences with other regions beyond Europe.

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

EuroGeographics took a leading role in the second UN World Geospatial Information Congress that was held in Hyderabad, India in October, 2022. Besides sitting on the International Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Congress, EuroGeographics supported a special event on diversity and inclusion approaches in geospatial, presented on the value knowledge exchange and participated actively at the event in panel discussions and sessions.

EuroGeographics continues to fund and provide the UN-GGIM: Europe secretariat through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Kadaster Netherlands. In December, the SLA was renewed for a further two years until the end of 2024.

C. Regional and External Stakeholders

The reporting period saw the start of more in-person engagement and events which provided more opportunities for regional and external stakeholder engagement following a prolonged period of disruption following the pandemic. EuroGeographics therefore managed to participate in a number of regional events and collaborative engagements to foster partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

Over the past twelve months, EuroGeographics has engaged with various external partners, bodies and stakeholders including UN-GGIM: Europe, EEA, Eurostat, Frontex, SatCen, DG CONNECT, JRC, DG Enviro, DG ECHO, CINEA, EEAS, ECDC, WPLA, PCC, EuroSDR, EUROGI, ICA, FIG, and OGC.

The strong partnership between EuroGeographics and EuroSDR continued to produce practical outputs. The jointly-organised virtual workshops on Data Accessibility in April and a follow up of the highly successful workshop on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the context of NMCAs in the October 2022 are just two examples.

The collaboration with the External Action Service further developed, and the Secretary General and Head of Operations attended and presented at a joint meeting of the EU Military Geospatial Capability Board in Luxembourg.

The strong alliance with the EEA continued in 2022 and a new contract was signed with eGEOS, who are contracted by the EEA. The Head of Operations attended a physical meeting of the eGEOS consortium was held at the EEA office in Copenhagen in October.

EuroGeographics participated in the Ninth Plenary Meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe, which was held at United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Headquarters in Geneva in June, overlapping with the 70th Session of the Conference of European Statisticians.

EuroGeographics presented on Open Maps for Europe at the FIG Congress in September in Warsaw and was invited to give a keynote at the EuroCarto 2022 conference held in Vienna in September. The Association also participated in the 14th Regional Conference on Cadastre and SDI which was held in Slovenia in September.

EuroGeographics participated in the jubilee conference of Agency for Real Estate Cadastre (AREC), North Macedonia in October, where the Association was recognised for long-term successful cooperation with AREC. The SG&ED presented at the Slovenian Geodetic days, and at the XIII edition of the Iberian Conference on Spatial Data Infrastructures which was held at the University of Seville.

Such engagement enables the Association to maintain relations with relevant stakeholders, to continue to represent members' interests, and promote the importance of our members' authoritative data as an integral part of the growing digital economy and the dynamic data and policy landscape.

3. Strategic Priority: Knowledge Exchange update on activities since May 2022

The EuroGeographics knowledge exchange activities continued unabated over the past 12 months. In response to the return to travel and in person events by mid-2022, EuroGeographics developed a hybrid knowledge exchange programme, with a mixture of online, hybrid and in person activities.

The Thursday webinars are now a fixture in the EuroGeographics knowledge exchange calendar, with a busy schedule of activities which included a mixture of online webinars, KEN events, workshops, Talking Heads

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

webinars and other knowledge exchange activities organised by the EGHO team in collaboration with our members and external stakeholders.

All four of the KENs organised events and webinars during this reporting period. The Joint PCC/EuroGeographics Conference organised two in-person/hybrid KEN events in 2022, the first was hosted by the “Direction Générale des Finances Publiques” in Paris while the second, under the Czechia Presidency, was organised in Prague in November. The QKEN organised its spring plenary meeting as a virtual event, with Kadaster Netherlands hosting the autumn plenary meeting as an in-person event in November in Amsterdam. The PolKEN organised a thematic webinar on High Value Datasets in June and held an in-person meeting in Brussels at the EGHO in November following the European Parliament Event. The INSPIRE KEN, in collaboration with EuroSDR, hosted a highly successful virtual workshop on data discoverability. In addition, the INSPIRE KEN continued with its series of webinars on the INSPIRE themes’ implementation in NMCAs, the latest one held in early November focussing on implementation Transport Networks.

