

# ESTONIA GIS 2011 CONFERENCE & AGM

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## The European GI Landscape, Challenges and Opportunities A EUROGI Perspective

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EUROGI

# Outline of the Presentation

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- Background on EUROGI
- Key European GI challenges and opportunities
- EUROGI current activities
- Benefits of EUROGI membership

# Background on EUROGI

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- Established in 1994 at the suggestion of the European Commission
- Non Governmental Organisation (NGO)
- Independent and non-aligned
- European organisation .... Council of Europe area
- Network of networks

# EUROGI Vision and Mission




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## Vision

-  Geographic Information (GI) in all its aspects should become a fully integrated component of the European knowledge based society

## Mission

-  In order to ensure good governance, economic and social development, environmental protection and sustainability, and informed public participation, the mission is to **maximise the availability, effective use and exploitation of GI throughout Europe**. This requires EUROGI to stimulate, encourage and support the development and effective use of GI and relevant technologies, and to act as the voice of the European GI community

# EUROGI Membership & Governance



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## Membership

- National GI Associations (NGIAs)  
The NGIAs have over 6500 members
- Corporate members
- Other members

## Governance

- **General Board** – all members / sets overall policy / 2x meet annually
- **Executive Committee** – policy implementation / up to 9 members
- **President** – 2 year term / overall management of EUROGI / represents EUROGI in public / chairs Board and Excom meetings
- **Vice President** – deputises for President when necessary
- **Secretariat** - day to day running / Secretary General & legal/admin support
- **Treasurer** – management of finances / preparation of annual budget

# Basic European GI Challenges



## Change mindsets

- Raise awareness of the potentials of properly organised GI, particularly amongst high level decision-makers

## Location 'tagging'

- Virtually all data needs tagging

## Network services

- Services which fully exploit GI .... 24/7 availability

## Data

- Open and easily available .... exploitable, useful

## 'Ahead of the future'

- Internet of Things
- Volunteer GI
- Cloud computing
- Etc

## Embedding in sectors

- Health, transport, tourism, enterprise, education, sport, nature conservation, justice, security ...etc etc etc

# 'Now' European Challenges



## International

- Contribute to global SDI and related initiatives
- Support GI/GIS/SDI developments in neighbouring countries

## European level

- Move beyond INSPIRE .... support European Union Location Framework (EULF) initiative by the JRC

## National level

- Implement INSPIRE
- Go beyond INSPIRE ... other thematic areas

# Current EUROGI Activities



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## International

- GSDI Association .... on Board
- Eye on Earth Summit ... Abu Dhabi 12-15 December 2011
- UN Geoinformation Management initiative
- International Business Clubs .... AFIGeo (France) member support
- Volunteer scheme .... IRLOGI (Ireland) support

## EUROGI/eSDINet

- Maintain databases .... About 200 sub-national SDIs
- Maintain and develop the network
- Publicise EUROGI/eSDINet awards

## Influencing

- GMES funding
- Research Green Paper
- European Union Location Framework
- Establish stronger links with European Parliament & Commission DGs



# Current EUROGI Activities (cont)

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- Investigations ... exploring the future GI environment
  - Volunteer GI
  - Internet of Things
- Projects
  - Plan4All
  - eSDINet
  - GRAAL
  - Participate in consortia to get new projects (2 at present)
- Communications
  - Newsletter and web site
- Regional workshops
  - Explore options .... Balkans possibility
- EUROGI Conference
  - Explore options



# Benefits of EUROGI Membership



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- **EU funded projects**
  - Hold workshops, contribute ideas
- **Influencing EU GI/GIS/SDI policy**
  - Contribute to making representations to EU Parliament and Commission on GI/GIS/SDI matters
- **International Business Club**
  - Support local GI businesses to obtain work outside of Europe
- **Members Meetings**
  - Contribute about developments in own country
  - Showcase country GI/GIS/SDI developments
- **Bi-monthly newsletter**
  - Opportunity to contribute

# Benefits of EUROGI Membership (cont)



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- **EUROGI investigations**
  - Suggest new topics / contribute to ongoing
- **Volunteer scheme**
  - Opportunities for interested NGIA members to work in Africa
- **Sharing issues/problems**
  - Get feedback from other members

**Be part of the wider European GI community**

# Thanks

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- Thank you for listening
- Thank you for inviting me to visit Estonia
- More information .... [www.eurogi.org](http://www.eurogi.org)