

UN-GGIM Academic Network

2021 Update to the UN-GGIM AP

Dr Ivana Ivánová

On behalf of the UN GGIM AN
Executive Team



UN-GGIM Academic Network

- Academic Network is a Strategic Knowledge, Research and Training Arm of UN-GGIM.
- The Network is a coalition of recognized universities, research and education centers or equivalent involved in the research, development and training on geospatial and land information and related matters.



UN-GGIM Academic Network

- Promote and foster collaboration between universities and research groups; and
- Encouraging members to undertake work that is able to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.



UN-GGIM Academic Network

- Forum of geospatial academics and researchers with the objective to advance competencies and qualifications needed for the GGIM;
- Communication platform for member countries to bring to the attention of the Network key problems, needs, and areas of research;
- Capacity building and developing an inventory of international education programs open to and recommended for UN-GGIM actors;



2021 Highlights

- New Executive Team:

Executive Team



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(Italy)



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(South Africa)



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Rosario Casanova
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
(Uruguay)



Asia-Pacific

Huayi Wu
Wuhan University
(China)



Europe

Joep Crompvoets
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven
(Belgium)



2021 Highlights

- New Executive Team – term 2021-2022:
 - Vision: increase coordination of the network;
 - Define sustainable governance practice to ease take-over between Executive Teams;
 - Actively increase membership in underrepresented regions;
 - Establish a pathway towards UN GGIM Educational Repository;



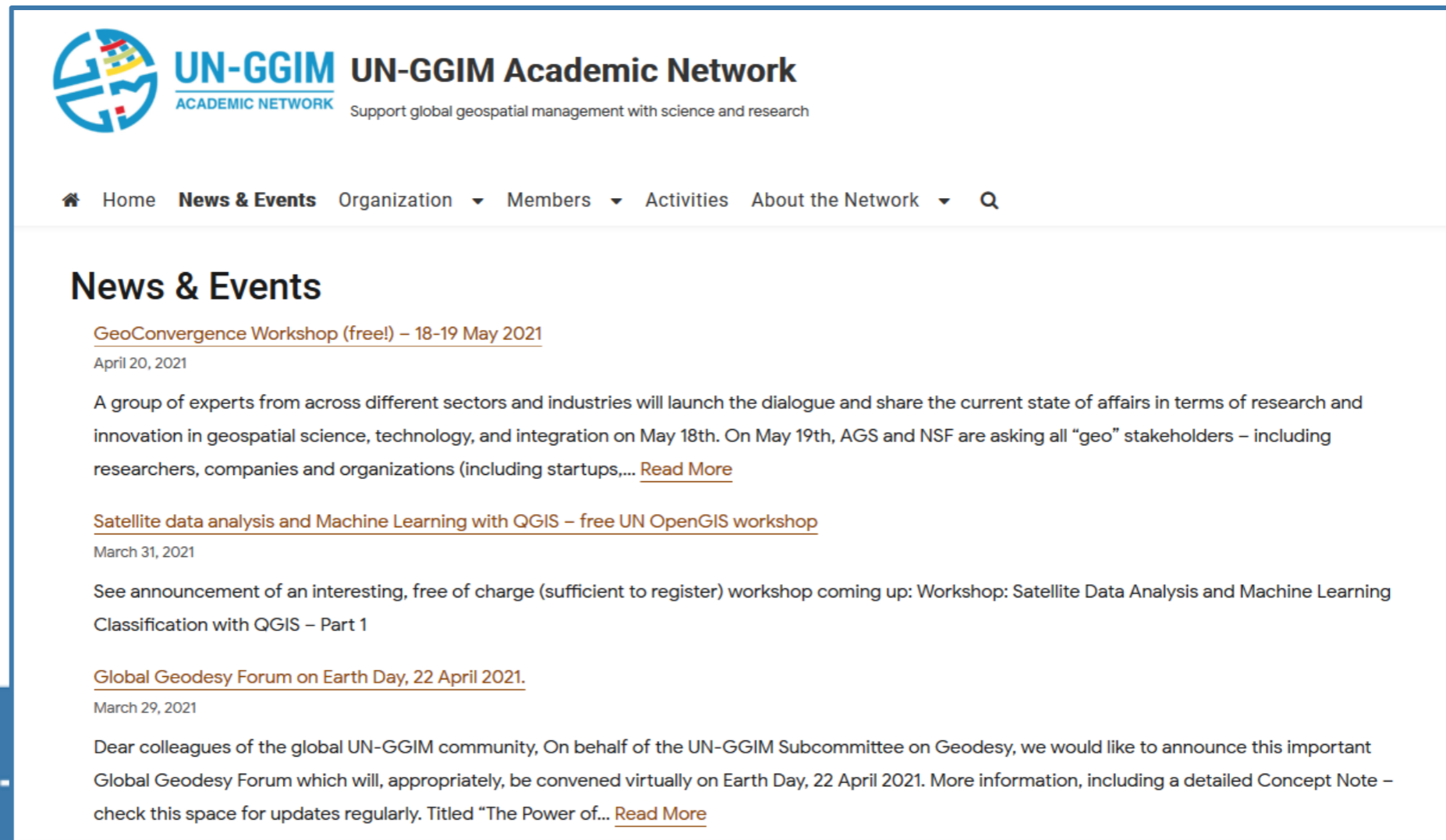
2021 Highlights

- New Executive Team – term 2021-2022
- Revised of Terms of Reference:
 - Members & Associate Members;
 - Membership based on Expression of Interest and Letter of Commitment;
 - Voting by all members;
 - Meetings online;
 - Members participate at other UN GGIM bodies.