A EuroGeographics Talking Heads webinar was organised with our French members under the French Presidency of the EU.

The EGHO team works closely with members enabling them to share their experiences and case studies in specific areas of interest, such as bringing data closer to citizens, geoportals and SDIs. In addition, a number of special webinars provided members with information about OME, funding programmes and how members’ data is supporting the Copernicus Land and Security. To complement the series, the Association has made a point of organising a number of webinars with external stakeholders. These included the Open Geospatial Consortium, the European Commission - DG for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations and the EEA. The EGHO team once again held an end-of-year webinar, which summarised the activities and achievements of 2022. All the webinars continue to be well received by our members.

In the past, EuroGeographics used to hold the Extraordinary General assembly primarily to inform the Permanent Correspondents (PCs) of the work and activities of the Association. Since we have not had a dedicated meeting for the PCs since before the pandemic, EGHO organised a special online meeting specifically for the PCs. The Permanent Correspondents Exchange, held in early October, focused on presenting the outcomes of the Membership Questionnaire together with updates on the three pillars of the EuroGeographics activities, including our latest news and plans.

A second edition of the workshop on Artificial Intelligence in NMCAs was once again jointly organised by EuroGeographics together with EuroSDR. Over 80 participants from NMCAs, researchers, private sector and policy makers joined the online event which was organised over two half days. Our members have voiced an active interest in this fast-moving topic and plans for a third edition of the workshop next year are already in hand.

In 2022 EuroGeographics engaged 2,000 total participants in an active programme of knowledge exchange activities

Knowledge Exchange events organised May 2022 - March 2023²

PolKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thematic PolKEN on HVD Regulation proposal, Online, June 2022 • Policy KEN meeting, Brussels, November 2022
CLR KEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint PCC and EuroGeographics CLRKEN Conference and Plenary, Paris, May 2022 • Joint PCC and EuroGeographics CLRKEN Conference and Plenary, Prague, November 2022
QKEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QKEN Virtual Plenary meeting, online May 2022 • QKEN Virtual Plenary meeting, Amsterdam, November 2022

² The presentations, reports, outputs and recordings from these events can be found on the EuroGeographics website: <https://eurogeographics.org/knowledge-exchange/>

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

INSPIRE KEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint EuroGeographics and EuroSDR Workshop on Geodata Discoverability, Online, April 2022 Implementation of INSPIRE in NMCAs: Transport Networks, November 2022
EGHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EuroGeographics Update on European Commission Requirements An Update on CEF-funded Projects Permanent Correspondents Exchange 2nd Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for NMCAs Introduction to Open Geospatial Consortium The role of geospatial data within the civil protection system OME Final Webinar - OME2 The Future
Webinar Series	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geoportals opening the door to broader use of spatial data Members data to support the Copernicus Land & Security Services Map Apps for Citizens Supporting Spatial Planning Development Cadastral interactive map and more Efficient services for citizens and stakeholders from one place Special Festive Edition: End of Year Review Development of NMCA with the support of EU and sister organizations – example of the Twinning project in Moldova
Talking Heads Webinars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking Heads - EU Presidency - Sweden

4. Strategic Priority: Facilitating Access to Members' Data

Work has continued to deliver the work plan for Data Access and Integration. The work on our CEF-funded projects Open Maps for Europe and Open Maps for Europe Two funded under the Digital Europe programme form a large part of this.

Open Maps for Europe ran from 1st Jan 2020 until 31st December 2022 and Open Maps for Europe Two (OME2) commenced on 1st January 2023 and will run until 31st December 2025.

The success that Open Maps for Europe has proven to be among our users, as well as the European Commission's acceptance of the bid for Open Maps for Europe Two, highlight our relevance in delivering the European Commission's policy objectives for Open Data and the Re-use of Public Sector Information Directive, which specifically identifies geospatial as a category of high value datasets.

A. Open Maps for Europe

Work progressed well in each activity during the final year of the project. Since the last General Assembly in May 2022, we have delivered all remaining milestones to HaDEA³. These include one 6-monthly report and four additional milestone reports.

³ By Commission Implementing Decision (EU) 2021/173 of 12 February 2021, the **European Health and Digital Executive Agency – HaDEA** (the 'new granting authority') has been created and all the ongoing Grant Agreements of the Innovation and Networks Executive Agency (INEA) have been transferred to the new granting authority.

