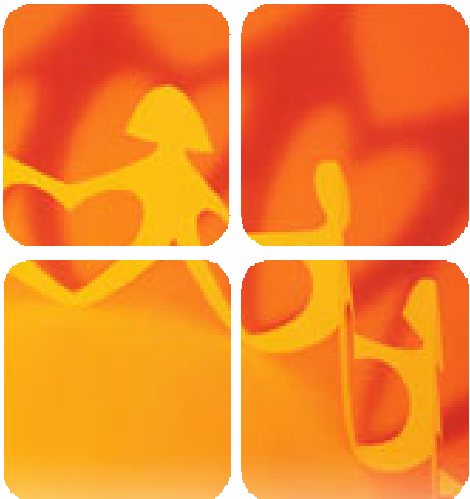


# The Benefits of Membership





## **EuroGeographics the Association of European National Mapping, Cadastral & Land Registry Organisations**

### **Introduction**

EuroGeographics is the Association for European National Mapping, Cadastral & Land Registry organisations (NMCAs). It currently consists of 53 members from 43 countries.

EuroGeographics provides a strong and unified voice for the European National Mapping, Cadastre & Land Registry organisations. Our representation ensures that the important contributions they make are considered in the development of European and International policies and services.

The EuroGeographics Head Office team, supported by its members, undertakes three crucial roles:

- **Engagement** – influencing the influencers particularly in the European Parliament and Commission, and making positive contributions to important initiatives, policies and projects.
- **Best Practise** – exchanging and sharing knowledge and information through managed projects and knowledge networks, to facilitate the understanding and implementation of policies, procedures and technologies to support end users.
- **Products and Service** – harmonising national spatial datasets into a portfolio of integrated pan-European products and related services, so as to provide the location framework for the European Commissions' spatial analysis and policy developments, and support the ever growing European customer base.

### **The Benefits of being a Member of EuroGeographics**

Like any membership organisation, the more a member contributes the more they benefit. A table of benefits is provided at Annex A with a summary below.

#### **❖ EuroGeographics' strong brand, visible profile and credible reputation**

EuroGeographics has a clear Vision and Mission, a good record of providing constructive input to policy developments and a long record of successfully completed projects.

We have for example an active working group with the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security (GMES) Bureau and an enduring relationship with Eurostat through whom we provide the location framework upon which the European Commission rely

EuroGeographics has been at the forefront of the INSPIRE initiative, our members have been actively involved in the development of the Implementing Rules for INSPIRE and are strongly represented in the INSPIRE Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) who are developing the specifications for the Annex Theme. This puts our members at the heart of the development of a spatial framework for Europe and EuroGeographics collective influence means we can make significant steps forward in raising the profile, importance and role of Geographic Information in Europe.

The EuroGeographics brand is strong in the European Commission and in the European Environment Agency as our harmonised pan-European products, created from the NMCAs national holdings, form the foundation for pan-European statistical monitoring, policy development and environmental management. EuroGeographics maintains constructive dialog with these organisations to ensure a positive and sustainable role for NMCAs in the future.



#### ❖ **EuroGeographics network of professionals**

As well as providing our members with opportunities to discuss ideas, exchange best practice and share knowledge with their peers and colleagues in NMCAs from across Europe; EuroGeographics also has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with a number of strategic partners including:

EuroGeosurveys, Eurogi, CLGE, FIG, GSDI, EUREF, EuroSDR, EULIS and PSMA (see Annex A), extending the number of professionals our members can network with and seek advice and support from.

#### ❖ **EuroGeographics provides a focus for the development of Cadastre & Land Registry organisations**

Members of EuroGeographics have the opportunity to participate in the Knowledge Exchange Network focussed on Cadastre & Land Registry. This group is supported by senior representatives from national Cadastre & Land Registry organisations. The focus of the Knowledge Network is to maintain a programme of work designed to improve organisational development and to promote the importance of Cadastral & Land Registration activities on both a national and a pan-European level. The Knowledge Network maintains effective relationship with other Cadastral & Land Registration groups such as WPLA, Eulis, ELRA and PCC, to allow a co-ordinated and united approach to developments in this area.