2021 Highlights

- New Executive Team – term 2021-2022
- Revision of ToR
- Update of the website:



The screenshot displays the website for the UN-GGIM Academic Network. At the top left is the logo, which consists of a stylized globe with blue, yellow, and red elements. To the right of the logo, the text reads "UN-GGIM ACADEMIC NETWORK" in blue, followed by "UN-GGIM Academic Network" in a larger blue font, and the tagline "Support global geospatial management with science and research" in a smaller grey font. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for "Home", "News & Events", "Organization", "Members", "Activities", and "About the Network", each with a dropdown arrow. A search icon is also present. The main content area is titled "News & Events" and lists three recent articles:

- GeoConvergence Workshop (free!) – 18-19 May 2021**
April 20, 2021
A group of experts from across different sectors and industries will launch the dialogue and share the current state of affairs in terms of research and innovation in geospatial science, technology, and integration on May 18th. On May 19th, AGS and NSF are asking all “geo” stakeholders – including researchers, companies and organizations (including startups,... [Read More](#)
- Satellite data analysis and Machine Learning with QGIS – free UN OpenGIS workshop**
March 31, 2021
See announcement of an interesting, free of charge (sufficient to register) workshop coming up: Workshop: Satellite Data Analysis and Machine Learning Classification with QGIS – Part 1
- Global Geodesy Forum on Earth Day, 22 April 2021.**
March 29, 2021
Dear colleagues of the global UN-GGIM community, On behalf of the UN-GGIM Subcommittee on Geodesy, we would like to announce this important Global Geodesy Forum which will, appropriately, be convened virtually on Earth Day, 22 April 2021. More information, including a detailed Concept Note – check this space for updates regularly. Titled “The Power of... [Read More](#)



2021 Highlights

- New Executive Team – term 2021-2022
- Revision of ToR
- Update of the website
- **Members' participation in other UN GGIM bodies:**
 - Survey sent out to all members – 2 UN GGIM AN representatives in each UN GGIM body



2021 Highlights

- New Executive Team – term 2021-2022
- Revision of ToR
- Update of the website
- Members' participation in other UN GGIM bodies
- **First discussions towards developing UN GGIM Educational Repository**



2021 Highlights

Towards UN GGIM AN Educational Repository

Some initial thoughts...

Discussions about developing a repository with educational material available to share among members occur regularly since the foundation of UN GGIM Academic Network in 2016. Last time we discussed this item was in our meeting in January 2021 - see page 8 of the minutes [here](#).

There was an ad-hoc email discussion among few members and some information was exchanged - here's the summary of comments, notes and observations:

- There are several existing and related educational repositories that we can learn from or linked to - *would a webpage with links and a form to submit be sufficient?*
- [ISPRS Educational Catalogue](#) - this repository is simple to host and the hosting is at Google Firebase, and currently for free but rates appear to increase, which probably would be the choice for UN GGIM AN Educational Repository.
- [GeoNode](#) can be used as a catalogue of documents and the metadata can be customized (examples are [here](#)) with links to other resources (for example, courses). In this case the mapping functionalities are not used. But GeoNode is an option, that can be used for creating new educational material, which can be adapted to also include the mapping part (sharing of maps, sharing outcome of the different steps of the exercise and so on). Alessio Fabiani from GeoNode is available for a short webinar at

meeting in May. There is also a free webinar on 28th April if some of you is able to attend it - [here](#) is the link.

- [OER commons](#) is another alternative. One option is to add resources to be part of this library, or we could develop a microsite for the purposes of the UN GGIM AN. OER Commons is a mature technology for what we need, but it would probably be best to customize a microsite for AN purposes, however, then we are not in control (similar to using any other proprietary platform). Even though it is open, it does not seem as if the source code is open, and I could not find any information about whether one would have to pay for development and hosting of a microsite. OER Commons is developed by ISKME, a non-profit, so it will probably not be for free.
- [OSGeo Resources](#) - repository defined by Geo For All and maintained by the OSGeo focuses mostly on *How To's with OSGeo tools*. Input via OSGeo and not sure if they accept other than material with OSGeo tools. There is an [OSGeo UN Initiative](#) which could facilitate enabling this repository for UN GGIM AN.
- [AmeriGEOAcademy](#) - this is a repository in a proprietary platform - probably easy to set-up and maintain. Questions:
 - *Is this content only for registered students or also for educators' reuse in their own setup?*
 - *If educators can reuse the content - what is the usage license for educational content?*
 - *Who creates the content - universities as part of their regular curriculum and then share through the platform, or is this content custom-made?*
 - *Who 'owns' the content - esri or AmeriGEO?*
- **Questions related to repository hosting:**
 - *Do we want to host UN GGIM AN resources on Google?*
 - *Another option is a member uni could host the repository - is this a realistic expectation?*
 - *If hosting fees apply, could someone like ISPRS or ICA sponsor it?*
 - *Does UN GGIM provide any options?*
- **Questions related to content management and governance:**
 - *Do we accept only contributions of Universities belonging to the UN GGIM AN?*
 - *What are the characteristics of the courses to be accepted?*
 - *Shall we peer review the courses?*



Thank you!

unggim.academicnetwork@gmail.com

Or

ivana.ivanova@curtin.edu.au