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

The milestone reports outlined *i)* the delivery of the OME production and supply chain, *ii)* the OME datasets being available on the European Data Portal (EDP) and the national geoportal of NGI Belgium, *iii)* the OME datasets compliance with the EDP Metadata Quality Assessment, and *iv)* the communications (press releases, newsletters, social media posts, events, etc.) delivered throughout the project. The final and key milestone was reached with the delivery of the final project report summing up all activities in the project and an online presentation of said activities to the HaDEA examination committee.

Please see the “Open Maps for Europe in a nutshell” summary below. We remain particularly happy with the extraordinary user numbers, which have greatly exceeded our expectations. The number of unique users of the Open Maps for Europe datasets increased by 1600% during the project, to be compared with the 50% increase that was initially expected. Since increasing the use of our products was the ultimate aim of the project, these results are a clear indication of its success.

The Management Board wishes to note, with thanks, the work and contribution of our members’ teams in the compilation and integration of these datasets, and the work of the Production Management team who support this process. Gratitude extends to all members who have supported the Open Maps for Europe project and all members who support its continuation OME2.

B. Open Maps for Europe Two – OME2

To progress our strategy for Data Access and Integration, OME2 was a proposed project submitted as part of the Digital Europe programme (DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02-OPEN-AI). OME2 will build on the success of Open Maps for Europe by building a new production system which will create quality harmonised, large-scale, pan-European High-Value geospatial datasets from NMCAs, including a boundary dataset, transport and hydrography networks. In OME2, the existing Open Maps datasets will also be enhanced.

All datasets will be made available through the existing Open Maps for Europe portal (www.mapsforeurope.org) as downloads, via APIs, and licensed through a harmonised open data license. The project will directly support the objectives of the Open Data Directive and boost the re-use of Open Public data. The sustainability work included in OME2 also feeds into the EuroGeographics’ Data Access strategy, by ensuring that data activity not only meets the needs of users and members, but is sustainable long term.

The project consortium is made up of EuroGeographics and five of its members; National Geographic Institute Belgium (NGI-B), National Institute of Geographic and Forest Information (IGN-F), Hellenic Cadastre Greece (HC), General Directorate for the Cadastre Spain (SDGC) and Cadastre, Land Registry & Agency, The Netherlands (Kadaster NL). EuroGeographics and its members are responsible for producing, maintaining, and disseminating authoritative geospatial datasets, including specific High Value Datasets (HVDs) and some Annex I and II INSPIRE themes. The project bid was submitted in May 2022 and we were delighted to hear we had been successful in August. The Grant Agreement (Project 101100625 - OME2) was signed by all parties in December 2022 and the project started on 1st January 2023.

The subcontractor (IDOX France) required for the continuation of the OME platform development and production of the Open Cadastral Map has a parent company in the UK. Following Brexit, specific guarantees were needed to ensure the control of the project remains within the EU. The necessary guarantees were obtained from the French government and accepted by the European Commission. Our contact with our Project Officer remains excellent and we are confident that our cooperation will be an important and beneficial part of the project’s success.

An OME2 planning meeting was held in January and a Consortium Kick-Off was held in February, reaching our first milestone. Seven deliverables and two milestones are planned for the upcoming reporting period. Please see the “OME2 in a nutshell” summary below for more details.

C. eGEOS

eGEOS is an Italian Company that successfully won a contract with the EEA. They subsequently contract EuroGeographics⁴ to support the insitu data component of the Copernicus Services. The first eGEOS concluded in December 2021 and the second contract commenced in April 2022 and contains three activities; FLA improvement work, User activity and Communications. During this reporting period the following activities have taken place:

1. There are 24 Agencies who have signed the FLA and the EMS Annex. To date, 11 members have signed the Land and Security Annexes. Work to increase the number of members covered by these agreements will continue.
2. The work on the meeting the EEA user requirements for High Value data has been finalised. The secondee report has been delivered to the EEA. Work on revising the previous data audit with the addition of the HVD was completed and the results have sent to the EEA. A final report on the status of HVD in relation to Copernicus services has been finalised and sent to the EEA.
3. Communications continue, specifically in the drafting of case studies. The aim is to provide case studies to show members the benefits of contributing data to the services. EMS case studies will be the first to be produced. A press Release on the formal signing of the partnership and Copernicus services agreement with the EEA was issued on 30th January 2023.