#### ❖ **EuroGeographics provides effective tracking and evaluation of European Policy developments**

EuroGeographics head office continuously tracks, evaluates and instigates appropriate action relating to relevant European policy developments. Recent activities include:

- Establishing an NMCA, GMES working group, with the full support of the GMES bureau.
- Organising a briefing for members with the head of the PSI review team.
- Holding a successful event in the European Parliament attended by MEP's ESA, GMES Bureau and others, which highlighted how NMCAs are supporting the GMES programme.
- Participation in the reception at the European Parliament, which celebrated the 1<sup>st</sup> year of INSPIRE. EuroGeographics took the opportunity to showcase its promotional DVD which highlights the contribution its members, make to emergency response times, the property purchasing process and the creation and maintenance of countries infrastructures.
- The Joint Research Centre, one of EuroGeographics partners, showing the same promotional DVD at the recent Earth Observation Summit in Cape Town.
- Updating and publishing tracking fact sheets which summarise the developments and implications of European policy and regulations, for example the European Mortgage Credit White Paper and Soils Directive.
- Using our harmonised pan European products, to win tenders for EU funded programmes for example ESDIN and the State Boundaries for Europe (SBE) project.

### **The cost of EuroGeographics membership**

The fee for active members consists of a 6000 euro 'fixed' fee plus a variable fee where the variable amount is calculated using a formula that is based upon the national GDP of the member country.

The fee for an Associate member is 6000 euro

## What is included in the membership fee?

The membership fees go towards head office running costs, for example the costs of meetings and workshops held at the head office, the development and maintenance of the website, the creation of promotional material, head office staff representing its members at meetings and conferences in the European Commission and Parliament.

The membership fee entitles all members to have the opportunity to:

- Benefit from the EuroGeographics interaction with the European Commission, EC Joint Research Centre, the European Parliament and other Commission bodies.
- Access the Member only information on the EuroGeographics website.
- Influence the development of EuroGeographics activities, policies and external messages.
- Benefit from EU funding and funded projects, managed and led by EuroGeographics.
- Have free access to meetings rooms, with wifi connectivity in Brussels and Paris.
- Attend the annual General Assembly.
- Benefit from strategic relationships and partnerships allowing the exchange of knowledge information and best practice.

And to participate in:

- All or any of EuroGeographics Knowledge Exchange Networks (KEN) e.g. Business Interoperability, Cadastre & Land Registry, European Policy, Quality, Information and Data Specifications and Business Interoperability.
- EuroGeographics' workshops and meetings
- EuroGeoForum, blogs and discussions groups with colleagues European wide.
- Social networking events to build up professional network of contacts.

Active Member may vote at the General Assembly and provide members of the Management Board.

## What is the process for applying for membership?

An organisation considering joining must review the Articles of Association and bye-laws. If the organisation is prepared to be bound by them and is willing and able to pay the membership fee, the organisation must write a letter to EuroGeographics Executive Director requesting membership.

The request for membership is presented to the EuroGeographics Management Board for their approval. Following Management Board approval, a proposal is put to a vote at the next Annual General Assembly.

If a request for membership is accepted by the Management Board, membership 'rights' are given to the new member immediately.

## Summary

EuroGeographics membership offers a cost effective vehicle for influencing European Policy developments, benefiting from the experience of peer organisations and meeting the demands of users wanting pan-European geographical information.



## Summary of membership benefits

Membership of EuroGeographics provides many opportunities and access to a range of benefits.

### Financial

Benefit	Example
Access to EC funding for operational activity	EuroGeoNames project
Income from the supply of EuroGeographics data, in the form of products and services	Collectively in 2008 members were paid 186,844 euro for use of their data
Access to EC funding for research	Framework Programme 7 and other mechanisms
Access to commissioned research activity (at no direct cost)	Requirements fed into EuroSDR rolling research plan
Reduced development costs	ESDIN web services development
Reduced operating costs	Drop-in office in Brussels with free WiFi, and office facilities.

