

Implementation of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework: Experiences and Challenges

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Key words: Capacity building; e-Governance; Geoinformation/GI; Implementation of plans; Land management; Security of tenure

SUMMARY

The world is changing. More than 50 per cent of the global population now live in cities. Growing population, expanding urbanization and climate change constitute a challenge for policymakers, in particular in low and middle income countries experiencing rapid population and urban growth.

In August 2018, the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) endorsed an Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF), which provides the strategic guidance that enables country specific action plans to be prepared and implemented.

Everything happens somewhere, and geospatial information – maps, should be up-to-date, reliable and available. Geospatial information is a fundamental basis of National Spatial Data Infrastructures.

With Norwegian funding, the Norwegian Mapping Authority supports the development of land sector in several countries with building up National Spatial Data Infrastructures and delivering up-to-date maps to support security of tenure, economic growth and improved decision-making at all levels.

Since the endorsement of IGIF, the Norwegian Mapping Authority has taken an active role in promoting its implementation. From the Norwegian donor perspective, the IGIF documents – baseline assessment, country report and action plan, will form a basis for measuring societal, economic and environmental benefits of the Norwegian funded projects in the cooperation countries.

The assistance from Norway has contributed to the development of the land sector and improved public services in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Ukraine and other countries. IGIF implementation in these countries has started in May 2019 and it has resulted in first versions of the Baseline Assessments, which provided the overviews of the current situations with geospatial information and spatial infrastructures in the countries. These included all nine components, which are called “strategic pathways” in IGIF.

Several countries have already shown their interest in the IGIF implementation, such as Albania, Serbia and Tajikistan.

Even IGIF is particularly designed for low and middle-income countries, the concept was found relevant as well for Norway.

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FIG Working Week 2020
Smart surveyors for land and water management
Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 10–14 May 2020