The Head of Operations attended the first physical meeting of the eGEOS consortium at the EEA in Copenhagen in October. The engagement of EuroGeographics and its members is highly valued and has significantly moved the relationship forward with the EEA as one of our key stakeholders.

D. Eurostat

The former Eurostat contract for the provision of EuroBoundaryMap finished at the end of 2022. The Negotiated Procedure for the new contract was launched in July 2022. It included a request for topographic dataset, including EuroBoundaryMap, and a second task relating to Knowledge Exchange. A bid was submitted by the deadline of 30th September 2022.

EuroGeographics answered a number of rounds of questions and clarifications requested by Eurostat. On Monday 21st November, we were informed that Eurostat had concluded their negotiations and will be taking EuroBoundaryMap including an extension to provide it to all NSIs, as well as the Knowledge Exchange element. The contract was signed by the end of December and came into effect on January 1st 2023.

The Knowledge Exchange element links into OME2. It will support the stakeholder and user groups, as well as the Knowledge Exchange events. This work is meant to guide and facilitate the development of tools used to create a large-scale dataset that meets Eurostat's user requirements.

⁴ This work is financially compensated, and a framework contract has been signed between EuroGeographics and e-Geos

Open Maps for Europe in a nutshell

Activity 1 - Extension of harmonised open data licences to cover ERM and EuroDEM

- ⇒ Member contributors to ERM and EuroDEM were asked if they would be willing to make their data available within these datasets opened in 2020. For the final launch in November 2022, we had permissions in place which allowed for the following coverage:
 - ERM 33 data providers;
 - EuroDEM 26 data providers (with an additional 11 countries infilled with SRTM data).
- ⇒ Members were also asked to permit their data to be included in the Open Gazetteer. This has resulted in 37 data providers giving permission to include their data in the Open Gazetteer.
- ⇒ All EuroGeographics datasets were made available at the launch in 2021 under the same Open Data licence.
- ⇒ All existing customers, distributors, and VARs were migrated to either the open licence or a hybrid approach to support their businesses.

Activity 2 - Production of open pan European harmonised datasets

- ⇒ EuroGeographics members' datasets have been compiled and integrated into harmonised Pan-European datasets to create EGM, ERM, EuroDEM and the Open Gazetteer. The products have been updated over the course of the project, improving their quality and coverage.
 - An updated version of ERM was released in 2022 and was available on the interface in November the same year.
 - A new production process has been developed by the sub-contractor for the Open Cadastral Map. The first version of this prototype was released in version 2 of the Open Maps portal. A sixth country was included and was available by the end of the project, thus meeting our milestones.
 - A pan-European Imagery layer, developed and supplied by BKG and based on satellite data from Copernicus, has also been added to the products available on the OME interface.
 - In addition to being available for download on the interface, the Gazetteer has been further developed and added to the OME interface view service.
- ⇒ All products are available as open data services through the OME interface. ERM, EGM, OCM, and EuroDEM are also available for download through the interface.
- ⇒ To improve accuracy and achieve a harmonised, full European dataset, national data is validated against specifications using a tool developed by Kadaster Netherlands. It is continually updated and has had significant uptake by data producers. Kadaster Netherlands also updated the ERM Validator tool and, following feedback from Beta users, it was released in May 2021 to data producers to support their data provision during 2021 and 2022.
- ⇒ IGN France has created a Collaborative Space to allow our data producers to view the EGM data prior to it being finalised, with the ability to upload reports on issues. This is being promoted to data producers who are being encouraged to engage and highlight any data issues prior to publication.
- ⇒ Production of EuroGeographics pan-European datasets continues post OME through OME2.
- ⇒ The Production Management team met in June 2022 and an in-person Data Producer meeting was held in Brussels on 13th and 14th September 2022, hosted by our partner NGI Belgium.