### Organisational

Benefit	Example
Reduction of risk	Benefiting from collective resources, identifying risks and working together to mitigate them.
Staff development	Secondment opportunities available providing international work experience
Learning from others	Through the opportunity of belonging to Knowledge Networking and be involved in project work
European CPD	Providing Continual professional development by participating in EuroGeographics activities, events and programmes
Reducing financial/travelling costs, but maintaining communications	EuroGeographics are encompassing modern methods of communication and organising webinars and Skype conferences to encourage engagement and involvement

### Political

Benefit	Example
Collective influence to reduce risk and increase opportunities arising from European policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Border Mortgage Credit in the EU</li> <li>• INSPIRE directive</li> <li>• PSI</li> <li>• GMES</li> </ul>
Visibility in the European Commission	Contracts with EuroStat for harmonised pan – European products, EBM, EGM and ERM
Representation of the NMCA at European and International level	EuroGeographics personnel representing members at the European /World events and in Global projects i.e. ISCGM
Raising cultural awareness	Hosting of General Assembly

## Practical

Benefit	Example
Exchange of knowledge and best practice	Having the opportunity to actively engage in a number of Knowledge Exchange Networks on Policy, Quality, Cadastre & Land Registry and Business Interoperability
Shared expertise	Learning from other members and sharing expertise, for example to implement new legislation and put it into practice i.e. INSPIRE, experts teams creating/testing INSPIRE Implementing Rules within ESDIN and Thematic Working Groups
Support & encouragement	Access to a network of peers & colleagues in NMCAs across Europe, and through strategic our strategic partners access to global professionals.
Discussion forums	<a href="http://www.eurogeoforum.eu">www.eurogeoforum.eu</a>
Access to Information	Access to the EuroGeographics members only section of the website
Harmonisation of the national datasets/services creating Regional/European products, fulfilling the needs of significant European customers and raising the profile and importance of NMCA data.	Improve the cross-borders connectivity with the neighbour countries, within the region, towards the pan-European level – EUPOS – connectivity of the national GPS networks, edge matching of the cadastral maps along the state borders...
Profile and promotion	Member's information and contact details, on the EuroGeographics website, events published in the events calendar and members news promoted through newsfeeds and the EuroGeographics newsletter
Social network	Opportunity to network with colleagues in an informal environment building professional contact networks

## Sales and Marketing

Benefit	Example
Product & Service promotion	<a href="http://www.eurogeoinfo.eu">www.eurogeoinfo.eu</a>
Access to European market	Through EuroGeographics and its strategic customers i.e. EuroStat and the EEA
Developing future markets and users	Use of NMCA data in academic community
Organising events	Regional conference, to meet the specific needs and requirements of members and provide a forum for regional issues to be discussed

## Additional Benefits for Active Members

Benefit	Example
Voting rights	Direct influence on EuroGeographics strategy, policy, action plan & budget
Eligibility for Board Membership	Increase involvement and direct influence in developing and creating EuroGeographics strategy/policy creation
Eligibility for President position	High profile role for the organisation and country
Ability to influence strategy and mission	By active communication with Management Board & EuroGeographics Head Office

## **Strategic Partnerships**

**EuroGeosurveys** – is an organisation of 33 European Geological Surveys. Its statutory aims are to address the European issues, to promote contribution of geosciences to EU affairs, to assist EU to obtain technical advice and to provide a network between the geological surveys. <http://www.eurogeosurveys.org/>

**EUROGI** – is the umbrella organisation that represents the European Geographic Information (GI) community. It is an independent non-governmental and not-for-profit organisation, EUROGI is convinced that good governance, economic and social development and informed public participation depend on the availability and wide spread use of reliable and spatially referenced information. <http://www.eurogi.org>

**CLGE** – Is the Council of European Geodetic Surveyors. It is their mission is to represent and promote the interests of the geodetic surveying profession in the private and public sector in Europe, especially in the: creation of permanent forum for European geodetic surveyors, who are committed to European co-operation. The promotion and exchange of technical, scientific, educational and organisational know-how with the European states and the provision of assistance to member countries, to national associations and EU institutions on request. <http://www.clge.eu/>

**WPLA** - The ECE was the first international organization, which defined and addressed the issue of land administration in Europe in a comprehensive manner in setting up in 1996 the Meeting of Officials on Land Administration (MOLA) which was in 1999 converted into the Working Party on Land Administration. The Working Party aims at promoting land (immovable property) administration through security of tenure, establishment of real estate markets in countries in transition, and modernization of land registration systems in the advanced economies. <http://www.unece.org/hlm/wpla/welcome.html>

**PCC** – The mission of the Permanent Committee on Cadastre is to create an adequate space in which to promote the full awareness of the activities developed by the European Union and the Member States related with Cadastre and, by means of this information, to develop strategies and propose common initiatives with the aim of achieving greater co-ordination among the different European cadastral systems and their users. <http://www.eurocadastre.org/index.htm>