Activity 3 - Enhancement and development of the Open ELS developed user interface to include access to the ERM and EuroDEM open data datasets

- ⇒ A final release of the interface was done 14th November 2022.
- ⇒ The URL for the interface is <https://www.mapsforeurope.org/>



2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

- ⇒ EuroGeographics Head Office met with the sub-contractor every two weeks during the project. These meetings will continue under OME2 to sustain and further enhance the interface.
- ⇒ The OME products have been made discoverable on the national geoportal of NGI Belgium. All members are encouraged to make OME discoverable on their respective geoportals.
- ⇒ The OME products have been made available on the European Data Portal and the metadata compliant with the Metadata Quality Assurance tools for datasets, reaching an important milestone.
- ⇒ The work with the sub-contractor was finalised within budget.

Activity 4 - Dissemination, impact, and sustainability

- ⇒ The communication plan has been carried out and a report has been delivered to HaDEA, reaching our communications milestone. Communication took place to both internal and external audiences; Internal to members through the newsletter, webinars, and the website; external through speaking at events, external newsletters and social media.
- ⇒ The OME project received an award for “Best Project 2022” at the BeGeo event in October 2022. The event pulled together geo-information experts from government, academia and the private sector in the Benelux area. The jury of experts recognised that the OME project took an innovative approach to unlocking the power of open data from official national sources. They also felt it demonstrated the economic potential to be gained by realising the benefits of the Open Data Public Sector Information (PSI) Directive which specifically identifies geospatial as a category of high value datasets.
- ⇒ Four case studies (listed below), representing national, European and global users, were finalised in 2022 and published on EuroGeographics’ website, thus reaching our communications milestone. The case studies were used to promote the data and its benefits. They have also been used to emphasise the value of the re-use of open geospatial public sector information in award entries, presentations, in newsletters, via social media and in news releases.
 - Using the power of touch to bring tactile maps to life, The Netherlands Cadastre, Land Registry and Mapping Agency (Kadaster)
 - Providing a web map service for investigating European Ground Motion, European Environment Agency (EEA)
 - Delivering data to promote peace, prosperity and security, European External Action Service (EEAS)
 - Providing common and consistent geographies to support the United Nations System, Geospatial Information Section of the United Nations
- ⇒ We are monitoring the use of the datasets and also the website itself. Between September 2021 and December 2022, we have had over 4,000 unique users register on the site for data; registered users for each dataset during the same period are:
EuroGlobalMap 2,125, EuroRegionalMap 1,920, EuroDEM 1,952, Imagery 737, Open Gazetteer 354.

Activity 5 - Project Management

- ⇒ Regular project meetings have been held within EuroGeographics to support the management and deliverables of the project with updates supplied to the Management Board including specific budget meetings where required.
- ⇒ Regular meetings are held with our partner NGI Belgium.
- ⇒ Fortnightly meetings with the sub-contractor are held.
- ⇒ The team at EuroGeographics has been in regular contact with our Project Officer at HaDEA and has had guidance and support where required.

A final report has been submitted to HaDEA and a meeting was held with HaDEA and an examination committee reviewing the final report, thus reaching our final project milestone.



2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

OME2 in a nutshell

Work Package 1 – Project Management and coordination (Led by EuroGeographics)

- ⇒ EuroGeographics team held a three-day physical meeting in January 2023 to plan the first year of OME2. This was particularly important since all of the main activities of the association (data, knowledge exchange and representation) are brought together within the project and will work in synergy towards its completion and success. More detailed planning is ongoing together with the rest of the Consortium.
- ⇒ The first 2-monthly work package leader meeting was held on January 31st. The work package leaders were introduced, the plans for the Consortium Kick-Off meeting were explained and a table ronde was done for the Consortium members to add information and raise questions.
- ⇒ The first milestone of the project was reached on 14th February 2023. This milestone entailed a Consortium Kick-Off meeting, where the Project Officer attended to introduce himself to the Consortium. The workplans for the six work packages included in OME2 were presented by the work package leaders. Important administrative aspects of the project, such as guidelines and templates for recording time and expenses tied to the project, were reviewed to facilitate and streamline the administrative work for all partners.
- ⇒ A project management plan and a manual of management are due in March.
- ⇒ The project KPI definitions will be delivered in June.
- ⇒ The first interim project report is due in December.

Work Package 2 – Stakeholder engagement: Communications, Dissemination and project Sustainability (Led by EuroGeographics)

- ⇒ A first communication and dissemination plan is due in March.
- ⇒ A user requirement workshop is planned to be held before the end of December 2022 to reach milestone two.

Work Package 3 – Enhancement of Open Maps for Europe portal and accessibility of datasets (Led by EuroGeographics)

- ⇒ The open data licence is planned to be available in a machine-readable format in December.

Work Package 4 – Topographic data production (Led by IGN France)

- ⇒ IGN France are planning on having a pilot version of the large-scale dataset ready by January 2024, thus reaching a fundamental milestone. This pilot will consist of one high-value data theme spanning three member countries with shared borders. The pilot will be available on the enhanced interface in the months following its release.
- ⇒ The validation requirements for the pilot version of the large-scale dataset are due in March.
- ⇒ The yearly updates for ERM, EGM and EBM are planned for December.

Work Package 5 – Development of tools (Led by Kadaster Netherlands)

- ⇒ Kadaster NL and IGN France met online February 7th to discuss the workplans for their respective work packages. Since harmonisation quality impacts the quality of the generalisation, the two work packages are interlinked.

Work Package 6 – Development and Enhancement of the Open Cadastral Map (Led by Hellenic Cadastre)

- ⇒ The Hellenic Cadastre reported continued needing another few weeks to solve certain bureaucratic issues linked to the internal allocation of funds but assured the Consortium that in the meantime, work on OME2 is under way and continues.

5. Transversal activities: Strong finances and administration supporting operations

A. Budget and accounts

Finance and administration are by definition transversal activities. The most visible aspect to members, thanks to the Board's management, the Treasurer's guidance in the drafting of the budget, and the presentation of the accounts. For the presentation of the accounts, we use the cost-centre based model that is relevant to the strategy. We are also making sure that the financial reporting is an effective tool in ensuring correct and effective management of our Association.

Routine activities, such as reporting VAT liabilities to the Belgian financial authorities, are performed with the assistance of professional accounting services. The budget for 2023 is reflection of our strategic direction, with focus on OME2 and contracts that provide a source of funding, and on delivering the priority membership benefits which the membership questionnaire demonstrated were of greatest relevance and value to members.

B. Constantly monitoring costs

Nevertheless, the bulk of the activities support the overall activities of EuroGeographics while constantly monitoring our costs.

In the first quarter on 2022, COVID-19 continued to have an impact on our activities, however as restrictions lifted, we were able to hold an in-person General Assembly in Sarajevo, physically attend conferences and meetings with our stakeholder and members, and meet as a Head Office Team.

Consequently, this means we have made slight saving on the approved 2022 budget. Full details are provided in the 2022 Accounts presented to the General Assembly.

C. Support to financial project management, and project reporting

Another substantial part of the activities is the provision of support for the financial monitoring of projects.

Our Open Maps for Europe project was monitored on a 6-monthly basis. The review in September highlighted a slight underspend in resources, which was rectified in the final quarter of the project, and an underspend in sub-contractor costs. This enabled our sub-contractors, IDOX to carry out an additional task responding to user feedback and enhancing the Open Gazetteer dataset. The final financial report for the OME2 project was completed and submitted to the Project Officer in January.

In 2022, we were again contracted by eGEOS, who are contractors to the European Environment Agency (EEA), to deliver work focused on improving the EEA's access to members' authoritative data for the Copernicus services. As we are subcontracted, we were able to cover all our costs on this activity.

D. Ensuring legal compliance

We also ensure we comply with any new legal requirements and with new regulatory measures that are taken in the Belgian and European environment. Appropriate actions were taken in the last year to ensure any new rules were adhered to.

In line with Belgium Legislation for International Associations, we undertook, together with our lawyers and Management Board, a review of our Articles of Association. The revised Articles of Association will be presented to the General Assembly for approval and will be published before the end of 2023.

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

EuroGeographics Board

The Association is governed by the Management Board and the General Assembly of Members. The Management Board has met six times since the close of the 2022 General Assembly and expects to have four more meetings before the end of 2023.

Four of the Management Board meetings held since the last General Assembly have taken place virtually and two were held in person. Two of the Management Board meetings in 2023 will be in-person meetings and two will be held virtually.