**EUREF** - European Terrestrial Reference System 89 (ETRS89) is used as the standard precise GPS coordinate system throughout Europe. Supported by EuroGeographics and endorsed by the EU, this reference system forms the backbone for all geographic and geodynamic projects on the European territory both on a national as on an international level. <http://www.epncb.oma.be/>

**EuroSDR** - European Spatial Data Research Network is a not-for-profit organisation linking National Mapping and Cadastral agencies with Research Institutes and Universities for the purpose of applied research in spatial data provision, management and delivery. <http://www.eurosdrr.net/start/>

**PSMA Australia Limited** - is an unlisted public company limited by shares and owned by the state, territory and Australian governments. They offer a national asset of comprehensive, quality and accessible spatial knowledge, derived from government data sources, that significantly contributes to economic, social and environmental outcomes for Australia. <http://www.psma.com.au/>

**EULIS** – European Land Information Service, it aims to be the first call for European land and property information. EULIS aims to: Achieve full European coverage for the service by extending membership to new countries. Raise the awareness about EULIS amongst national users such as banks, lawyers, estate agents and government organisations. Be used as a natural part in EU requirements. The long term vision is to help create an environment to facilitate cross border lending. <http://www.eulis.eu/home/>



**AGILE** - The Association of Geographic Information Laboratories for Europe (AGILE) was established in 1998 to promote academic teaching and research on GIS at the European level and to ensure the continuation of the networking activities that have emerged as a result of the EGIS Conferences and the European Science Foundation GISDATA Scientific Programmes. AGILE seeks to ensure that the views of the geographic information teaching and research community are fully represented in the discussions that take place on future European research agendas. AGILE also provides a permanent scientific forum where geographic information researchers can meet and exchange ideas and experiences at the European level. <http://www.agile-online.org/>

**EARSeL** - is a scientific network of European remote sensing institutes, coming from both academia and the commercial/industrial sector. EARSeL is unique in that it represents the interests of these institutes rather than individuals, currently; there are about 250 member laboratories. EARSeL was founded in 1977 under the auspices of the European Space Agency, the Council of Europe and the Europe Commission. These agencies as well as others are supporting its activities. <http://www.earsel.org/>

**GSDI** – The Global Spatial Data Infrastructure Association is an inclusive organization of organizations, agencies, firms, and individuals from around the world. The purpose of the organization is to promote international cooperation and collaboration in support of local, national and international spatial data infrastructure developments that will allow nations to better address social, economic, and environmental issues of pressing importance. <http://www.gsdi.org/>

**ISCGM** - The International Steering Committee for Global Mapping (ISCGM) was established in February 13, 1996 in Tsukuba Japan by the participants of the Preparatory Meeting of the ISCGM. And the First Meeting of the ISCGM was held in February 14, 1996. The primary purpose of this Committee is to examine measures that concerned national, regional and international organizations can take to foster the development of Global Mapping in order to facilitate the implementation of global agreements and conventions for environmental protection as well as the mitigation of natural disasters and to encourage economic growth within the context of sustainable development. <http://www.iscgm.org/>

**FIG** - The International Federation of Surveyors is the premier international organization representing the interests of surveyors worldwide. It is a federation of the national member associations and covers the whole range of professional fields within the global surveying community. It provides an international forum for discussion and development aiming to promote professional practice and standards. FIG was founded in 1878 in Paris and was known as the Fédération Internationale des Géomètres. This has become anglicized to the International Federation of Surveyors. It is a UN-recognized non-government organization (NGO), representing more than 100 countries throughout the world, and its aim is to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them meet the needs of the markets and communities that they serve. <http://www.fig.net/>

**IAG** - The International Association of Geodesy (IAG) is a scientific organization in the field of geodesy. It promotes scientific cooperation and research in geodesy on a global scale and contributes to it through its various research bodies. It is an active member of the International Association of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) which itself is a member of the International Council for Science (ICSU). <http://www.iag-aig.org/index.php>

**ICA** - is the world authoritative body for cartography, the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps. The mission of the International Cartographic Association is to promote the discipline and profession of cartography in an international context. <http://cartography.tuwien.ac.at/ica/>

**United Nations** - The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War by 51 countries committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 192 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees. <http://www.un.org/en/index.shtml>