Management Board Members appointed since the General Assembly in 2022 are:

The Appointed Board Members	Status – March 2023
France – Anais Aubert	Appointed by France in May 2022 for 2 years
Germany – Pier-Giorgio Zaccheddu	Appointed by Germany for another 2 years in March 2023
Great Britain – Kenny Crawford	Appointed by Great Britain for another 2 years in May 2022.
Elected Board Members	
Ireland – Colin Bray	He was re-elected in May 2022 and his term will expire at the General Assembly in 2024
Bosnia & Herzegovina – Denis Tabučić	Was elected to Management Board in May 2022 and his term will expire at the General Assembly in 2024
Spain – Emilio Lopez	Was elected to Management Board in May 2022 and his term will expire at the General Assembly in 2024
Netherlands - Martin Salzmann	Treasurer - End of term on MB
Cyprus - Andreas Hadjiraftis	End of term on MB
Denmark – Kristian Møller	Was appointed in May 2022, however, had to resign his seat in December 2022 due to leaving his position at the Agency for Data Supply and Infrastructure. Position vacant.

The Management Board agreed that there will be nine members on the Board. Two members complete their terms of office at the General Assembly 2022, and due to the resignation of Kristian Møller, there are three seats to fill. An election of Management Board members to fill these vacancies will be held at the 2023 General Assembly in Valetta, Malta.

EuroGeographics' core values are collaboration and cooperation across a multi-national network. We operate under a culture of professionalism in an open, transparent, and ethical way to maintain a helpful and supportive network for our members which supports members in their roles. We are registered on the EU Transparency Register and are bound by its code of conduct.

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023**EuroGeographics Head Office**

The EuroGeographics Head Office team consists of 10 people led by Sallie Payne-Snell, the Acting Secretary General and Executive Director. Since the last General Assembly Anne-Claire Bourdessol, Angela Baker and Lea Bodossian have left the Association. Management Board, on behalf of all members, wishes to thank them for their hard work and commitment to EuroGeographics and wish them well in their new roles.

Victoria Persson joined the Head Office Team in September 2022 and has taken on the role of leading the data access pillar of activity and is the OME2 Project Manager. In order to support the financial activities of the association an external contractor SMASH lead by Sylvain Dufeu was appointed in July 2022, and will continue to provide support until a new Head of Finance and Administration is recruited.

The Management Board wishes to record their thanks to Sallie and Head Office team for their continued energy and hard work during another challenging 12 months, and for the considerable progress made in all areas of activity. Levels of member engagement have never been higher and the bonds of the EuroGeographics family are as strong as ever.

Conclusion - Progress in Delivering Operation Goals and Activities

Members approved five operating goals to be achieved in 2022, all of which were achieved. The Management Board have approved five operating goals for 2023. They will measure progress against these goals at subsequent Management Board meetings and report back to the 2024 General Assembly via their report to the GA.

Prepared by

Sallie Payne-Snell, Acting Secretary General and Executive Director and the EGHO Team on behalf of the EuroGeographics Management Board

March 2023

Appendix 1 – Highlights 2022/2023

EuroGeographics is a collaborative network that brings together members in a unique Association of mapping, cadastre, and land registries. Our strength lies in the ability to cooperate and to share our data, our experience, and our knowledge delivered for the wider, public good.

Our activities are driven by our members' needs: Facilitating access to their data, representing their interests, and providing opportunities for knowledge exchange through networking and collaboration.

The Board is pleased to report significant progress across all the Association's activities from May 2022 – March 2023.

Events for the rest of 2023 will be promoted via the Members' Newsletter and on our website.

May 2022:

- ⇒ EuroGeographics General Assembly was held in person after two years as an online event. More than 100 participants from 39 countries attended the two-day event hosted by the Federal Administration for Geodetic and Real Property Affairs in Sarajevo, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Speakers included data users from the United Nations, European Parliament, Commission and its agencies who all expressed a strong desire to work in partnership with the Association and its members.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics 2021 Annual Review, featuring case studies from 29 members, was published online.
- ⇒ The Joint PCC - EuroGeographics CLRKEN Conference and Plenary was held as a hybrid event in Paris, France hosted by the French General Directorate Cadastral Bureau representing the French Presidency.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics demonstrated the OME platform at GWF2022.
- ⇒ The Quality KEN organised its spring plenary meeting as a two-day online event.

June 2022

- ⇒ EuroGeographics participated as an observer organisation to the Ninth Plenary meeting of UN-GGIM: Europe held at UNECE in Geneva.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics participated in the 12th session of the Working Party on Land Administration (WPLA) which was held as a hybrid meeting.
- ⇒ The Policy Knowledge Exchange organised a thematic meeting on High Value Datasets (HVD). Members had the opportunity to hear from DG CNNECT Policy Officer, Jiri Pillar, who presented on the implementing rules and answered participants questions.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics attended the High-Level Policy Round Table on Artificial Intelligence for the Public Sector hosted by the European Commission (DGIT and JRC)
- ⇒ EuroGeographics submitted feedback on the draft Implementing Regulation for High Value Datasets.

July 2022

- ⇒ Our weekly webinar series will conclude its spring schedule and pause for a summer break.

August 2022:

- ⇒ EuroGeographics participated in the Twelfth session of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM). As an observer organisation, EuroGeographics engaged positively with the programme of work of UN-GGIM, ensuring that our contribution complemented and enhanced the work of the Association and its members.

September 2022:

2. Management Board Report to the GA2023

- ⇒ EuroGeographics presented a keynote at EuroCarto 2022 in Vienna, Austria.
- ⇒ The BeGEO congress in Brussels awarded EuroGeographics the Geospatial 2022 Professional Best Project Award for Open Maps for Europe.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics took part in FIG Congress 2022 where it presented on OME.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics attended the 14th Regional Conference on Cadastre and SDI.

October 2022:

- ⇒ EuroGeographics participated in the second United Nations World Geospatial Information Congress (UNWGIC) in India with presentations on taking our knowledge exchange activities to the next level post-pandemic as well as on core data for Europe moving beyond the list of data themes.
- ⇒ More than 100 participants participated in the 2nd Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for NMCAs jointly organised by EuroGeographics and EuroSDR.
- ⇒ The 2022 Technical Meeting of EuroGeographics Data Producers was hosted by The National Geographic Institute of Belgium in Brussels. More than 30 members gathered to discuss the production of the pan European datasets.
- ⇒ The Permanent Correspondents Exchange meeting to report on the findings of the Membership Questionnaire and provide updates on EuroGeographics activities was held online.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics was delighted to participate in celebrating the double jubilee conference of 75 years of geodetic administration and 95 years of geodetic surveying in the Republic of North Macedonia. We accepted an acknowledgement note to mark our long-term successful cooperation from event host, the Director of the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre.
- ⇒ EuroGeographics presented at the 2022 Iberian Conference on Spatial Data Infrastructures (JIIDE) in Seville, Spain.

November 2022:

- ⇒ The successful Maps for a Data-driven Europe debate with MEPs and policy-makers was held at the European Parliament. Six members presented case studies showing how their data is essential to the EU Decade of Action.
- ⇒ The autumn Joint PCC and EuroGeographics CLRKEN conference and plenary under the Czech Presidency was held as a 2-day event in Prague, Czechia, hosted by the Czech Office for Surveying, Mapping and Cadastre.
- ⇒ A special webinar focused on demonstrating how geodata leads to building stronger responses for civil protection actions was held. Case studies from the European Commission (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) and National Mapping and Cadastre and Land Registry Authorities were presented.

December 2022

- ⇒ EuroGeographics was delighted to host the hybrid virtual and in-person Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) API Code Sprint, aka The Web Mapping Code Sprint.
- ⇒ The final OME webinar focussed on achievements and outcomes of the project, it also revealed plans for OME2.
- ⇒ QKEN held its Autumn Plenary Meeting, hosted by Kadaster Netherlands in Amsterdam Sloterdijk.
- ⇒ A special festive edition of our weekly webinar was hosted by the entire Head Office Team to celebrate the success and highlights of the year.

February 2023

- ⇒ The 2023 Members Webinar Series started by focussing on the successful collaboration between three members, with the support of the EU, to deliver the Improving Spatial Data Services in the Republic of Moldova following EU standards project.

March 2023:

- ⇒ GISCO
- ⇒ General Assembly
- ⇒ Workshop - The Challenges and Opportunities facing smaller NMCAs